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Myanmar delegation led by C-in-C of Defence Services pays visits to Singapore, Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan— A delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left here for Yangon International Airport today by the special flight of the Tamadaw to pay a goodwill visit to Singapore at the invitation of Lt-Gen Neo Kian Hong, the Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

At Yangon Inter-national Airport, the delegation was seen off by the commander of Yangon Command and senior military officers, Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ahmad Faisal Bin Muhamad and officials.

The delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services comprises wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, senior officials from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and officials.

After visiting Singapore, the delegation will proceed to Malaysia to pay a goodwill visit at the invitation of General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin, the Chief of Armed Forces of Malaysia.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen off by senior military officers at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Regional development undertakings in Cocogyun inspected

YANGON, 13 Jan—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe inspected progress in construction of houses in extended plot of No.1 Ward and Myakyuntha drinking water lake in Cocogyun Township yesterday morning.

They met departmental personnel, members of social organizations, and townselders at Cocogyun Township Hall and presented an air-conditioner, K 10 million and drugs for Cocogyun Township Hospital, a set of Sky Net receiver for basic Education High School, sports gear, clothes and foodstuffs for the township.

The Union Minister and the region chief minister inspected progress in construction of utility infrastructure. They also visited Cocogyun Township BEHS and presented learning books and stationery to students.

They inspected upgrading of Cocogyun Airport and extending of the runway and donated hospital equipment to 25-bedded township hospital. They also visited the kindergarten of Social Welfare Department and water supply from 49-million-gallon capacity water storage tank.

Union Health Minister calls for improvement of quality of healthcare

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin called on members of drugs procurement committee,

During the tour, Patron of Yangon Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay and party gave educative talks and provided drugs to expectant mothers, and presented foodstuffs and medicines to the elderly.—*MNA*

medics-in-charge and matrons to always try to improve the quality of healthcare by doing best for patients as he addressed the coordination meeting on purchase and systematic usage of drugs at University of Medicine No.1 in Lanmadaw Township yesterday.

The Union Minister urged the medical superintendents and physicians to calculate and take accurate records of the required amount of drugs for respective hospitals and set standard therapies for diseases which still do not have standard therapies. He also stressed that general hospitals need to purchase quality drugs and are to update the list of drugs mainly and generally used in the country.

Those present made suggestions on procurement of drugs.

MNA

Tun Foundation Bank (Botahtaung branch) ready to provide banking services

The opening of Botahtaung branch of Tun Foundation Bank took place at its newly-opened branch at the corner of Maha Bandoola and Bo Myat Tun Streets on 9 January morning. It was attended by Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Chairman of Tun Foundation Bank U Thein Tun, Director U Thant Zin Tun and responsible persons.

Tun Foundation Bank, privately-owned by a Myanmar citizen, was established by incumbent Chairman U Thein Tun in 1994. The bank has four branches in Yangon and nine branches across the nation. Plans are underway to open five more branches. The bank is providing the customers with safe and smooth banking services. All the profits from this bank go into philanthropic works.

Trs: YM

Byline
Moe Thuza Soe
Photo: **Linn Aung**

LOCAL NEWS

Foreign visitors come in flocks to see stone inscriptions in Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay

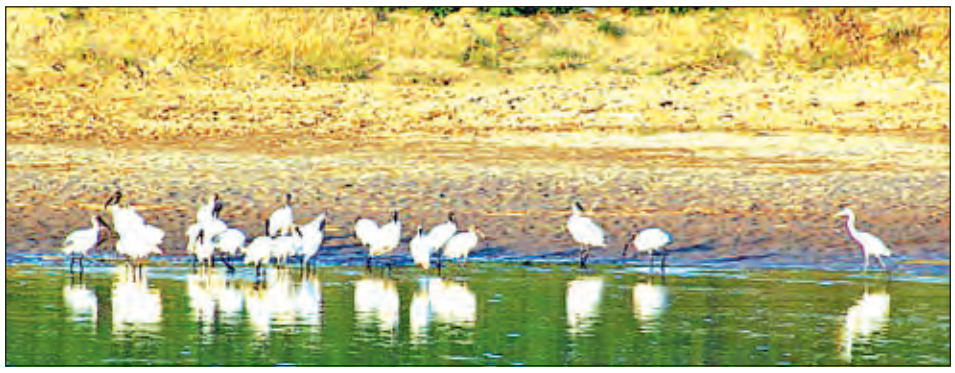
MANDALAY, 13 Jan —In Mandalay, most of foreign visitors flocked to Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda where members of Sangha once convened the fifth Buddhist synod.

"There is a bronze statue of King Mindon who organized the fifth great Buddhist synod and established Mandalay in 1221 ME near the archway of the pagoda. The biography of the King Mindon was inscribed on the concrete foundation of the statue. Stone inscriptions of the three repositories of the Buddhist scriptures are being kept in the stupas situated in the compound of the pagoda. Tourists came in flocks to see the inscriptions. They are interested in the background history of the pagoda and facts written on the stone inscriptions. Some visitors are interested to listen to the story of the King Mindon while others are interested to take photos of stupas in morning sunshine and with a beautiful sunset", Tour Guide U Soe Naing said.

Foreign visitors in Mandalay visits Sagaing Kaunghmudaw Pagoda, Mingun Pahtodawgyi, Mingun Bell, Mandalay Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image, Mya Nann San Kyaw Shwe Nanndaw, Mandalay Hill, Shwekyaungdawgyi and Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda that are rich in historic Myanmar cultural heritage.

Kyemon

Various kinds of birds flock to sandy beach along Sittoung river in Yedashe Township



YADESHE, 13 Jan — A large number of various kinds of birds had flocked together along the sandy beach of Sittoung river near Yathaeseik Village in Yadeshe Township of Bago Region on 8 January evening.

"These birds came in flocks here because foods for them are abundant along the beach where crop plantations are thriving and the region has a favourable climate pattern.

The beach is crowded with birds in the evening, No one tries to kill them", a local said.

Kyemon

Small loan disbursements in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — In his address at the ceremony to disburse small loans to cooperative societies in Chin State held at the town hall in Haka on 7 January, Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai stressed the need to make great strides in formation of cooperative societies in Chin State to develop cooperative activities and livestock breeding tasks through cooperative system, thereby contributing towards development of cottage industries and achievements in poverty alleviation scheme in Chin State.

Next, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun explained objectives of aid disbursements to cooperative societies and work programme. Then the chief minister, the deputy minister and the state minister for planning and economy presented K 90.735 million to 51 cooperative societies in nine townships of Chin State to responsible persons.

Kyemon

Talks on farmland ownership and registration process given in Namhsan Township

NAMHSAN, 13 Jan — With the aim of heightening the public awareness of farmland ownership and registration process, educative talks were held at Gunsai Village and Lwekham Villages in Namhsan Township of Kyaukme District in Shan State on 10 January.

The administrator of Namhsan Township and the head of Namhsan Township Settlement and Land Records Department gave talks on farmland ownership and registration process to local people of the two villages.—*Kyemon*

Dy Health Minister visits hospitals in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — In meeting with the medical superintendent, surgeons and nurses, health staff, townselders and members of social organizations at 100-bed Hospital in Pyu Township in Bago Region on 10 January, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay spoke words of praise for their commitment in providing health care services to local people.

Next, the deputy minister proceeded to Zeyawady Station Hospital in Pyu Township and People's Hospital in Ottwain Towsnhip.

In her inspection tour of People's Hospital in Toungoo, the deputy minister called on those concerned to show their abilities to be able to produce better outcomes as the government has increased health budget.

Then the deputy minister met the township administrator, members of the supervisory committee of the hospital, members of social organizations and health staff at the meeting hall of Yedashe Township People's Hospital.

MNA

Today Top Star Exchange put into service in Myawady

MYAWADY, 13 Jan — The opening of Today Top Star Exchange of Today Top Star Co., Ltd took place at the building on Bayintnaung road near Thailand-Myanmar Friendship Bridge in Myawady Township of Kayin State on 9 January. Commissioner U Than Swe of Myawady District formally opened the exchange. U Thet Tin, a responsible person of the company, explained that the exchange was opened following the issuance of licences to the non-banking companies to deal with foreign currency exchange service by the Central Bank of Myanmar. The newly-opened ex-change would help promote border trade between Thailand and Myanmar. The exchange would be able to serve as an official and reliable one for Myanmar migrate workers.

Kyemon

Road accidents, heavy traffic calls for more punitive measures against traffic rule violators in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 Jan — Mandalay was called the city of bicycles once. At present, it was renamed as the city of motorbikes because of the growing numbers of motorbikes on the roads. Plans are underway to post road signs that warn motorcyclists not to drive in the middle of the motorway. In order to reduce traffic congestions and road accidents, motorcyclists are forbidden from using two overpasses and 36th,37th and 40th streets have been changed from two-lane motorways into one-way ones. Road signs were set up on the road along the moat and arrangements have been made to post them on 78th street, Yangon-Mandalay road, 35th street and 26th street where traffic conges-tions are frequent. It is learnt that punitive actions will be taken against traffic rules violators.

Regular traffic jams and occasional road accidents have proved the lack of strict adherence to traffic rules. Measures are being carried out by traffic rules enforcement committee to take punitive actions against violators starting 14 January. — *Kyemon*

WORLD

10 injured as political leader's convoy attacked in Charsadda, NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 13 Jan—At least 10 people were injured when a local political leader's convoy was attacked in Pakistan's northwest city of Charsadda on Saturday morning, said hospital sources. The injured include Bashir Umarzai, a provincial leader of Awami National Party (ANP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, and three policemen, said local media *Geo*.

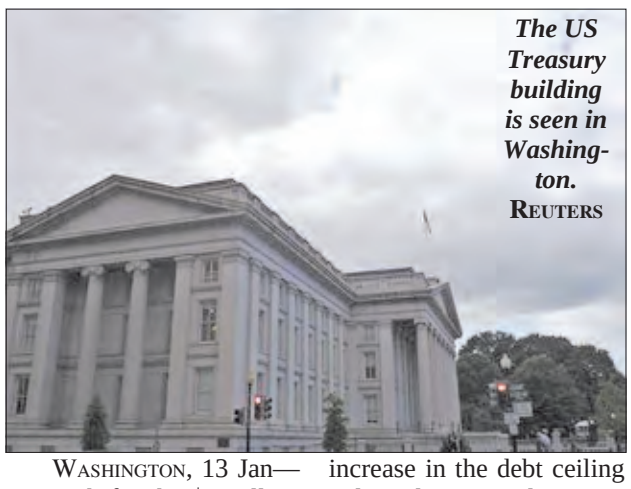
Bashir Umarzai received minor injuries and has been shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital in the neighbouring city of Peshawar, said a District Officer in Charsadda, a city less than 30 km north of Peshawar, capital city of KPK. But one local TV channel said he was seriously wounded.

The attack took place at about 9:40 am local time when the convoy carrying the ANP leader, his father and brother on the way to a court hearing in Charsadda was hit by a roadside planted bomb detonated through a remote control device in the Umarzai area of the city. Exchange of fires followed the blast, reported local media without giving details. Large contingent of police and security forces have been dispatched to the site following the attack.

Some of the injured have been shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Charsadda while five others including Bashir Umarzai have been referred to hospital in Peshawar. Bashir Umarzai is a former Forestry minister of KPK and a member of the provincial assembly. ANP is a major political party in Pakistan, which mainly represents the interests of the Pashtun-speaking people from the northwest part of the country.—*Xinhua*

People transfer an injured policeman to a local hospital in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 12 Jan, 2013. At least 10 people were injured when a local political leader's convoy was attacked in Pakistan's northwest city of Charsadda on Saturday morning, said hospital sources. XINHUA

Treasury, Fed kill idea of $1 trillion platinum coins to avert debt crisis



The US Treasury building is seen in Washington. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan—So much for the $1 trillion platinum coin idea. The US Treasury Department said on Saturday it will not produce platinum coins as a way of generating $1 trillion in revenue and avoiding a battle in Congress over raising the US debt ceiling. The idea of creating $1 trillion by minting platinum coins has gained some currency among Democrats in recent days as a way of sidestepping congressional Republicans who are threatening to reject a necessary increase in the debt ceiling unless deep spending cuts are made.

The Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve, both independent of one another, each concluded this was not a viable option. "Neither the Treasury Department nor the Federal Reserve believes that the law can or should be used to facilitate the production of platinum coins for the purpose of avoiding an increase in the debt limit," said Treasury spokesman Anthony Coley in a statement.

Congress' refusal in 2011 to raise the debt ceiling unless the White House agreed to large spending cuts brought the United States close to the brink of a debt default and dealt the weak recovery a setback.

Another crisis is brewing as the United States is expected to reach its authorized debt limit of $16.4 trillion in February. White House spokesman Jay Carney said that with the platinum coin question resolved, the pressure is on congressional Republicans now to act to raise the debt ceiling. "Congress can pay its bills or they can fail to act and put the nation into default," he said.

"When congressional Republicans played politics with this issue last time, putting us at the edge of default, it was a blow to our economic recovery, causing our nation's credit rating to be downgraded."

Reuters

France bombs Mali rebels, African states ready troops

BAMAKO/PARIS, 13 Jan—French aircraft pounded Islamist rebels in Mali for a second day on Saturday and neighbouring West African states sped up their plans to deploy troops in an international campaign to prevent groups linked to al-Qaeda expanding their power base. France, warning that the control of northern Mali by the militants posed a security threat to Europe, intervened dramatically on Friday as heavily armed Islamist fighters swept southwards towards Mali's capital Bamako.

Under cover from French fighter planes and attack helicopters, Malian troops routed a rebel convoy and drove the Islamists out of the strategic central town of Konna, which they had seized on Thursday. A senior army officer in the capital Bamako said more than 100 rebel fighters had been killed. A French pilot died on Friday when rebels shot down his helicopter near the town of Mopti. Hours after opening one front against al-Qaeda-linked Islamists, France mounted a commando raid to try to rescue a French hostage held by al Shabaab militants in Somalia, also allied to al-Qaeda, but failed to prevent the hostage being killed.

French President Francois Hollande made clear that France's aim in Mali was to support the West African troop deployment, which is also endorsed by the United Nations, the European Union and the United States. Western countries in particular fear that Islamists could use Mali as a base for attacks on the West and expand the influence of al Qaeda-linked militants based in Yemen, Somalia and North Africa. "We've already held back the progress of our adversaries and inflicted heavy losses on them," Hollande said. "Our mission is not over yet."

Reuters

A still image from video released by the French Army Communications Audiovisual office (ECPAD) on 12 Jan, 2013 shows French fitting rockets to a plane in Ndjamena.—REUTERS

Venezuela's Hugo Chavez not in coma, brother says

CARACAS, 13 Jan—Venezuela's cancer-stricken president, Hugo Chavez, is recovering in Cuba and is not in a coma as some have rumoured a month after surgery, his brother, Adan Chavez, said after a visit to Havana. The 58-year-old socialist leader has not been seen or heard from since his 11 December cancer surgery—his fourth such operation after the disease was detected in his pelvic area in mid-2011—leaving Venezuela in a state of suspense.

But older brother Adan Chavez, who is governor of the family's home state of Barinas, said the president was improving daily, according to a News release on Saturday from his office. "The head of state continues to assimilate treatment well and his recovery is advancing daily," the statement read. "Information on social networks and in other places, saying the president is in a coma and his family are discussing the supposed disconnection of life support equipment, are totally false," it added.

Chavez missed his own inauguration for a new, six-year term last week, although Venezuela's top court ruled that he remained in power and Vice President Nicolas Maduro could deputize until there was clarity over the president's condition. The rumours were stoked when Chavez did not send a message to Thursday's pro-government rally, the day he was supposed to be sworn in. Unlike past trips to Cuba for medical treatment, no images have been released of him.

The saga has enormous stakes for Venezuela, a nation of 29 million people with the world's largest oil reserves, as well as for the wider region. Cuba and a handful of other leftist-ruled nations depend on Chavez's economic aid.Peruvian and Argentine Presidents Ollanta Humala and Cristina Fernandez, both friends of Chavez, visited Cuba this week. There was no sign either of them saw him.—*Reuters*

A supporter of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez holds up a picture of him during the inauguration of the National Assembly in Caracas on 5 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Zeman, Schwarzenberg advance to Czech presidential run-off

PRAGUE, 13 Jan—The first round of Czech presidential election ended Saturday with former Prime Minister Milos Zeman and current Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg advanced to the second round. Zeman, former Social Democrat PM running for the small Citizens' Rights Party (SPOZ), gained 24.21 percent of the vote. Schwarzenberg, head of the conservative junior ruling TOP 09 party, gained 23.40 percent. Both Zeman and Schwarzenberg are politicians of the older generation, "children of the 1990s."

The chances of the two leading candidates to be elected president in the second round will probably be balanced, because Zeman beat Schwarzenberg by only less than 1 percent of the vote in the first round. In the second round, Schwarzenberg's narrow gap may be more than comfortably compensated by voters of unsuccessful right-wing candidates. The fail of former interim prime minister Jan Fischer (unaffiliated) in the first round is a big surprise as he was one of the two favorite candidates according to pre-election public opinion polls.

After his failure, Fischer said Schwarzenberg is closer to him than Zeman, who would "isolate the country's eastwards."

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Internet activist, programmer Aaron Swartz dead at 26

NEW YORK, 13 Jan— Internet activist and computer prodigy Aaron Swartz, who helped create an early version of the Web feed system RSS and was facing federal criminal charges in a controversial fraud case, has committed suicide at age 26, authorities said on Saturday. Police found Swartz's body in his apartment in the New York City borough of Brooklyn on Friday, according to a spokeswoman for the city's chief medical examiner, which ruled the death a suicide by hanging.

Swartz is widely credited with being a co-author of the specifications for the Web feed format RSS 1.0, which he worked on at age 14, according to a blog post on Saturday from his friend, science fiction author Cory Doctorow.

RSS, which stands for Rich Site Summary, is a format for delivering to users content from sites that change constantly, such as news pages and blogs.

Over the years, he became an online icon for helping to make a virtual mountain of information freely available to the public, including an estimated 19 million pages of federal court documents from the PACER case-law system.

"Information is power. But like all power, there are those who want to keep it for themselves," Swartz wrote in an online "manifesto" dated 2008. "The world's entire scientific and cultural heritage, published over centuries in books and journals, is increasingly being digitized and locked up by a handful of private corporations. ... sharing isn't immoral — it's a moral imperative. Only those blinded by greed would refuse to let a friend make a copy," he wrote.

That belief—that information should be shared and available for the good of society—prompted Swartz to found the nonprofit group DemandProgress. The group led a successful campaign to block a bill introduced in 2011 in the US House of Representatives called the Stop Online Piracy Act. The bill, which was withdrawn amid public pressure, would have allowed court orders to curb access to certain websites deemed to be engaging in illegal sharing of intellectual property.

Reuters

Internet activist and computer prodigy Aaron Swartz

Scientists unveil new nanotech fiber

HOUSTON, 13 Jan— Scientists have unveiled a revolutionary carbon nanotube fibre that looks and acts like textile threat and conducts electricity and heat like a metal wire, US media reported on Friday.

The material would open up a new realm of engineering properties, for everything from common wiring to spacecraft hulls, according to a online report by The Houston Chronicle.

Scientists have long recognized the potential in single-walled carbon nanotubes, but they have been expensive to make in quantity and quality, and it' s been difficult to connect the tiny, micron-long tubes into longer, useful fibers.

The new breakthrough, achieved by scientists from Rice University in Houston, Texas, the Dutch firm Teijin Aramid, the US Air Force and Israel's Technion Institute, capped 10 years of efforts that make threadlike fibres possible, beating high-performance materials in a number of ways.

"We finally have a nanotube fibre with properties that do not exist in any other material. It looks like black cotton thread, but behaves like both metal wires and strong carbon fibers," said Matteo Pasquali, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering and chemistry at Rice University, who led the research. Process of creating these fibers also appears to be scalable, which means it shouldn' t be too difficult for industry to make them, scientists said in a new paper in the journal *Science*.

The feedstock and chemicals used to make these fibers are also relatively common, meaning that once a manufacturing process is put in place, the carbon-base materials and catalysts aren't expensive, scientists said.

Xinhua

A British man found a six-stone sunfish on the Sandilands beach near Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire in Britiain. The creature is the world's largest bony fish and is rarely seen on British coasts.

XINHUA

Oracle Corp to fix Java security flaw "shortly"

BOSTON, 13 Jan—Oracle Corp said it is preparing an update to address a flaw in its widely used Java software after the US Department of Homeland Security urged computer users to disable the program in web browsers because criminal hackers are exploiting a security bug to attack PCs.

"A fix will be available shortly," the company said in a statement released late on Friday.

Company officials could not be reached on Saturday to say how quickly the update would be available for the hundreds of millions of PCs that have Java installed.

The Department of Homeland Security and computer security experts said on Thursday that hackers figured out how to exploit the bug in a version of Java used with Internet browsers to install malicious software on PCs. That has enabled them to commit crimes from identity theft to making an infected computer part of an ad-hoc computer network that can be used to attack websites. Java is a computer language that enables programmers to write software utilizing just one set of codes that will run on virtually any type of computer, including ones that use Microsoft Corp's Windows, Apple Inc's OS X and Linux, an operating system widely employed by corporations. It is installed in Internet browsers to access web content and also directly on PCs, server computers and other devices that use it to run a wide variety of computer programs.

Oracle said in its statement that the recently discovered flaw only affects Java 7, the program's most-recent version, and Java software designed to run on browsers. Java is so widely used that the software has become a prime target for hackers. Last year, Java surpassed Adobe Systems Inc's Reader software as the most frequently attacked piece of software, according to security software maker Kaspersky Lab.—*Reuters*

Apple won't blindly pursue market share, Chinese paper reports

SAN FRANCISCO/BEIJING, 13 Jan— In a revised version of an interview published Thursday in a Chinese newspaper, Apple Inc marketing chief Phil Schiller said the company would focus on making "the best products" for customers and "never blindly pursue market share".

On Thursday, the *Shanghai Evening News* had originally cited Schiller as saying that Apple would not develop a cheaper smartphone for the sake of expanding its market share.

That appeared to undermine other recent media reports indicating that Apple was working on a low-end smartphone, which would represent a significant shift in strategy for a company that has always focused on premium products. But in a new version of the story published after the original, the *Shanghai Evening News* removed all references to cheaper smartphones, except for a mention of rumours of a "cheaper, low-end product". It also amended its original headline from "Apple will not push a cheaper smartphone for the sake of market share", to "Apple wants to provide the best products, will not blindly pursue market share".

Apple confirmed the interview had taken place and that it had contacted the Chinese newspaper about amending its original article, but had no further comment and declined to provide a transcript of the interview.

A reporter at the *Shanghai Evening News* who identified himself as Huang Yinlong, whose byline appeared on the stories, said the paper had made some changes, as Schiller's remarks may not have been presented as clearly as possible. As well as deleting references to cheap smartphones, paraphrased statements attributed to Schiller in the original version were replaced with direct quotations.

Asked if the paper had made the changes at Apple's request, Huang said that the paper had made the decision on its own.

"We deliberated about it, and wanted to reflect (Schiller's) meaning in the interview more accurately, so we made some adjustments", said Huang, adding the interview was conducted in Beijing on Tuesday.

Phil Schiller, senior vice president of worldwide marketing at Apple Inc., introduces the iPhone 5 during Apple Inc.'s iPhone media event in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

The original story had quoted Schiller as saying that developing a cheaper smartphone to try and replace feature phones was not a direction in which the company wanted to head. That comment was amended in the new version of the story, which now cites Schiller as saying that while some manufacturers are moving toward such cheaper smartphones, "Apple has always focused on providing the best products for its consumers, we've never blindly chased market share."—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

New York State declares public health emergency over flu epidemic

*Nga Ngyen, seven year old, gets an influenza vaccine injection from nurse Maya Kahn-Woods during a flu shot clinic at Dorchester House, a health care clinic, in Boston, Massachusetts on 12 Jan, 2013. —*Reuters

New York, 13 Jan—Governor Andrew Cuomo on Saturday declared a state of public health emergency for all of New York State, in response to this year's increasingly severe flu season.

As of Saturday, a total of 19,128 cases of influenza have been reported in New York State for this season, far more than the 4,404 cases that were reported in all of last season.

Also, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) received reports of 2,884 patients hospitalized with labouratory-confirmed influenza by 5 January, compared with 1,169 in total cases of hospitalization in 2011.

"We are experiencing the worst flu season since at least 2009, and influenza activity in New York State is widespread, with cases reported in all 57 counties and all five boroughs of New York City," Governor Cuomo said in a news release.

"Therefore, I have directed my Administration, the State Health Department and others to marshal all needed resources to address this public health emergency and remove all barriers to ensure that all New Yorkers - children and adults alike - have access to critically needed flu vaccines."

While urging New Yorkers who have yet to receive a flu shot to schedule one immediately, Cuomo also announced that the state DOH would launch a broad promotion of flu immunization by working closely with county, regional and private health care partners as well as local health departments, in a bid to ensure all New Yorkers know the importance of — and have easy access to — flu shots. To date, 20 children across the United States, including two in New York State, have died as a result of the outbreak of the seasonal influenza this year.—*Xinhua*

New drug can help paralysed people walk again

London, 13 Jan—Scientists have developed a pill which they claim could help paralysed people walk again.

The new drug allowed mice with no movement in their lower limbs to walk with 'well-coordinated steps' and even to replicate swimming motions, researchers said.

The experimental drug, called LM11A-31, was developed by Professor Frank Longo, of Stanford University, California.

The researchers gave three different oral doses of LM11A-31, as well as a placebo, to different groups of mice beginning four hours after injury and then twice daily for a 42 day experimental period, the *'Daily Mail'* reported.

In tests, the experimental medication did not increase pain in the mice and showed no toxic effects on the animals.

It also efficiently crossed the blood brain barrier, which protects the central nervous system from potentially harmful chemicals carried around in the rest of the bloodstream.

An injury to the spinal cord stops the brain controlling the body and this is the first time an oral drug has been shown to provide an effective therapy.

"This is a first to have a drug that can be taken orally to produce functional improvement with no toxicity in a rodent," Professor Sung Ok Yoon, of Ohio State University, Columbus, said.—*PTI*

US launches safety review of 787 after recent issues

Washington/New York, 13 Jan—The US government ordered a wide-ranging review of Boeing's latest passenger jet, the *787 Dreamliner*, citing concern over a fire and other recent problems but insisting the plane was still safe to fly.

It was unclear how long the review will take or how much it will ultimately cost Boeing, but the company was concerned enough that it sent a top executive to a Washington Press Conference on the problem. Boeing shares (BA.N) fell 3 percent.

The *787* represented a leap in the way planes are designed and built, but the project was plagued by cost overruns and years of delays. Some have suggested Boeing's rush to get planes built after those delays resulted in the recent problems, a charge the company strenuously denies.

Either way, regulators said a thorough examination was needed to identify the root cause of the problems, including a fire on a parked *787* on Monday.

"There are concerns about recent events involving the *Boeing 787*. That is why today we are conducting a comprehensive review," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood told a News Conference followed by more than 100 reporters around the world.

Those concerns notwithstanding, though, LaHood also maintained the plane was still airworthy.

"I believe this plane is safe and I would have absolutely no reservations about boarding one of these planes and taking a flight," he said.—*Reuters*

*An All Nippon Airways' (ANA) Boeing 787 Dreamliner plane is seen before taking off for the Tokyo-San Jose flight at New Tokyo international airport in Narita, east of Tokyo on 11 Jan, 2013.—*Reuters

Americans feel austerity's bite as payroll taxes rise

Washington, 13 Jan—Americans are beginning to feel the pinch from Washington's decision to embrace austerity measures aimed at bringing down the nation's budget deficit.

Paychecks across the country have shrunk over the last week due to higher federal tax rates, and workers are already cutting back on spending, which will drag on the economy this year.

In Warren, Rhode Island, Ben DeCastro got his first paycheck on Friday in which taxes on his wages rose by 2 percentage points. That works out to about $30 a week.

"You sit back and do the calculation, and that's $30 I'm not going to spend at a restaurant," said DeCastro.

He said he worries that people hit by higher taxes will spend less at the chain of furniture stores where he works as a marketing manager.

Politicians in Washington made much hubbub last week about a bipartisan deal to soften or postpone some $600 billion in scheduled tax hikes and government spending cuts. President Barack Obama said the deal would shield 98 percent of Americans from a middle-class tax hike.

Reuters

Honda to cut 800 UK jobs on falling European demand

London, 13 Jan—Japanese carmaker Honda (7267.T) plans to cut around 800 jobs at its plant near Swindon in southwest England due to falling demand for its vehicles across mainland Europe. The company, which makes the Civic, Jazz and CR-V models at the South Marston plant near Swindon, said on Friday it would enter into formal consultation with staff over the cuts which would likely take place in the second quarter of 2013.

Carmakers are trying to scrap underused factories and cut surplus jobs that are fuelling losses in Europe as demand for cars in major markets like France and Germany flounders. Honda employs some 3,500 staff at the South Marston plant, which produced around 150,000 vehicles last year. The plant has the capacity to make 250,000 cars annually. Last year Honda expected a surge in demand and hired 500 workers and invested 267 million pounds ($430 million) in the Swindon plant.

However, the expected increase in demand failed to materialise, with Honda's sales in mainland Europe, especially Spain and Greece, falling by around a million in the past year. Ken Keir, Honda Motor Europe's executive vice president said the company needed to "realign the business" but was committed to Britain for the long-term. "These conditions of sustained low industry demand require us to take difficult decisions. We are setting the business constitution at the right level to ensure long term stability and security," said Keir.

Late last year US carmaker Ford (F.N) announced plans to cut 1,400 jobs at plants in southern England and end vehicle manufacturing in Britain due to weak European sales. Ford and Volvo are also planning to cut thousands of jobs in Belgium, while PSA Peugeot Citroen's (PEUP.PA) has plans to cut its workforce in France. Honda said its sales in Britain remained strong and that it had long term confidence for both manufacturing and sales in the country. British union Unite said Honda executives revealed they would look to cut 420 managers and supervisors, and 360 production workers on top of 325 agency positions that had already been scrapped in recent months. "This is a hammer blow to UK manufacturing ... it's a disaster for manufacturing in the UK and for the local economy," said Unite national officer Tony Murphy.

Britain's car industry has been a bright spot in a country grappling with a faltering economy, especially after Vauxhall's car plant at Ellesmere Port in north-west England escaped closure last year after securing work to build the next generation of Astra cars. New British car registrations rose 5.3 percent in 2012 to 2.04 million -- the highest level since 2008, the SMMT car industry body said on Monday. Honda said it would continue to build cars and engines in Britain with the Civic Estate and the Civic Type R models due to be manufactured in Swindon from 2014. ($1 = 0.6209 British pounds) — *Reuters*

WORLD

China, Egypt to enhance cooperation on irrigation

CAIRO, 13 Jan—China and Egypt have agreed to enhance cooperation with Egypt on irrigation and water resources, Egyptian Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Mohamed Bahaa-Eddin said on Saturday. The agreement was reached after "fruitful" talks with China's Water Resources Minister Chen Lei in Cairo, Bahaa-Eddin said in an interview with *Xinhua*. He visited Beijing last November and signed a memo of understanding with the Chinese government.

"Cooperation between China and Egypt in the fields of irrigation and water supply is new, but now the most important thing is our exchange of expertise and the specialized training courses offered by China, of which the biggest share goes to Egypt," Bahaa-Eddin said. China has hosted a large number of Egyptian engineers and technicians for specialized training on water development and administration, the Egyptian minister noted.

In addition, the Chinese experts also came to Egypt to offer suggestion on its major water issues, he said. "Applying Chinese successful telemetric irrigation control system, using the escada system that links irrigation pumping stations, monitoring dams and automating their gates as well as maximizing water usage are among the major topics of cooperation between Egypt and China," Bahaa-Eddin said.

On future possible areas of cooperation, the Egyptian minister said Beijing may help Egypt resolve problems in Nasser Lake and al-Salam Canal using China's special research center affiliated with the UNESCO. He also suggested cooperation in the Suez Canal axis project as China could provide appropriate technology at a competitive price. Bahaa-Eddin said Chen has agreed to help Egypt fix serious irrigation problems such as interrupted pumping stations. Cairo has already sent proposals to the biggest water research center in China for cooperation.

As for Egypt's issues with some African Nile-Basin countries on shares of the Nile water and the Chinese water projects in Africa, Bahaa-Eddin said that nothing so far affected Egypt's share in the Nile. "We do not need China's mediation in our issues with Nile-Basin states, but China promised not to establish any projects that would harm Egypt's water supply," he said. —*Xinhua*

Three killer whales surface through a breathing hole in the ice of Hudson Bay near the community of Inukjuak, Quebec on 9 Jan, 2013. The whales are part of a pod of several that are trapped in the sea ice of the Hudson Bay. The whales are taking turns breathing through a hole in the ice about the size of a pickup truck. Inukjuak's mayor has called upon the Canadian government to send an icebreaker to save them.—REUTERS

Visitors sit on a bench at Israel Museum in Jerusalem during Shabbat, on 12 Jan, 2013. Shabbat is a weekly Jewish day of rest and seventh day of the week, which is observed from a few minutes before sunset on Friday evening until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday night. — XINHUA

Up to 195,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 13 Jan —The number of Syrian refugees receiving assistance from the Lebanese government and non-governmental aid agencies has reached 195,000, a report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said on Saturday.

The report said more than 139,000 refugees have been registered and about 55,000 are waiting for being registered officially.

About 1,500 Syrian refugees are being registered daily at four registration offices in Lebanon. According to the report, at least 70,751 refugees are residing in north Lebanon, while 53,351 in the Bekaa and 15,173 in Beirut and south Lebanon.

Xinhua

Italian consul in Benghazi shot at in car but unhurt

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 13 Jan — An Italian consul came under fire in his car in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Saturday but was unhurt, Italy said, four months after the US ambassador was killed in an attack on the US mission in the city. A spokesman for the Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed the attack on Guido De Sanctis, Italy's Benghazi consul since 2011, and said he was unhurt. A security source in Libya who declined to be named told *Reuters*: "They shot at his car, but the car was armoured. He is fine, there are no injuries."

There was no immediate indication who might have been behind the attack. Security for Westerners in Libya's second city was an acute concern even before the attack on the US consulate, in which four US staff were killed on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. American officials say militants with ties to al-Qaeda affiliates were most likely involved in that attack. Benghazi, like much of Libya, is awash with weapons, and the city has also seen recent attacks on British, Red Cross and United Nations interests. Italy is the former colonial power in Libya.

A police source in Benghazi said the shots had been fired from a car passing De Sanctis's residence. A *Reuters* reporter saw two bullet holes in the building, which was surrounded by police. The Italian spokesman said security around officials in Benghazi was already high before Saturday's attack.—*Reuters*

Shipwrecked Costa Concordia still eyesore, environmental hazard on one-year anniversary of accident

ROME, 13 Jan —A year after the Costa Concordia cruise liner ran aground just off Italy's Giglio island leaving at least 30 dead and causing damages worth at least 500 million US dollars, the hulking vessel still remains where it first capsized, where it has become a painful eyesore for locals as well as what experts say is a growing environmental hazard. The ship capsized after rocks tore a long hole in its side On 13 January, 2012 — a year ago on Sunday — with 4,252 passengers and crew on board.

An investigation revealed that Captain Francesco Schettino deviated from the programmed route and piloted the boat too close to shore. His reasons for the deviation are still not clear, and Schettino earned headlines when he abandoned ship while the rescue operations were still under way, prompting the Coast Guard harbormaster Gregorio Maria De Falco, who repeatedly ordered Schettino to return to the ship, to angrily shout an expletive-filled warnings after him.

"You may have saved yourself from the sea, but I will make sure you pay for this," De Falco said at the time. The investigation into Schettino's actions is ongoing, with the next hearing scheduled for later this month. He could face up to 20 years behind bars on charges of manslaughter, negligence, incompetence, and for abandoning the ship and failing to be the last person to leave the wreck. But nearly a year after the wreck, most of the attention surrounding the incident is focused on the Costa Concordia itself, which continues to dominate the vista from the island's beautiful beaches.

Due to technical problems and budget issues, the schedule for removing the ship has been pushed back several times and it now appears to be removed only in late 2013. In addition to the ship casting a shadow over the community, Sergio Ortelli, Giglio's mayor said it's also drawing a new kind of tourists, who comes for the day to gawk at the wrecked vessel. Earlier in January, a group of such tourists, from Germany, rented an inflatable boat to visit the Costa Concordia and had to be rescued by the Coast Guard. —*Xinhua*

Pakistan Taleban say they won't attack army in key area

PESHAWAR, 13 Jan— The Pakistani Taleban said on Saturday they would cease their occasional attacks on the Pakistani army in the Taleban stronghold of North Waziristan and concentrate attacks on NATO forces in Afghanistan instead—an announcement possibly designed to head off divisions in the insurgency.

The ceasefire does not apply to the rest of the country, where there are often fierce clashes between the Taleban and security services. Thousands of Pakistani soldiers are stationed in North Waziristan, a tribal region along the Afghan border. There have been occasional clashes there between the soldiers and Taleban, but a leaflet issued by Taleban leader Hakimullah Mehsud ordered those to stop. A senior commander confirmed the pamphlet's veracity.

"O Mujahideen brothers! As you know, the Pakistani and Afghan Taleban under the leadership of Mullah Mohammad Omar Mujahid are engaged in jihad against the crusaders and infidels, and are supporters of each others in the ongoing holy war," the pamphlet said. "The enemy does not want to see us united and disciplined against them and are trying to divide us," it continued. The Taleban have formed alliances with a number of other militant groups in North Waziristan who are violently opposed to the Pakistani state.

Some Taleban commanders are divided over whether the Pakistani state or NATO forces are their top target. Those divisions were laid bare in November by an attempted suicide attack on Mullah Nazir, a top militant commander from the Wazir tribe in South Waziristan.

Reuters

A guard announces departure of a convoy of the A line subway in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on on 11 Jan, 2013. The A line subway service would be closed since on 12 Jan and the Belgian original historic wooden cars, which have been in service for almost 100 years, would be repalced by upgraded Chinese-made wagons. —XINHUA

NATIONAL

25 garment factories which were owned by foreigners but were running under the name of Myanmar nationals have been converted to foreign direct investment businesses

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—The following is the translation of Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw's reply to the questions raised by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives Dr Tin Shwe and Dr Myat Nyana Soe, at sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw held on 9 January, 2013.

To what extent is Myanmar implementing processes according to the programme laid down at the 4th GMS summit?

Dr Tin Shwe, Yangon Region Constituency No. 6

I would like to praise the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker for his supervision for the successful holdings of Hluttaw meetings till now. And I am very glad to see the Union ministers, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and defence services personnel representatives with physical and mental wellbeing.

I would like to raise the question with the permission of the respected Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. The purpose of the question is for the interests of all our national races. The 4th Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) summit was held in Administrative City, Nay Pyi Taw, in November last year on a grand scale. The six countries comprise the GMS—Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Commission, which mainly places emphasis on agriculture, has three strategic plans—to pursue a joint regional cooperation programme, to develop sustainable economy and to promote social living standard. Please, let me allow discussing Core Agriculture Support Programme (C.A.S.P). My question would be more meaningful only when I quote such facts. The Commission laid down the C.A.S.P.

Then, Working Group of Agriculture (WGA) was implemented. The WGA has three phases. The first phase is to be implemented based on agriculture. The second phase aims to enhance climate-friendly agriculture in case of disasters and crisis. The most important thing is food security. It aims to export surplus to the world market through regional platform when there are surplus. In addition, agriculture researches are to be conducted. It needs to make integration of countries that have same works for Institutional Mechanism for Regional Co-operation. As part of it, Japan-Mekong summit and India-Mekong summit are held.

Especially, Japan has been making cooperation with Mekong Commission since the time of State Peace and Development Council (2009). Two countries have made integrations as per Institutional Mechanism for Regional Co-operation. The last and third phase is to reduce air pollution. Reducing air pollution needs to develop renewable energy sources especially in rural areas, which can enable the extension of agriculture sector.

President U Thein Sein and the Vietnamese President issued a joint declaration of agreement on the importance of the Mekong River Commission mechanism on 19 November 2012, particularly in management and sustainable use of Mekong 's water resources for the benefits of each country and the region. The reason why he asked the question is enable people to bear the fruits of Mekong basin and achieve the goal of reducing the poverty rate from 26 percent to 16 percent by 2015.

Question regarding measures against illegal economic activities in textile industry –foreign-investor-owned garment factories in the nominal name of national businessmen.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Yangon Region Constituency No (4)

Mr Speaker, as you know our country is practicing market economy now. Both foreign investors and national businessmen are running garment factories in large numbers. As there have increased job opportunities in textile industry, it is also contributing to national economy. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has passed Foreign Investment Law we are also formulating Citizen Investment Law. So along with those changing system and era, it has become of great importance businessmen have a sense of responsibility, accountability and honesty. Foreign investors need to act in line with Foreign Investment Law. So, it is fairly inappropriate if foreign investors are illegally and unfairly gaining the rights enshrined in Citizen Investment Law for citizens, registering the businesses as citizen-owned.

Mainly, textile industry in our country can be categorized into two—one is CMP (cutting, making and packaging) and another, inspection of the quality of finished goods. When we observe the foreign-investor-owned garment factories in the nominal name of national businessmen, some of the factories have the workforce of up to a thousand or more employees. What's more, even though from 100 to 200 workers are employed to inspect quality of finished goods, it is such a kind of cash cow business. Investors come from many foreign countries, mostly from the People's Republic of China, China (Taipei), Korea and Japan. They make Myanmar national men or women nominally executive director of the factories. This makes the country loses sheer quantity of deserved taxes.

In addition, it also steals the rights of real national businessmen. They are in fact playing the letter of the law. Therefore, I would like to urge to take punitive actions against such illegal activities.

So, I would like to know whether there is any plan to find out and take legal actions against such illegal economic activities and what kind of actions would be taken, if there is any.

Answer: Dr Kan Zaw (Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development)

Mingalabar to you all! I'd like to answer the question about progress in implementation of the plans adopted at the 4th GMS raised by Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Tin Shwe from Yangon Region Constituency No (6).

Myanmar hosted the 4th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit at Nay Pyi Taw on 19, 20 December, during which new Mekong Sub-region strategic framework could be adopted as a roadmap for future plans. The new framework enabled GMS member countries to specify objectives for tackling obstacles and challenges to be encountered in the future.

The framework mainly includes two points—continued focus on investment in hardware infrastructure and increased focus on software development matters such as policies for regional development cooperation, organizational structure, intellectual knowledge and strengthening coordination among members to facilitate hardware development.

The strategic framework earmarked corridor approach for economic development of the GMS.

Asian Development Bank put regional investment framework (draft) for implementation of the new Greater Mekong Subregion Strategic Framework (2012-2013) at 18th GMS ministerial meeting in Nanning of China on 11-12 December, 2012.

At fourth GMS summit, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs signed MoU on the Joint Cooperation in Further Accelerating the Construction of the Information Superhighway and its Application in the GMS; the Ministry of Health, MoU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement; and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the MoA on the Establishment of GMS Freight Transporters Association (FRETA).

According to Myanmar-China Cross Border Link as regards MoU on the Joint Cooperation in Further Accelerating the Construction of the Information Superhighway and its Application in the GMS, voice internet was upgraded to 30xE1, Internet to 2.035 Gb. According to Myanmar-Thailand Cross Border Link, the internet was upgraded to 2.81 Gb.

As regards MoU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement, (a) raising public awareness, (b) disseminating health education, (c) prevention against sexually-transmitted HIV infection, (d) prevention against drug-related HIV infection, (e) prevention against mother-to-child HIV, (f) collecting safe blood, (g) providing essential care to patients and families, (h) multi-faceted cooperation, (i) special plans (border area disease control programmes), and (j) assessment are being conducted for HIV control among mobile population.

GMS holds meeting annually. Myanmar-Thailand and Myanmar-China cross border health consultations are conducted annually. Cross Referral System is being implemented, following international health regulations. The infection reduces, as the public awareness increases. Under-15 HIV infection was reduced from 0.61 percent in 2009 to 0.53 percent in 2011. Disease control, treatment and awareness measures targeted at the mobile population in the region are being accelerated.

MoU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement in the GMS was approved at 18th ministerial meeting on 11-12 December, 2012.

As regards MoA on the Establishment of GMS Freight Transporters Association (FRETA), Nay Pyi Taw hosted fourth GMS Business and Investment Conference on 19-20 December, 2012. It was attended by Heads of State/Government from six GMS countries, executives and entrepreneurs.

Papers on GMS freight and service industry in GMS countries and transportation development were read at GMS FRETA and Multimodal Transport Development in GMS Session of the conference.

Small and medium credit guarantee plans and industrial development along the economic corridor were put on table at GMS SME Credit Guarantee Scheme.

Federation President U Win Aung discussed Reporting to GMS Leaders from GMS Business and Investment Conference and Chairman of GMS Business Forum Mr Sun Anmin on actions of GMS Business Forum at fourth GMS Summit.

In the presence of GMS leaders, Mr Sun Anmin, Vice-President of All China Federation of Industry & Commerce transferred GMS Business Forum Chairmanship for 2012-2013 to UMFCCI President U Win Aung.

Six GMS countries have already signed MoU on establishment of Freight & Transport Association.

Chairmen of the GMS –Business Forums signed an agreement to establish the GMS Freight Transport Association at the 4th GMS Summit in December, 2011.

GMS-Business Forum asked the names of the five representatives from Myanmar during the GMS-FRETA Launch Meeting at Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 9 June, last year, and Myanmar has already sent the names the representatives to GMS-Business Forum.

As from 22 October, 2012, the president of the UMFCCI, Chairman of MIFFA U Khin Aung Myint and Board of Director of GMS-Business Forum Mr John Quarmby had made field trips to Mandalay and Muse to observe the situation for smooth of the GMS- freight transport.

GMS FRETA Meeting was held at Vietiane, Laos, on 29 October, 2012, and Chairman of GMS-Business Forum, President of UMFCCI U Win Aung and Myanmar delegation participated in the meeting.

Myanmar hosted the 4th Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Corridor Forum and the GMS Senior Officials' Meeting and the regional investment framework meeting of GMS at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 28 and 29 June 2012, and 16th GMS Subregional Transport Forum from 24 to 25 October. 2012.

Myanmar Transport Sector Initial Assessment compiled by the Asia Development Bank for Myanmar was approved at the 16th GMS Subregional Transport Forum. Myanmar hosted 11th Meeting of Working Group on Human Resource Development for the Greater Mekong Subregion in Yangon on 1 and 2 November, 2012,

(See page 8)

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 January, 2013

A new hope

The reforms that are designed to improve the administrative and management systems of a government can also contribute significantly to the successful completion of the political reforms and the dissemination of democratic values and practices in a society.

The transition period in Myanmar has witnessed the government undertaking democratic reforms by establishing a new administrative system both at the Union and the state/regional levels, by revising old laws that are not in line with reform processes, and by promulgating new laws as and when necessary. Hence, the nation-building process is now a work in progress.

The government will focus on implementing the reforms that are designed to improve the management and administrative performance of government agencies in the third stage of the overall national reform strategy. The administrative reforms that should be in line with the people-oriented development strategy should transform government officials into public servants who truly serve the public. Accordingly, the government needs necessary management capability and expertise so that it can implement reform plans effectively.

Here, Union ministries are taking the responsibility of managing activities of their own ministries in accordance with relevant laws, by-laws and regulations. The state and regional governments on their part supervise the activities of various government agencies in their respective areas and deal with the issues related to security, the rule of law, the prevalence of law and order and improving the social and economic well-being of the residents of their respective state or region.

So, all government employees are encouraged to perform their assigned duties wholeheartedly and with goodwill. And if individual citizens, the government, and political parties do everything they can in the roles they are assigned to, the country will definitely be able to overcome all the challenges and difficulties it is now facing. We will then be able to hope for a new peaceful and harmonious Myanmar.

25 garment factories which were owned by foreigners but...

(from page 7)

and the meeting approved GMS Human Resource Development (HRD) Strategic Framework and Action Plan (2013-2017) and Draft Action Plan (2012-2014) for implementing the MoU for the Joint Action to reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement in the GMS. Myanmar also hosted GMS Joint Working Group (WG) and 13th meeting of the Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (PRTCC-13) in Yangon on 26 and 27 November, 2012. At the 18th GMS Subregional ministerial meeting in Nanning, China, on 11 and 12 December, 2012, they agreed to run the Establishment of GMS Railways Association-GMRA as a non-legal body in the initial stage, said Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw in his answer to the question of Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Tin Shwe from Yangon Region constituency No. 6.

I'd like to answer the question raised by Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region constituency No. 4 whether there was a plan to explore and take legal actions against the malpractices of foreign businessmen who were running garment factories in Myanmar under the name of nationals who are in name only.

Myanmar Investment Commission has allowed the foreign direct investment in accordance with the 1988 FDI Law. In May, 2011, MIC found that some garment factories had been running by foreign businessmen, as the investment of Myanmar nationals.

The cause of the reason why foreigners were running garment factories under the name of national who are in name only was that there were complications of rules and regulations and the law had banned foreigners to hire the state-owned land.

Hence, with the aim of running some garments which were owned by foreigners but were running under the name of Myanmar nationals in accordance with the Foreign Direct Investment Law, maintain the status quo of workers of the garments, MIC issued the notification No, 1/2012 on 27 Feb, 2012 to correct the businesses so that they can convert the businesses which were running under the name of Myanmar nationals to the foreign direct investment businesses in accordance with the rules and regulations. At the end of September, 2012, 25 garment factories which were owned by foreigners but were running under the name of Myanmar nationals have been converted to foreign direct investment businesses so far and one business is under scrutiny in accordance with the rules and regulations. According to the notification, garment factories which are running under the name of Myanmar citizens are to convert to the foreign direct investment businesses within 90 days (from 27 Feb. 2012 to 27 May, 2012).

However, MIC renewed on the expiry of the deadline month by month until 30, September, 2012 as some foreign businessmen need to take time to convert their businesses in accordance with the rules and regulations and in attempts not to cause hardships for workers in case the garment factories suspended during the period of their reforms.

A golden age of Myanmar's media

Su Thabyay Naing

It is in Myanmar's media world that censorship was eased in response to the demand of age. It was mid August, 2012, when pre-publication censorship was ceased. 220 magazines and 310 journals were in circulation in 2012.

As the censorship was eased, some have started to forget honesty. Interim Press Council issued 15 codes of ethics. Authorities also warned some and rarely revoked license of the girlie one.

The authorities announced at the end of 2012, "Private dailies will be allowed from 1 April on." Various journals printed colourful opinions of the working journalists, publishers and economists.

They say it as "an exciting industry new to Myanmar." Some professionals and economists say, "We're publishing with the hope to switch to daily. Now is time. We've been waiting for a long time."

In such a time, the government-owned newspaper enterprise is first transformed into "100 percent government-owned corporation". It would help it to transform into public corporation with investments from the private sector.

The governing body of Public Service Newspaper distributed "code of ethics, principles and fundamental functions" with due transparency. To transform into public service media, the newspapers reviewed their forms and contents and re-launched the colour editions.

"Successive governments of various countries support public service media which deliver accurate news items to the public without bias. And they also monitor whether these media serve the people," a veteran journalist said.

"In running Myanma Alinn, Kyemon and The New Light of Myanmar on the government budget, we're trying to minimize the loss in market economy system," a manager of a public service newspaper said.

"We never incurred loss. We'll manage to maintain the growth of circulation and advertisers. We'll try to keep the price and serve the people without prioritizing profit."

The three public service newspapers are not contented with the increasing circulations and are competing each other in positive manners.

The Myanma Alinn was established with the motto, "We bring the light to the whole universe." An editor of the newspaper said they are vowed to maintain the fine tradition. A young editor of Kyemon also said, "We've the capacity to cover events as it is seen on the mirror."

An editor of The New Light of Myanmar, which claimed itself as "The most reliable newspaper around you", said it will raise the paper's prestige with foreign experts.

Private dailies will face challenges of human resources, investments and distribution. Weeklies and journals with strong news stories and articles will survive while some others tackling challenges. Free, fair and healthy competition will lead to success.

"If the journalists abide by codes of conduct, the future will become brighter. It'll be the time that media thrive."

It is time to make a dream of public daily come true.

Trs:HKA

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Cartoon Thabyay

Physicians give free treatment in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan— Kayin State Medical Officer Dr Win Naing, Medical Superintendent of Kayin State Hospital Dr Daw Aye Aye, physicians and mobile military medical team from South-East Command gave free treatment to local people of Papun and surrounding villages at Papun Basic Education High School on 2 January.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win and state officials encouraged the patients and presented spectacles to patients with visual complaints. The medical team treated a total of 787 patients and donated 190 pairs of spectacles.

MNA

Half a loaf is better than no bread.

LOCAL NEWS

CSCs issued to local people in Pyigyidagun Township

MANDALAY, 13 Jan—According to the Moe Pwint-4 Plan, Pyigyidagun Township Immigration and National Registration Department of Mandalay Region undertook issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible local people at Ngwetaw Kyikon Ward administrative office on 14 December.

The issuance tasks were supervised by Mandalay Region Hluttaw representatives U Thein Hla and U Thein Lwin, Director of Mandalay Region INRD U Thaung Zaw, Head of Mandalay District INRD Deputy Director U Tun Oo and officials.

Head of Pyigyidagun Township INRD U Thein Zaw and Ward administrator U Naing Lay provided assistance to the staff in their tasks to issue Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to 56 local people.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar-US Trade and Investment Conference in Yangon on 25 February

YANGON, 13 Jan—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and US Chamber of Commerce of Washington DC of the United States of America will jointly organize the Myanmar-US Trade and Investment Conference at the conference hall on the first floor of the UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon Region on 25 February morning.

Various US companies which are members of the US Chamber of Commerce namely Asia Global Epress, Cargill, Chevron, e-bay, EMC, Conocophilips, Gibson Dunn & Crutcherlip and Honeywell based in Washington DC and Asia-Pacific region will join the conference.

Officials of the ministry, responsible persons of economic organizations and companies of both countries will place emphasis on trade and investment sectors, assistance for development tasks, encouragement for information and technology in order to develop economy, potential financial sector, participation in ASEAN Economic Community and enhancement of social life at the conference.

Those wishing to attend the conference may register at the International Relations Department of the UMFCCI Office Tower, not later than 22 February.

Myanma Alinn

Hantharwady United FC meets press

YANGON, 13 Jan—A press conference of Hantharwady United FC representing Bago Region was held at Sedona Hotel, here, on 5 January.

President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw made a speech. Patron of the FC and owner U Khin Maung Aye and Chairman U Aung Moe Kyaw explained matters related to Hantharwady United FC.

The football club submitted the application to the MFF for re-handing over the club to the federation after the 2012 MNL League season.

According to the President of MFF, owner U Aung Moe Kyaw continues taking of responsibilities of the club but IBTC Company will not take responsibilities.

At present, U Aung Moe Kyaw and CB Bank Chairman U Khin Maung Aye jointly control the club and spend the costs 50-50 per cent.

Patron of the FC and owner U Khin Maung Aye said that he was born in Bago. So, he accepted the offer of U Aung Moe Kyaw to jointly manage the club.

He pledged that he would emphasize development of football sports in the region.

The owner kept a promise that he would provide assistance for the development of football arena as well as youth project, he said.

Hantharwady United FC was established in 2009. In 2010, the club secured the trophy in the knockout cup of MFF.—*Myanma Alinn*

Lisu national celebrates New Year

MYITKYINA, 13 Jan—The New Year of Lisu national race was held at the hall of Myanmar Lisu Literature and Culture Central Committee at in Khemathiri Ward of Myitkyina of Kachin State on 5 January.

The ceremony was attended by Kachin State Minister for Lisu National Race U Ah Si, departmental officials, members of traditional cultural troupe and local national races.

Myanma Alinn

Thuta Swesone Library celebrates 12th anniversary

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Thuta Swesone Library in Taungkhinyan Village of Gangaw Township held the 12th Anniversary at the hall of Basic Education High School Branch in the village on 30 December.

Local youths participated in the extempore talks, poem recitation and chess contests.

Officials presented certificates of honour to book donors.—*Myanma Alinn*

Traditional cane-ball contest marks Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, the invitational Myanmar traditional cane-ball contest and cane-ball demonstration, organized by local cane-ball enthusiasts of Tatkon, were held at Shwepyanhlwar cane-ball ground in Bayintnaung Ward in Tatkon at 1 pm on 6 January.

Shweyeaye, Shwepyanhlwar, Kaungway, Shwe Ozi and Barani cane-ball teams participated in the contest.

After the final match, the administrator of Bayintnaung Ward and responsible persons presented prizes to the first prize winning Shweyeaye team and other prize winning teams.

Myanma Alinn

Ward Administrator's Cup Futsal Tourney wraps up

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—The Third Sawbwagyigon Ward Administrator's Cup Senior Futsal Open Tournament was held at the sports ground of Basic Education Primary School No 7 in Insein Township from 22 December to 4 January.

Altogether 20 Futsal teams participated in the tourney.

In the final match, Kaung Thant team emerged champion with a 3-1 win over FBI team.—*Myanma Alinn*

Suspect burglar in disguise of Tatmadawman arrested

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Pattar Police Station in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area opened a file of lawsuit No (Pa) 128/12 of Section 380 under the Criminal Law due to the fact that U Kyaw Kyaw Tint who stayed at room 3046 at Myint Mo Nann Hotel in the township made a complaint that he lost K 1.1 million kept his room on 10-12-20-2012.

A squad led by IP Zaw Min Khaing and SIP Nay Win Tun conducted the investigation at South Shankan Village in Singaing Township of Mandalay Region, No. 1 Training Depot in Hlegu Township and Twantay in Yangon Region, Dedaye and Pyapon of Ayeyawady Region. On 19-12-2013, the squad could arrest suspect Zaw Min Htaik, 36, son of U Tin Tun at the house on 6th Danitaw Street in Pyapon along with evidences and money.

After the investigations, the suspect person confessed that he committed the criminal case with the use of badges of the rank of Sergeant and Coastal Region Command of the Tatmadaw and military uniforms. The authorities seized the evidences and the stolen money. Action was taken against him under Section 140 of the Criminal Law. The police officers continue investigation to expose more related information.

Aye Than

WORLD

A craftsman named Qian Daishou polishes a semi-finished handicraft made of chrysanthemum stone in a workshop in Enshi, central China's Hubei Province, on 12 Jan, 2013. "Chrysanthemum stone", a type of mineral technically named caloareous clay slate, is transparent black with white blotches inside like blooming chrysanthemums. Its surface is hard but smooth. The stone deposit was only found in some parts of China.— XINHUA

Two injured in Exxon Mobil plant accident in Texas

HOUSTON, 13 Jan—Two workers were injured Saturday morning in an accident at a Exxon Mobil plant in Baytown, Texas, local TV channel ABC13 reported.

The wounded were taken to a hospital where they are receiving treatment and undergoing evaluation.

The victims suffered burns, and their conditions were not immediately known. They were employed by Savage Services, a contractor that provides workers for Exxon the largest US energy company.

The cause of the incident remains under investigation and Exxon hasn't released any information about it.—*Xinhua*

JetLite to pay Rs 45,000 for loss of valuables from baggage

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—Low-fare airline JetLite has been ordered by a consumer forum in New Delhi to pay Rs. 45,000 to a passenger as compensation for the loss of valuables from his baggage during transit from Guwahati to Delhi.

Pulling up the airline for its "careless attitude" in handling the flier's grievance, the South West District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum held that once the baggage was handed over to JetLite, it was responsible for its safety and security.

"Once the bag is submitted by passenger to the custody of the opposite party (airline), it is responsible for its safety and security. In the instant case, it is apparent that during the custody of the opposite party, the bag of the complainant was unlocked and the valuables were removed from it.

"Complainant has suffered financial loss and harassment due to careless attitude of opposite party which amounts to deficiency in service and he is entitled to be reasonably compensated," a bench presided by Narendra Kumar said.

It directed the airline to pay the passenger Rs 25,000 for the loss of valuables and Rs 20,000 as compensation. The forum's order came on the plea of Delhi resident Girish Kumar Jain who had said that he had travelled by JetLite from Guwahati to Delhi on 12 June, 2008 and on arriving here he found his bag was damaged and valuables, including an expensive camera, were missing.

PTI

Wellington weather causes flight delays, cancellations

WELLINGTON, 13 Jan—Fog has caused delays and cancellations at Wellington Airport on Sunday. The airport's website showed delays and cancellations to a number of flights, particularly to and from regional locations. Flights from Auckland and Christchurch have landed.

The airport said the fog was coming and going, so some of the smaller planes have been able to land and take off when cloud cover had lifted. As at 11.30 am local time, Wellington Airport's website showed three flights due to depart on Sunday morning had been canceled, as had three arrivals, while many flights were delayed for an hour or more.

Thick fog caused the cancellation of more than 100 flights at the airport just before Christmas and strong winds on some days in the new year also made conditions difficult.—*Xinhua*

Japanese car makers increase production in China

TOKYO, 13 Jan—Japanese car makers are moving to restore production at their factories in China to respond to recovering sales.

Sales had declined sharply since September due to Chinese protests against Japan's nationalization of some of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. The decline caused Japanese car makers to stop or cut production hours in China.

However, sales are gradually recovering, and the firms are bringing production back to the level of before the anti-Japanese demonstrations.

Toyota has already returned to 2 shifts, day and night, at the factories where they had been cut to only daytime.

Honda and Nissan will also reinstitute 2 shifts per day this month.

Although many factories will continue to adjust output, the car makers plan to be prepared to quickly increase production ahead of the Lunar New Year shopping season in China.

NHK

FBI takes probe into Universal payments to Manila

TOKYO, 12 Jan—The FBI has sent agents to Manila in a widening of its investigation into millions of dollars of payments made by Japan's Universal Entertainment Corp to a politically connected consultant in relation to its casino project in the Philippines, sources with knowledge of the matter said. Agents from the Las Vegas office of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation have been in Manila over the past week working with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the local agency tasked with looking into the payments as a potential bribery case, the sources said.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino had ordered an official investigation in November to see if the payments were made in relation to the $2 billion casino resort being developed by Universal on Manila Bay. The investigation has focused on $40 million transferred to Rodolfo Soriano, a close confidante to the former head of the Philippine gaming authority, during the same time Universal sought and won key concessions for its project in 2010.

The FBI had previously questioned people about the payments in the United States. Its involvement in the Philippines marks a widening of its investigation. The NBI's own probe has been slow-moving, according to one of the sources.

Reuters

China promotes establishment of off-exchange market

BEIJING, 13 Jan—China will push forward the development of a national off-exchange or over-the-counter (OTC) market to meet growing financing demand of enterprises, a senior securities official said on Saturday.

Yao Gang, vice chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), made the remarks at a seminar here on the country's capital market.

China's stock market is now based on bourses, but exchange markets alone can't meet the country's growing financing demand, Yao said.

Security regulators will accelerate the establishment of a national OTC market, and lower the threshold of entering the market for enterprises especially small and medium-sized ones, Yao said. In contrast with exchange trading, OTC trading is done directly between two parties without facilities or supervision of an exchange. The price struck by the two sides is not necessarily made public in an OTC trade.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 12 Jan, 2013 shows tents installed for landslide-affected villagers at Gaopo Village in Zhenxiong County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. Landslide-affected villagers in Gaopo Village have been temporarily settled in tents and got life necessities. Forty-six people were killed in the Friday landslide. Another two people were injured.—XINHUA

A visitor views pigeons during the National Pigeon Show in Budapest, Hungary, on 12 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Fuel explosion kills 30 in Nigeria

LAGOS, 13 Jan—Nigeria's police in southwest Lagos State on Saturday said up to 30 persons, suspected to be fuel vandals died in a pipeline fire at Arepo village in neighbouring Ogun State. Friday Ibadin, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in-charge of the Special Task Force on Anti-Pipeline Vandalism, told reporters in Lagos, the country's commercial hub that an explosion was heard at about 2 am, local time.

He said the fire was caused by suspected vandals, who allegedly ferried across to the creeks to siphon petroleum products from a ruptured state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) pipeline. The police chief said fire fighters were still trying to contain the fire.

He gave an assurance that the police would provide adequate security in the area. He said security agencies were on the trail of other vandal survivors, who fled the scene of the incident. According to Ibadin, one of the suspects arrested told the police that many of his mates were killed in the explosion, while others injured might still be alive and dying in the creeks.

A survivor was quoted as saying that more than 50 persons were involved in carrying out the vandal. The police said the suspect's told his men that about 30 people were feared to be burnt to death, while many were injured while scooping fuel from a pipeline in the early hours of the day. Stealing fuel from oil pipeline is very common in Nigeria, Africa's leading oil producer.—*Xinhua*

REGIONAL

*Dancers of the Russian State Bullet perform "Swan Lake" at the Gansu Grand Theatre in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, on 11 Jan, 2013.—*XINHUA

China issues yellow alert on fog

BEIJING, 13 Jan—China's meteorological authority issued a yellow alert on fog shrouding the country's central and eastern regions on Sunday.

The fog will decrease visibility to within 1,000 metres in some parts of Beijing, Tianjin and Chongqing municipalities, as well as provinces of Hebei, Henan, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Hunan, Guizhou, Yunnan and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Sunday morning, the Central Meteorological Centre said.

Plain areas in north China, regions along the Yellow and Huai rivers, the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River and south China will see haze on Sunday, the center said.

On Monday, light and moderate snow will fall in northern parts of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with some areas expecting heavy snow, the centre said. Meanwhile, a cold front will lower temperatures by four to eight degrees Celsius in China's northern and eastern regions from Sunday to Wednesday, the centre added.

Xinhua

*A woman rides on the fog-shrouded Chongxin Road in Guilin, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 13 Jan, 2013. Dense fog on Sunday hit China's east and central regions from the northeast to the south, causing serious air pollution.—*XINHUA

Beijing air pollution stays at dangerous level

BEIJING, 13 Jan—The municipal government of Beijing is warning people to stay inside as air pollution is at the most unhealthy level.

In Beijing, the density of air-borne dust has been rising since late last week, while the visibility is dropping.

China's state-run *Xinhua* News Agency says the measuring index shows the pollution level went down to the worst of the 6 rankings on Saturday.

The municipal government, expecting the worst to continue for several more days, urged schools in some areas not to have gym outside.

The causative substance of the pollution is small particles from automobiles' exhaust.

The US Embassy in Beijing said the density of the particles in the air reached nearly 3 times the standard where children and the elderly are advised to stay home.

Bad visibility due to the pollution is causing the cancellation of flights and closures of expressways across eastern and inland China.—*NHK*

5.3-magnitude quake hits Seram, Indonesia

HONG KONG, 13 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Seram, Indonesia at 17:33:37 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 7.30 km, was initially determined to be at 2.9911 degrees south latitude and 129.8079 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

5.1-magnitude quake hits north of Ascension Island

HONG KONG, 13 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted north of Ascension Island at 21:50:18 GMT on Sat, 12 January, 2013, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10.00 km, was initially determined to be at 0.0720 degrees north latitude and 17.0338 degrees west longitude.—*Xinhua*

Abe vows to speed up reconstruction of areas hit by quake, tsunami

ISHINOMAKI, 13 Jan—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday vowed to speed up reconstruction of areas ravaged by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami as he inspected disaster-hit firms and temporary housing for evacuees in Miyagi Prefecture.

"It is our duty to accelerate rehabilitation and reconstruction," Abe said in a meeting with people who live in temporary housing in the coastal town of Watari.

The Prime Minister added that the government will spend over 19 trillion yen for reconstruction during the five years through fiscal 2015 by scrapping the budget plan created by the previous administration led by the Democratic Party of Japan.

On Friday, Abe's Cabinet endorsed a stimulus package which is partly designed to accelerate reconstruction work.

Kyodo News

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) visits a shipyard on 12 Jan, 2013, in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, an area hit by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. KYODO NEWS

30 killed in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, 13 Jan—Nepal Police said that 30 people have been killed in a bus accident in Doti on Saturday morning.

District Police Office Doti told *Xinhua* that 30 people were killed and 13 others injured. The passenger bus, Na 4 Kha 3603, heading for Dhangadhi from Achham veered off a mountain road at Doti at around 2 am on Saturday.

"Twenty-two men, seven women and a child died in the accident," the police official said, adding that rescue operation is underway.—*Xinhua*

Mongolia to build first oil refinery by 2015

ULAN BATOR, 13 Jan—The Mongolian government has decided to finish construction of the country's first oil refinery in the central Darkhan province by the end of 2015.

Mongolia will construct the state-owned refinery with the capacity of processing 2 million tons of crude oil per year in Darkhan by 2015, and start negotiations with Japanese banks to obtain loans for the refinery, the government said in a statement Saturday.

The refinery will be built by Japan's Toyo Engineering Corporation with the Mongolian companies as subcontractors.—*Xinhua*

Philippine military ready to assist police to ensure orderly polls

MANILA, 13 Jan—The 120,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is ready to assist the Philippine National Police (PNP) in ensuring a peaceful and violence-free election period that started Sunday, a senior military official said.

AFP chief of staff General Jessie Dellosa said that the military will participate in the Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Centers (JPSCC) in implementing the National Firearms Ban and Commission on Elections (Comelec) Checkpoints for the 2013 election period. "The AFP will also maintain vigilance and is prepared to complement police forces in dismantling private armed groups along with organized crime groups that may take advantage of the campaign season'" he said.

Through the JPSCC, the AFP and PNP will implement intensified law enforcement and security operations to implement Comelec resolutions as well as thwart criminal activities throughout the country, Dellosa added.

Xinhua

14 Taleban fighters lay down arms in northern Afghan town

Pul-e-Khumri, (Afghanistan), 13 Jan.—A Taliban group composed of 14 fighters laid down arms and joined the government- backed peace process in Baghlan province 160 km north of Kabul on Sunday. "These people under Qari Zafarullah were active in Jirga district over the past couple of years and with joining them to peace process the security will be further improved in Baghlan province," provincial police chief Assadullah Shirzad said in a ceremony to welcome the former militants. They also handed over eight pieces of assault rifles to police, he further said.

Taleban militants fighting the government have yet to make comment. Around 4,000 Taliban militants have joined the government-backed peace over the past one year, a claim rejected by Taliban outfit as groundless.

Xinhua

*Kids play with the seabirds at the beach in Melbourne, Australia, on 12 Jan, 2013.—*XINHUA

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Death toll from SW China landslide rises to 44

ZHENXIONG, (Yunnan), 13 Jan—The death toll from a landslide that hit a mountainous region in southwest China's Yunnan Province on Friday has risen to 44 after one more body was retrieved on Saturday morning, rescuers said. Two remain missing.

The landslide hit the Zhaojiagou area of Gaopo Village, Zhenxiong County around 8:20 am on Friday. Zhenxiong is some 550 km northeast of the provincial capital, Kunming.

Forty-six residents — 27 adults and 19 children — were buried in the landslide, according to the local civil affairs bureau.

More than 1,000 rescue workers with the help of excavators, shovels and life detectors are still in search of the missing ones.

Xinhua

Rescuers and an excavator work at the mud-inundated debris after a landslide hit Gaopo Village in Zhenxiong County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 11 Jan, 2013. The death toll from a landslide that hit Gaopo Village on Friday has risen to 44, after more bodies were retrieved. Two injured people have been sent to a nearby hospital, and it has been confirmed that their injuries are not life-threatening.—XINHUA

Law enforcement bodies join hands against wage delays

BEIJING, 13 Jan—Nationwide law enforcement departments helped 6.22 million workers collect about 20 billion yuan (3.2 billion US dollars) in delayed wages in 2012, Yin Weimin, minister of human resources and social security, said on Friday.

Migrant workers are most vulnerable to wage delays.

Twelve ministry-level departments, including Yin's ministry, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, held a teleconference on Friday during which they asked grassroots authorities to improve handling of labour disputes to ensure the country's 250 million migrants receive the wages that they are due before Spring Festival, which falls on Feb 10 this year.

Yin said wage delays have extended to wider export-oriented sectors, including the shipbuilding and textile industries, as the country's economy has seen slower growth.

"Labour-intensive companies are seeing an increase in the number of wage delay cases," he said.

More than 220,000 wage-related labour disputes were reported nationwide in 2012, a year-on-year increase of 12.7 percent, Yin said. Wage delays resulted in 190 mass incidents involving more than 100 people each in the first 11 months in 2012, a 21 percent increase compared with the same period in 2011, Yin said.

The minister promised strengthened supervision and higher efficiency to deal with wage delays.

Thorough inspections will be carried out in migrant-intensive industries and in enterprises where wage delays once happened, he said.

Smoother reporting methods such as hotlines will be used to ensure that migrants' requests are heard in time, he said.

Xinhua

Turkey postpones purchase of F-35 fighters

ANKARA, 13 Jan—The Turkish Undersecretariat for Defence Industries (SSM) said on Friday it has delayed the purchase of two *F-35* jet fighters from the United States.

The SSM announced in a statement that the planned purchase has been postponed due to the unexpected technical capabilities of the aircraft and the ascending cost. Turkish government made the decision to buy *F-35* fighters on 5 January, 2012. It also initially plans to purchase 100 units of the fighter to renew its current fleet.

Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding on its involvement in the production process of the new generation of the US-made *F- 35* warplanes in 2007. The other participants are Britain, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia, Norway and Denmark.

Turkey's decision to postpone the order came at a time when numerous other countries, including Denmark and the Netherlands, had suspended their orders.

Xinhua

People fish on the Junshan Lake in Jinxian County, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 10 Jan, 2013. The winter fish harvest of the lake began on Thursday and more than 60,000 kilograms of fish were caught on the first day.

XINHUA

63.6 million Nigerians lack access to potable water

Jos, (Nigeria), 13 Jan—Water Sanitation And Hygiene (WASH), a media network concerned with sanitation and water, has said 63.6 million Nigerians have no access to potable water.

Dennis Deteer, chairman of its central north Plateau chapter, disclosed this in Jos on Friday when the body paid an advocacy visit to the Plateau State Community and Social Development Agency. He said that Nigeria's MDG target was to supply 74 percent of the population with safe drinking water and 69 percent of the population with adequate sanitation by 2015.

The WASH official lamented that only 58 percent of Nigerians had access to safe drinking water, with only 32 percent population having access to good sanitation. "At current rate of progress, the water target will be achieved in 2033, which is 18 years after the proposed 2015," he said.

According to him, the World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 361,900 people die yearly due to poor water and sanitation in Nigeria.

UNICEF also estimates that 194,000 children under the age of 5 die from diarrhea caused by poor water and sanitation yearly, he said.—*Xinhua*

(From R) Tokyo Electric Power Co President Naomi Hirose, Vice President Yoshiyuki Ishizaki and Chairman Kazuhiko Shimokobe attend a Press Conference after their meeting at the utility's new office in Naraha, Fukushima Prefecture, on 11 Jan, 2013. Ishizaki, head of the new Fukushima office of TEPCO, pledged to work fast on implementing measures aimed at helping residents affected by the 2011 nuclear disaster, such as compensation and cleaning up radioactive contamination.—KYODO NEWS

Venezuela's Maduro to visit Chavez again in Cuba

CARACAS, 13 Jan—Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro will fly to Cuba on Friday to visit cancer-stricken Hugo Chavez, a month after the socialist leader underwent his fourth operation in 18 months.

The 58-year-old president has neither been seen nor heard from since the surgery, and he has suffered multiple post-operative complications including a severe lung infection.

He missed his own inauguration on Thursday, but the Supreme Court said he could be sworn in later—in theory meaning he could remain in office for weeks or months from a Havana hospital. There has been no firm evidence he is conscious. "I'm going to give our commander-president the good news about how the people are working, making revolution with courage, discipline and enthusiasm," Maduro said in a televised broadcast.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, a friend and ally of Venezuela's socialist leader, arrived in Cuba on Friday and said she planned to take Chavez a Bible. Talking to reporters at Havana's landmark Hotel Nacional, she said she would have lunch with President Raul Castro and his older brother and predecessor, Fidel Castro, and then expected to meet members of Chavez's family. "This is not a visit for making comments or giving interviews but simply of solidarity and fellowship with someone who is a friend," Fernandez said.

Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a rally in support of President Hugo Chavez in Caracas on 10 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

In his absence, government officials were forced to postpone a ceremony on Thursday to swear him in for the new six-year term that he won at a presidential election in October.

A clutch of Latin American and Caribbean leaders attended a rally that went ahead in Caracas regardless, where thousands of red-shirted loyalists held aloft copies of the constitution and were symbolically sworn-in in Chavez's place.

His condition is a top concern of officials in Cuba and other allied nations whose leftist governments have long benefited from years of Chavez's oil-fueled generosity. Maduro, a former bus driver and union leader who shares his boss's radical views, is in day-to-day charge of the government until there is clarity over whether the president will return. He has sought to imitate Chavez's bombastic rhetoric in speeches but struggles to emulate the folksy charisma of the president, who grew up in humble surroundings and became one of the world's best-known heads of state.—*Reuters*

ENTERTAINMENT

Paris Hilton refused re-entry into People's Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—Paris Hilton was reportedly refused re-entry into the People's Choice Awards.

The socialite and her boyfriend River Viiperi reportedly stepped outside during the ceremony on Wednesday (09.01.13), but security at the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles wouldn't let them back inside the building. An onlooker told the *New York Daily* News newspaper: "It was super-cold outside and she didn't have a coat. She was wearing a short dress, she was on the phone going back and forth outside."

The observer claimed the couple tried to get back in through different entrances - but had no success. Paris and River's night had reportedly got off to a bad start because they arrived late and, because the ceremony was already underway, were ushered to "cheap" seats towards the back of the room, rather than a prime spot with other celebrity guests.

The source added: "She was so embarrassed." A spokesperson for the 31-year-old heiress insisted the star had no intention of going back inside but was trying to locate her car service.

And the couple didn't appear to have let the mishaps get them down. Paris tweeted: "Fun night with @RiverViiperi at The People's Choice Awards." River added: "So Much fun at the #PeoplesChoice awards with my beautiful love @ParisHilton on my way back home now to Relax :) "I won having the hottest and best girlfriend but they didn't have that category this year (sic)"—*PTI*

Francesca Eastwood is this year's Miss Golden Globe

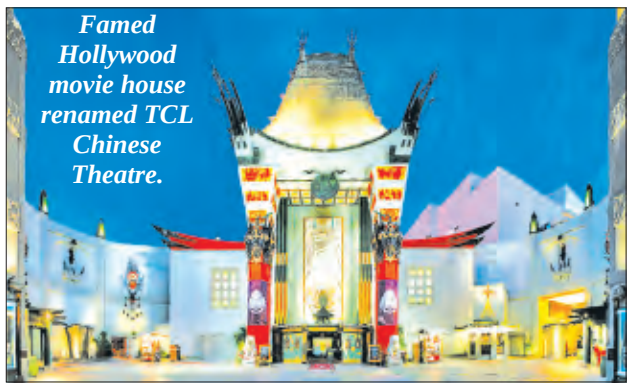
NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—A second Eastwood daughter will be Miss Golden Globe 2013. Francesca, daughter of actor-director Clint Eastwood and actress Frances Fisher, receives the title eight years after her half-sister Kathryn Eastwood did in 2005.

Miss or Mr Golden Globe is traditionally the daughter or son of celebrity parents and helps in assisting at the awards ceremony. Previous holders of the title include actress Melanie Griffith, daughter of Hitchcock blonde Tippi Hedren, in 1975; Dakota Johnson, Melanie's daughter with actor Don Johnson, in 2006; William Shatner's daughter Lisabeth in 1985; Clark Gable's son John Clark Gable in 1995; Kevin Costner's daughter Lily in 2004; and Rumer Willis, daughter of Bruce Willis and Demi Moore, in 2009.

Among the previous holders of the title, some went on to become actors in their own right. Other than Melanie Griffith, these include Dynasty star Linda Evans, Jurassic Park actress Laura Dern, Inspector Gadget star Joely Fisher and I Know What You Did Last Summer actor Freddie Prinze Jr.—*PTI*

Francesca Eastwood. Miss or Mr Golden Globe is traditionally the daughter or son of celebrity parents.—PTI

Famed Hollywood movie house renamed TCL Chinese Theatre



Famed Hollywood movie house renamed TCL Chinese Theatre.

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—Hollywood's landmark Grauman's Chinese Theatre has a new name after a Chinese company purchased naming rights to the famous movie house and tourist destination.

The one-time site of the Academy awards will now be called the TCL Chinese Theatre following a 10-year deal with Chinese TV maker TCL Corp, its owners said on Friday. Opened in 1927, the building had been named for Sid Grauman, a Hollywood showman who helped finance the theater's construction. The theater hosted red-carpet premieres for "The Wizard of Oz" and other classic films and now is the site of about 40 movie premieres annually.

The landmark draws about 4 million viewers each year. It is fronted by an ornate Chinese pagoda and the hand and footprints of famous film stars captured in cement.

The deal with TCL will fund upgrades and preservation of the historic site, theater owners Elie Samaha and Donald Kushner said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Britney Spears calls off engagement, quits "X Factor"

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan—Pop star Britney Spears on Friday called it quits with both fiancé Jason Trawick and as a celebrity judge on "The X Factor" talent show. Spears, 31, and Trawick, 41—her former agent - got engaged in December 2011. "Jason and I have decided to call off our engagement," Spears said in a statement. "I'll always adore him and we will remain great friends." The couple began dating in May 2010, following a turbulent few years in Spears' personal and professional life in which she lost custody of her children, entered rehab and shaved off her hair.

Pop star Britney Spears

Trawick added in a statement: "As this chapter ends for us a new one begins. I love and cherish her and her boys and we will be close forever." The wedding would have been the third for Spears. She divorced dancer Kevin Federline, with whom she had two children, in 2006. The singer also spontaneously married childhood friend Jason Alexander during a trip to Las Vegas in 2004. That marriage lasted 55 hours before the singer annulled the union. Spears and Trawick announced their split the same day that the "Toxic" singer confirmed she was leaving "The X Factor" after just one year as a judge on the Fox singing show, saying it was time to get back to making music.

"I had an incredible time doing the show and I love the other judges and I am so proud of my teens but it's time for me to get back in the studio. "Watching them all do their thing up on that stage every week made me miss performing so much! I can't wait to get back out there and do what I love most," Spears said of her "X Factor" departure. Spears' most recent album, "Femme Fatale," was released in March 2011.

Celebrity website TMZ.com reported on Friday that Spears was in talks about a long-term residency gig in Las Vegas. The gambling city is already host to stars like Celine Dion and Shania Twain, who perform under long term contracts. Spears was recruited to "The X Factor" with a reported $15 million salary after a 14-year singing career that made her one of the biggest pop stars of the 2000s. But audiences slumped and the TV show lost about 3 million regular viewers from its first season. Many fans and TV critics found Spears bland and boring. The exit of Spears leaves "X Factor" creator Simon Cowell searching for two new judges to lift his show past its NBC rival, "The Voice," in the ratings when it returns in September. Judge and record producer LA Reid announced in December that he would be returning full time to his job as the head of Epic Records. Spears took "The X Factor" gig with singer Demi Lovato, 20, in May 2012 to fill the judges' seats left by Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger, who were both fired by Cowell a year ago.—*Reuters*

Titanic 3D biggest foreign movie tax contributor

BEIJING, 13 Jan—Jame Cameron's Titanic 3D was the biggest tax contributor among foreign movies China imported in 2012, according to Beijing Customs on Friday. The movie took 144 million US dollars at the country's box office.

Figures released by customs showed that taxation contributed by foreign movies on screen in China last year topped 33.7 million US dollars, up 60 percent year on year. The sharp increase was mainly attributed to the surge in the number of imported foreign movies, which rose to 64 in 2012, up from 50, according to China Film Group Corp, China's only authorized importer of foreign films.

Beijing Customs is the only channel for the company's foreign movie imports. Previous to the 3D conversion of Cameron's 1997 blockbuster Titanic, only the sci-fi movie Avatar in 2009 chalked up tax of more than 40 million yuan (6.4 million US dollars) in China.

Xinhua

SPORTS

Real Madrid produce stale performacne to bottom of table Osasuna

Gonzalo Higuain

MADRID, 13 Jan—Real Madrid's disappointing season continued with a desperately poor 0-0 draw away to bottom of the table Osasuna.

Although Real Madrid were without some key players, they never looked in control of the game and produced a flat display which only serves to highlight that they now have no chance of winning the BBVA Primera Liga and their only hope of silverware is in the Copa del Rey and the Champions League.

Without the injured Pepe and with Sergio Ramos and Cristiano Ronaldo, Madrid looked flat in attack, despite Gonzalo Higuain starting his first game in attack after two months out with injury.

Higuain's return saw Karim Benzema step down to the subs' bench, while Angel de Maria was also back in the side, although overall Madrid looked very flat against a hard-working and motivated Osasuna.

Chances were few and far between in the first half and Osasuna could have taken the lead had Kike Sola been a bit sharper, while Alvaro Cejudo also looked dangerous, although overall, Osasuna's best chances came from set pieces as Madrid's central defensive partnership of Raul Albiol and Rafael Varene at times looks shaky on high balls.

The second half was little better with Real Madrid desperately missing the incisive attacking play that Ronaldo usually provides.

Jose Mourinho tried to rectify matters by bringing Luka Modric, Benzema and Kaka into the game, but Kaka spoiled his coach's plans when he saw two yellow cards in less than 15 minutes: the first was for a foul, while the second was for deliberately obstructing Osasuna as the home side looked to take a quick free kick.

That left Madrid to play the last 15 minutes with a player less, but they almost won the game almost directly afterwards when Javier Callejon had the ball in the Osasuna net, only for his effort to be ruled out for a tight, but correct offside decision.

The remainder of the match saw Osasuna press hard for a goal that would have lifted them off the bottom of the table, but their lack of quality in the final pass saw them fail to turn pressure into chances.

Xinhua

Arsenal's Denilson wants permanent Sao Paulo move

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 Jan—Arsenal midfielder Denilson says he hopes to secure a permanent move to Sao Paulo this year.

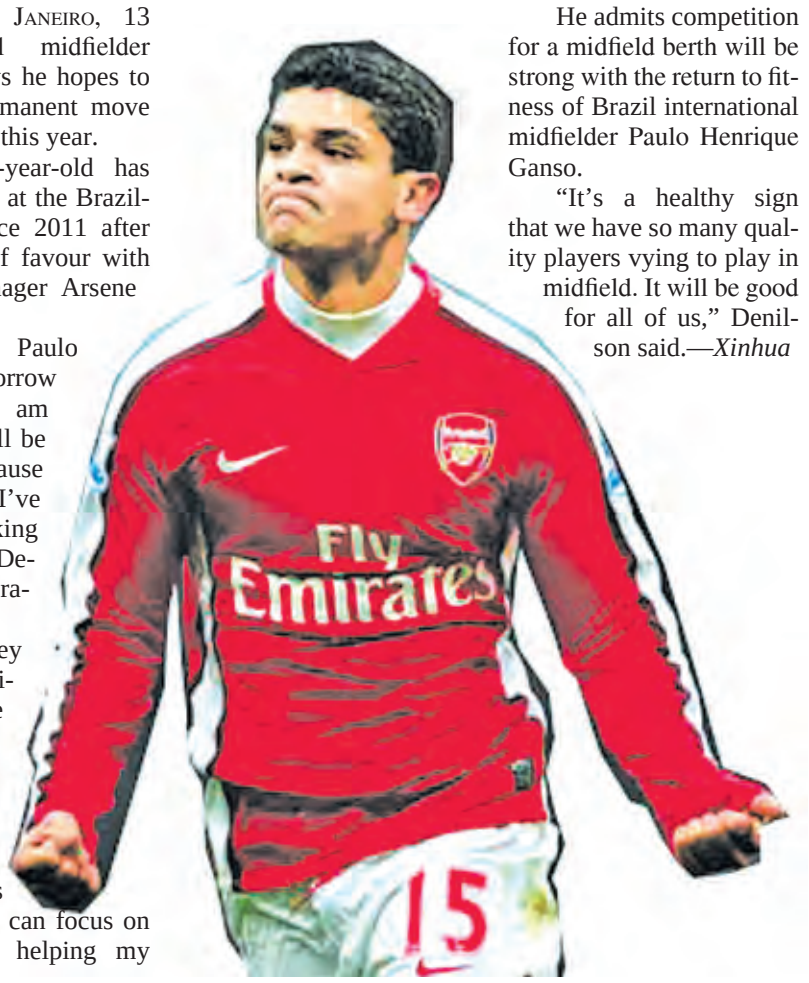
The 24-year-old has been on loan at the Brazilian club since 2011 after falling out of favour with Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

"If Sao Paulo come tomorrow and say I am staying it will be fantastic because that is what I've been working towards," Denilson told Brazil's *Uol*.

"If they delay a decision I'll be annoyed. I would prefer that everything is sorted out as soon as possible so I can focus on playing and helping my teammates."

He admits competition for a midfield berth will be strong with the return to fitness of Brazil international midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso.

"It's a healthy sign that we have so many quality players vying to play in midfield. It will be good for all of us," Denilson said.—*Xinhua*



Denilson has re-joined his former club Sao Paulo on a season-long loan.

Li pines for Melbourne Park tormentor Clijsters

Chinese tennis player Li Na attends a Press conference of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 13 Jan, 2013. The 2013 Australian Open tennis tournament will start on 14 January.
XINHUA

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan—Li Na's Melbourne Park nemesis Kim Clijsters no longer stalks the Australian Open draw but her absence is no cause for celebration, according to the Chinese sixth seed.

If anyone should be popping champagne corks in the non attendance of the retired Belgian, it should be 30-year-old Li, Asia's first grand slam singles champion. Teak-tough Clijsters denied Li her maiden major title in 2011's tense final at Rod Laver Arena, overhauling the Chinese in three sets to win her fourth and final grand slam.

Clijsters returned the following year to inflict further pain on Li, and despite suffering an ankle injury in their fourth-round clash, saved four match points and left her stunned opponent crying at her post-match media conference.

Li, however, said she had hoped to have a chance to exact revenge at her eighth appearance in the Australian Open singles draw."Why should I (be) happy? I (was) really looking forward to playing her again," Li told reporters.

"I never have (another) chance to come back, so I'm not happy. "Every time I play against her, (it's) always (a) tough match. It's a really good challenge for myself." Without Clijsters in the draw, a majority of pundits would say the hard-hitting Li's chances of a second major title following her 2011 French Open triumph have improved.

Li loves Melbourne Park, where she and compatriot Zheng Jie became their country's first grand slam singles semi-finalists in 2010. "I always feel the Australian Open is more familiar," she told reporters in Mandarin.

"The staff and officials are the same every year. It's like seeing old friends again." Li also has a flag-waving flock of Chinese supporters that can be relied upon to provide vocal support at the tournament, but has enjoyed a testy relationship with her fans.

She famously demanded the chair umpire tell them to stop 'coaching' her in Chinese as she crumbled in the deciding set of the 2011 final against Clijsters.

A plea from a Chinese reporter for a message to Melbourne's Chinese community was simply ignored by Li, who preferred to focus on the benefits of another new coach in Justine Henin's former mentor Carlos Rodriguez. Li has employed a merry-go-round of coaches in recent years, with her husband Jiang Shan taking on the role a couple of times after being shunted aside for higher-profile figures.

Reuters

China sweep titles in Winter Swimming across Yellow River

GUIDE, (China), 13 Jan—China was the biggest winner in the third International Extreme Race of Winter Swimming across Yellow Rive concluding in northwest China's Qinghai Province on Saturday.

The race attracted 48 participants from 10 countries and regions. Chinese swimmers swept the titles of the men's and women's 500m races in both group A and B. "What matters in this race is a good combination of speed and angle. If your angle is wrong, you miss the finish line," said Thomas Riley Elliott from the United States, who finished second in the men's 500m race of group B.

"We want to offer a platform to winter swimming lovers. Meanwhile, the symbolic meaning of this race also matters.We hope this race can attract more and more people joining winter swimming," said Jiang Binbo, the chief of Social Affairs Department of the State Swimming Centre.—*Xinhua*

Ecuador striker Tenorio to stay at Vasco de Gama

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 Jan—Ecuador international striker Carlos Tenorio has agreed to remain at financially stricken Vasco da Gama, the Brazilian club said on Saturday.

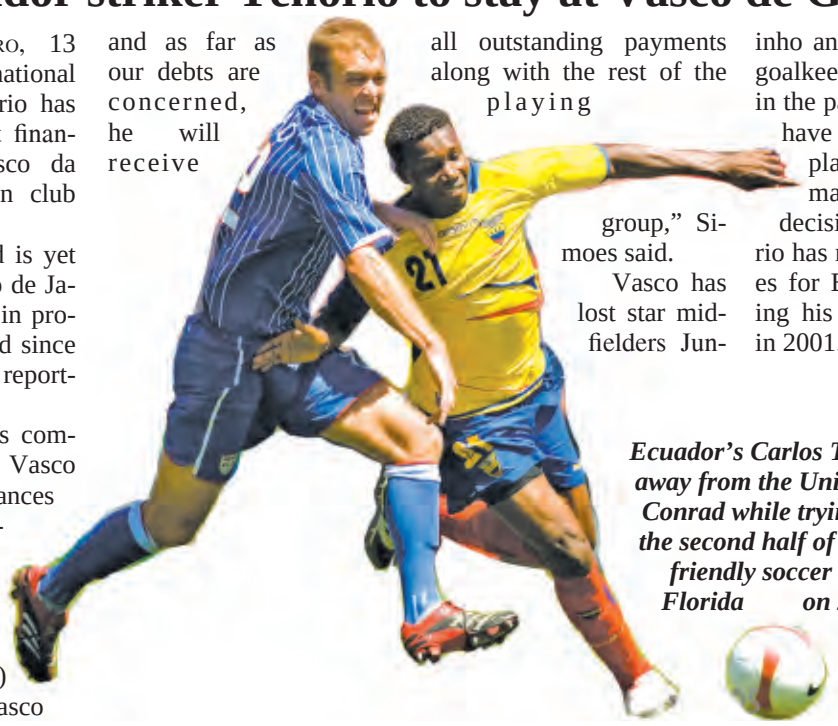
The 33-year-old is yet to train with the Rio de Janeiro side this year in protest at not being paid since November, *O Globo* reported on Saturday.

But Tenorio has committed his future to Vasco after receiving assurances from the club's Executive Director Rene Simoes that future wages will be paid on time.

"He (Tenorio) will be staying at Vasco and as far as our debts are concerned, he will receive all outstanding payments along with the rest of the playing group," Simoes said.

Vasco has lost star midfielders Junho and Nilton as well as goalkeeper Fernando Prass in the past month. All three have blamed delays in player payments as major reasons for their decision to leave. Tenorio has made 51 appearances for Ecuador since making his international debut in 2001.

Xinhua



Ecuador's Carlos Tenorio (R) breaks away from the United States' Jimmy Conrad while trying to score during the second half of their international friendly soccer match in Tampa, Florida on 25 March, 2007.
REUTERS

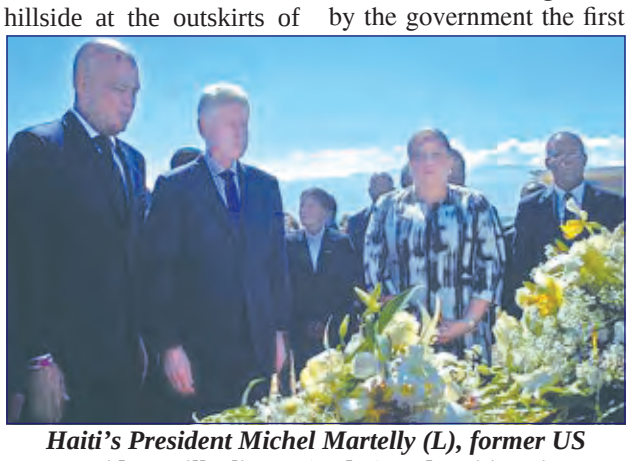
GENERAL

Authority set up the new free line for traffic light between Thanutpin road of Bago and Yangon-Mandalay junction on 11 January. MYANMA ALINN

Haiti remembers 2010 earthquake in subdued ceremony

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 13 Jan—Haiti marked the third anniversary of the earthquake that destroyed much of the capital and killed more than 250,000 people with a purposely low-key commemoration on Saturday that included former US President Bill Clinton.

Clinton, who is the UN special envoy for Haiti, joined the country's president, Michel Martelly, for a simple wreath-laying ceremony held at a mass burial site on a barren hillside at the outskirts of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. "Today we're here so that we don't forget, and to do better," Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe told reporters. "We were heavily hit, that's true. But we're standing strong to rebuild our country."



Haiti's President Michel Martelly (L), former US president Bill Clinton (2nd L) and Haiti's First Lady Sophia Martelly (2nd R) visit a memorial service remembering the lives lost in the January 2010 earthquake at the mass burial site at Morne St Christophe January 12, 2013.—REUTERS

Earlier in the day, Haiti's government marked the occasion with a subdued ceremony on the grounds of the razed national palace in downtown Port-au-Prince. In a short address, Martelly paid homage to those who perished and praised the courage of those who survived.

"A little more lonely, a little more vulnerable," Martelly said. "I express to you my compassion."

He thanked donors and international aid organizations, and reassured them that the ongoing reconstruction effort would be closely evaluated to avoid waste and corruption. "I understand your concern," he said. Martelly also announced the launch of a new building code, vowing that another tragedy like that of 2010 would never happen again.

This year's anniversary was a marked change from the hours-long commemorations organized by the government the first two years. The previous anniversaries included live musical performances, prayers from Haiti's spiritual leaders and press conferences. Three years after the massive earthquake, reconstruction progress has been painfully slow, and barely half of the $5 billion in aid pledged by donors has been delivered.

About 350,000 displaced earthquake victims still live in camps, with little relief in sight. Only about 6,000 permanent houses have been built.

Still, there are some visible signs of progress. Most of the rubble from collapsed buildings has been cleaned up, and some long-term development projects in Haiti's north were inaugurated in recent months, including a $300 million industrial park and an airport expansion to accommodate international flights.

More than 80 schools have been built by the Jamaica-based cellphone company Digicel. And in the town of Mirebalais in central Haiti, construction of a modern teaching hospital, built by the Partners In Health charity, was completed.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-1-13 09:30 am ~ 15-1-13 09:30 am) MST

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* News
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* Myanmar Movies "Dancer and Drummer"

MYANMAR TV

(14-1-2013, Monday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:20 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song

7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

7:50 am
4. Health Programme

8:00 am
5. Dance Of National Races

8:10 am
6. Cute Little Dancers

4:00 pm
7. Martial Song

4:10 pm
8. Dance Variety

4:20 pm
9. Musical Programme

4:30 pm
10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Chemistry)

5:00 pm
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:05 pm
12. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

5:25 pm
13. Myanmar Language

5:40 pm
16. "Road to 27 th SEA GAMES" (Judo)

6:00 pm
17. Evening News

6:15 pm
18. Weather Report

6:20 pm
19. Sing & Enjoy

6:50 pm
20. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
21. News

7:15 pm
22. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
23. News

9:00 pm
24. Cartoon Series
25. Songs Of Pianist Hla Htut
26. Documentary

10:00 pm
27. News
28. India Drama Series

News in Brief

Sikkim to host international flower show next month

GANGTOK, 13 Jan—Sikkim is hosting an international flower fair next month where more than 15,000 species of flowers from Himalayan region will be displayed for business community and flowers lovers.

Better flight mngt helps IGI function smoothly this fog season

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—Better flight management by air traffic control and near precise prediction of fog by the meteorological department has helped the Delhi airport to handle operations smoothly during this fog season so far.

2.5 lakh take the holy dip at Gangasagar

SAGAR ISLANDS, 13 Jan—An estimated 2.5 lakh pilgrims have taken the holy dip at Gangasagar, the confluence of the Ganga river with the Bay of Bengal, one day before Makar Sankranti, till this morning.

NCM to approach Press Council on media coverage

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has been asked to approach Press Council for drawing up a set of guidelines for media while dealing with reportage of criminal cases related to minority communities.

Century old rail bridge damaged as barge collides

RAMESWARAM, 13 Jan—A century-old railway bridge near Pamban coast was damaged and rail link to Rameswaram was disrupted as a barge towing a naval ship, which had ran aground, drifted and collided with it today, officials said.

CP to submit report on probe into doc's death

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar has been ordered by a court here to file his compliance report on an another court''s order to probe afresh into the death of a doctor whose body was found in an ambulance parked inside the nursing home of another doctor.

49ers rout Packers to book spot in NFC title game

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Jan—Second-year quarterback Colin Kaepernick outdueled reigning NFL Most Valuable Player Aaron Rodgers to lead the San Francisco 49ers to a 45-31 playoff win over the visiting Green Bay Packers on Saturday.

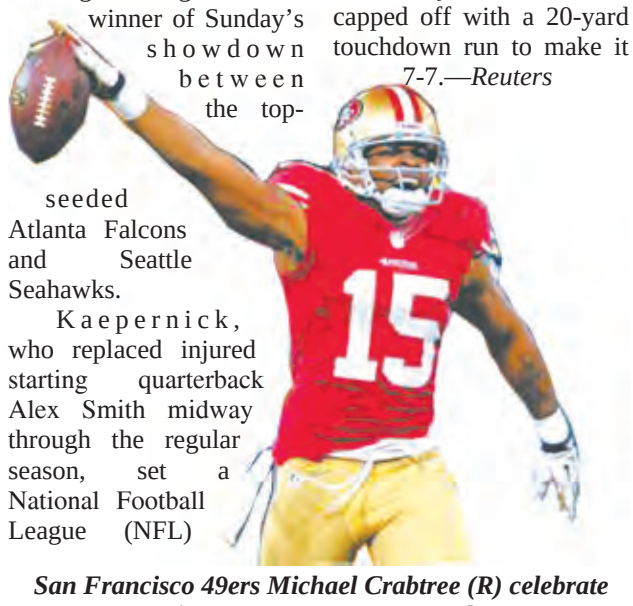
The 49ers, behind a record day of running by Kaepernick, broke the game open in the second half for an emphatic win that put them into the January 20 National Football Conference title game against the winner of Sunday's showdown between the top-seeded Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks.

Kaepernick, who replaced injured starting quarterback Alex Smith midway through the regular season, set a National Football League (NFL) rushing record for a quarterback by gaining 181 yards, including scoring gallops of 56 and 20 yards.

He also threw a pair of touchdown passes to Michael Crabtree in the romp.

Kaepernick started on a shaky note in his playoff starting debut, tossing an interception on his second pass of the game that was returned 52 yards for a touchdown by Sam Shields for a 7-0 Green Bay lead.

But he recovered quickly, leading the 49ers on an 80-yard drive that he capped off with a 20-yard touchdown run to make it 7-7.—*Reuters*



San Francisco 49ers Michael Crabtree (R) celebrate a pass reception next to Green Bay Packers Morgan Burnett (L) during the fourth quarter in their NFL NFC Divisional play-off football game in San Francisco, California on 12 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

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The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 14 January, 2013

Myanmar win nine gold, four silver and three bronze in Fifth SEA Archery Championship

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan seen with Myanmar team standing top on the stand by winning gold medal in archery contest.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan— The final-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 Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and personnel.

In men's recurve team event, Malaysia stood first, Thailand second and Myanmar third. In women's recurve team event, Myanmar stood first, Vietnam second and Singapore third. In men's compound team event, Vietnam stood first and Myanmar second. In women's compound team event, Myanmar stood first and Vietnam second. In recurve mix team event, Myanmar stood first, Malaysia second and Vietnam third. In compound mix team event, Indonesia stood first, Myanmar second and Vietnam third.

President of Kangwondo Archery Association Prof Park Young Il, 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 for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented prizes to winning teams.

Myanmar stood top the table with nine gold, four silver and three bronze, Vietnam second with four gold, five silver and six bronze and Malaysia third with five gold, four silver and one bronze.

MNA

Aye's Family opens Auto Show Room, builds DVRBC

Yangon, 13 Jan— Auto Show Room of Aye's Family Co Ltd was opened in conjunction with a ceremony to launch construction of the 27-storey Diamond Valley Rise Business Center at the Aye's Family Auto Trade Center on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township today.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint and Chairman of Aye Family's Co Ltd U Aye Myint Oo formally opened the ceremony and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the auto show room.

The 27-storey building comprising 376 apartments and a parking for 526 cars would be completed within two years.— *MNA*

Union Culture Minister meets Chinese guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan— Chairman of the Committee for Preparation for Holding Opening and Closing Ceremonies of XXVII SEA Games Union Culture Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sanda Khin held a meeting with personnel of the Culture Ministry of China and China Arts and Entertainment Group which would give technical help in entertainment programmes for opening and closing ceremonies of XXVII SEA Games. The Chinese personnel will discuss the matters for three days in Myanmar.

MNA

Agricultural loans increased to K 100,000 per acre

The government, to fulfill somewhat the capital requirements of farmers, will increase the amount of agricultural loans from current level of K 80,000 per acre to K 100,000 per acre.

Loans will be given to only those who have paid off all their debts according to banking law. In addition, only those running farm on a manageable scale or lower than 10 acres of farmland are eligible to take loan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has urged Region/ State governments to compile accurate records of sown acreage and submit them to it on time in order that loans can be disbursed in time.

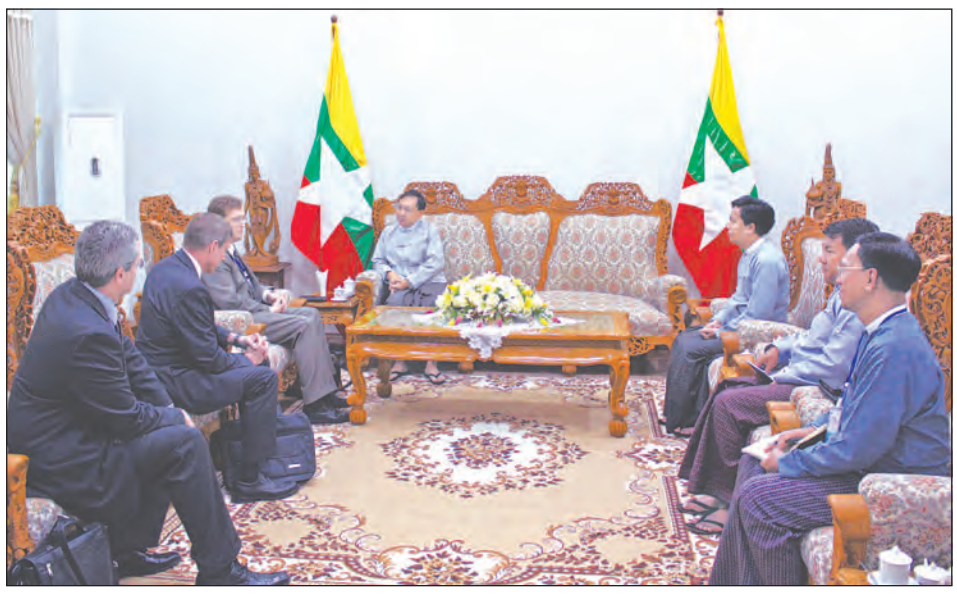
Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry

Myanmar, US focus on nuclear surveillance programmes

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan— Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo held talks with a US delegation led by Dr Kevin Veal, the director of the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), over nuclear surveillance programmes of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and bilateral cooperation and assistance from the US in future programmes at the ministry here on 10 January.

The US delegation and Atomic Energy Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology jointly conducted the workshop on nuclear surveillance treaty and additional protocol of IAEA at the Golden Palace Hotel here from 9 to 11 January.

The workshop was participated by Dr Kevin Veal, representatives from Argonne National Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory of the US and representatives from IAEA and US Embassy in Yangon.—*MNA*



Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo receives Director Dr Kevin Veal of US National Nuclear Security Administration and party. —MNA

Myitkyina-Mandalay down-train derails in mine blast

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan—Myitkyina-Mandalay down-train derailed in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region in a mine blast this morning, causing no casualties.

The mine planted by KIA exploded while the 34-down train was running between Nantsiaung railway station and Mawlu railway station, and the train derailed, damaging the rail tracks.

Myanma Railways engineers are inspecting the locomotive, and 44 passengers on board were transported to Nantsiaung railway station at about 11.30 am.

Officials are repairing the railways to re-open it as soon as possible, according to MR.—*MNA*

The tragedy of derailed engine of No. 34 Myitkyina-Mandalay down- train.—MNA