

President U Thein Sein receives ICRC President and party

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by ICRC President Mr. Peter Maurer at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

Also present together with the President were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and departmental heads. The visiting delegation was accompanied by ICRC Resident Representative Mr. Georges Paelisanu and officials.

The President said the frequent arrivals of

ICRC groups contributed to better cooperation with the country. He praised the stance of ICRC as a non-aligned organization with no political intervention. Myanmar is a signatory to Geneva Convention, the backbone of ICRC, and adheres to the convention. He spoke words of thanks for ICRC's ongoing activities for the betterment of correctional facilities. The President vowed to make more cooperation with ICRC during his administration.

The ICRC President for his part said that he was there to extend the area of

cooperation with Myanmar in future. Distribution of humanitarian aids to the needy people was their top priority he added. He said ICRC was carrying out the tasks transparent in the host country. Coordination was being made with Myanmar Red Cross Society in Myanmar, he added.

Next, they held comprehensive discussions on further cooperation between Myanmar and ICRC, ICRC's contribution to betterment of correctional facilities, distribution of humanitarian aids provided by ICRC in conflict areas.

MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets ICRC

President Mr. Peter Maurer at the Credentials

Hall of the Presidential Palace.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses meeting to organize Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed the coordination meeting of the central committee for organizing 66th Anniversary Union Day at the Union government office here this afternoon.

The committee and 14 subcommittees have been formed for holding the Union Day. National

representatives will be invited to the ceremony, he said.

Management Committee Chairman Union Minister Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt reported to the Vice-President on formation of subcommittees and progress of works of subcommittees.

Those present at the meeting participated in

discussion.

The Vice-President coordinated works of subcommittees.

The 66th Anniversary Union Day will be held overwhelmingly across the nation with objectives—For all the national races to perpetuate the Union and to cultivate the Union Spirit, For all the national races to live in unity and harmony, For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation, For all citizens to participate

in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law, For all national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Present at the meeting together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Union Ministers U Aung Kyi, U Thein Nyunt, U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun, U Than Htay, U Aye Myint Kyu, U Zeyar Aung and U Htay Aung, deputy ministers, and officials.—MNA

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

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



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at coordination meeting of the central committee for organizing 66th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA



LOCAL NEWS

Crackdown on crimes in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — According to a tip-off, a team led by Police Sub-inspector Thura Kyaw of Nay Pyi Taw Police Commander's Office and Police Sub-inspector Win Aung of Htonpho Police Station in Pobbathiri Township arrested Ma Zar (a) Ma Zar Chi Lin, 36, of Kyitaungkan Myothit ward together with vouchers used in two-and three-digit gambling and K 64750 while launching a search in a temporary market in Tabin Shwehti ward at about 11

am on 8 January. Actions are being taken against the suspect for gambling.

Likewise, a team led by Police Inspector Than Naing of Nay Pyi Taw Police Commander's Office and Police Sub-inspector Win Aung of Htonpho Police Station in Pobbathiri Township made a search of a house on Yangon Lane-4 in Hsinbyushin ward at about 10 pm on 10 January and arrested U Myin Cho and Thet Paing Tun and four sex workers. They were charged with prostitution.

Similarly, a team led by Police Sub-inspector Thant Zin of Nay Pyi Taw Police Commander's Office and Police Sub-inspector Win Bo of Kyitaungkan Police Station in Pobbathiri Township arrested Myo Myint Aung and two sex workers together with evidence and cash while carrying out a search of a house on Khayay street in Tabin Shwehti ward at about 9.30 pm on 10 January. Actions are being taken against the suspects.

Aye Than

Locals enjoy fruits of community forest plantation



THAZI, 14 Jan — With the aim of fulfilling the demand of fuel, one of the basic requirements of rural people, to a certain extent, Meiktila District Forest Department distributed 10 tons of firewood and 168 logs for building houses or fences to local people in Wuntha Village of Thazi Township. These firewood and logs were logged from the 250-acre community forest plantation set up in 1996 in Thazi Township.

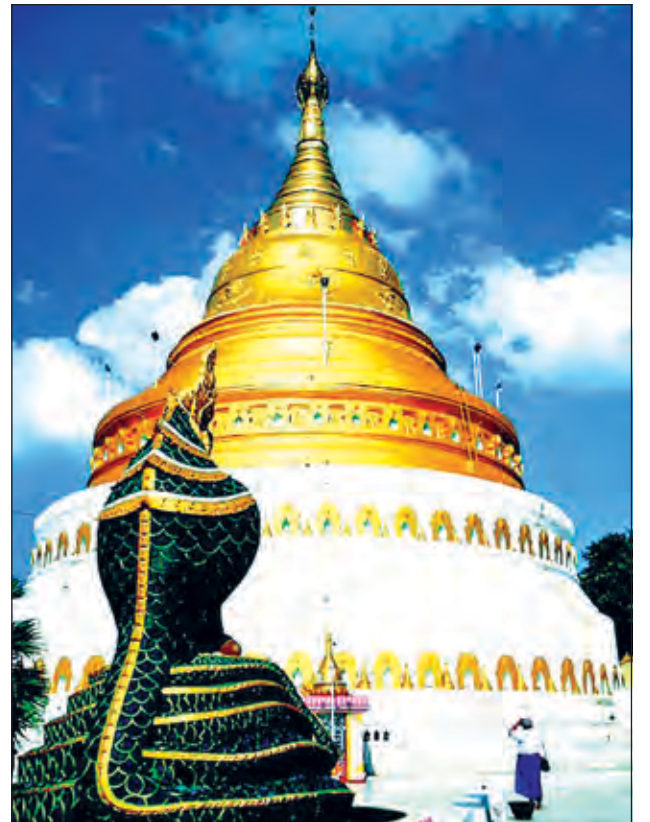
Kyemon

Earthquake-hit historic Htupayon Pagoda to be renovated in Sagaing

SAGAING, 14 Jan — Due to the earthquake in November 2012, cracks began to appear on the main structure of historic Htupayon Pagoda in Sagaing. Plans are underway to renovate the pagoda built by King Narapati of Ava dynasty in 810 ME. The Pagoda is 162 feet in height and its lower structure is 128.5 feet in width. The earthquake had caused cracks to the pagoda.

Chancellor Sayadaw of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr. Ashin Nannisaya led the renovation of the earthquake-hit pagoda. Myanmar traditional architect U Win Maung provided the design which is similar to Htupayama Pagoda in Sri Lanka for the pagoda to be renovated. Upon completion, the pagoda will be 195 feet in height, 33 feet taller than the old one and its lower structure will be 134 feet in width.

Major repair will be



carried out with the use of modern technology for durability of the historic pagoda. Arrangements are being made to renovate

earthquake-hit Hsinmyarshin Yadana Pagoda and Maha Pagoda in Sagaing by the Sayadaw.

Kyemon

Cash donation of car hire firm

YANGON, 14 Jan — The 8th cash donation ceremony of a social organization formed with drivers and their families of the car hire firm of the Ministry of Commerce was held at Myothit Monastery in Myothit ward of Nay Pyi

Taw Pyinmana Township on 31 December.

The social organization presented K 3.7 million for Maha Vijara ordination hall which is under construction to the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery.

Kyemon

Cooperatives Ministry disburses small loans to societies in Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — A ceremony to disburse small loans to cooperative societies in Shan State (North) was held at Lashio Motel in Lashio on 10 January.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun gave an account of five work programmes for the success of realization of two objectives of the ministry and presented K 370.115 million to 105 cooperative

societies formed with 3728 members in 14 townships of Shan State (North) through responsible persons.

Next, the deputy minister gave necessary instructions in meeting with head of Shan State Cooperative Department and staff, staff officers of township cooperative departments and executives of cooperative societies in Shan State (North).

MNA

Self-reliant school library for Mezali village BEHS (Branch)

LEMYATHNAR, 14 Jan — An opening of school library for Mezali Village Basic Education High School (Branch) was held in front of the school in the village of Lemyathnar Township of Ayeyawady Region on 10 January. Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Thayatdaw monastery Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa (Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee)

formally opened the self-reliant library.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed, and the township education officer awarded an outstanding student.

The self-reliant library was built with the contributions of teachers and students led by Myenu monastery Sayadaw and Myatpandaing Sayadaw.

Kyemon

Yangonites throng Housing, Living & Automobile exhibition 2013



YANGON, 14 Jan — Aimed at introducing the new products and promoting new markets in accord with the demand of market-oriented economy, Dagon Exhibition Limited organized a Housing, Living & Automobile exhibition 2013 with the sponsorship of Great Father Land at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wizaya road in Dagon

Township, here, starting from 10 January.

Booths of interior decoration and construction materials, electrical appliances and electronics and automobiles were on display together with entertainment programme from 9 am to 6 pm at the four-day exhibition.

Kyemon

House fire in Thakayta Township

YANGON, 14 Jan — A fire broke out at a two-storey house on 13th Street of East Ward-6 in Thakayta Township at about 9 pm on 9 January. The fire started upstairs from the wire shock

and it swept through the house. As firefighters put out the fire in time, there was no damage to nearby houses. Local police station filed a lawsuit over negligence of fire. — Kyemon

Inter-village Sepak Takraw tournament in Thayat Township

THAYET, 14 Jan — To mark the 123rd Tatahtana pagoda festival, Thayet Township of Magway Region organized an Inter-village Sepak Takraw tournament in the compound of the pagoda on 12 January.

Among the spectators were the Magway Region Hluttaw representative, Com-missioner U Hla Wai of Thayat District General Administration

Department, Thayet Township Administrator U Nyunt Hlaing, Staff Officer of Thayet Township Sports and Physical Education Department U Aung Aung Myo and members of the board of trustees of the pagoda.

A total of 24 teams are taking part in round robin matches of the tournament which will be held up to 18 January. — Kyemon



WORLD

Colombian gov't, FARC to resume peace talks in Cuba

BOGOTA, 14 Jan—The Colombian government and the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are ready to continue their talks in Cuba on Monday to end the country's five-decade-old armed conflict.

Former Colombian President Humberto de la Calle would head the government delegation.

Before leaving for Havana on Sunday, he said the new round of talks will be marked by the same sense of "responsibility and commitment" that have characterized the negotiations since October.

"We have all the willingness to make progress,"

said de la Calle. "We would continue with the proposition, as instructed by President Juan Manuel Santos, that this process cannot go on indefinitely."

The envoy said there was no strict timetable for agreements on each item of the agenda, but it was necessary to make progress.

The talks, suspended over the holidays, are to resume on Monday with the most important topics on agrarian reform and rural development.

"At this moment, we are already in deep, concrete discussions on each one of the specific topics," said de la Calle.

Xinhua

Humberto de la Calle, the head of the Colombian government peace negotiation team, speaks during a Press conference in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on 13 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (R) and Australian counterpart Bob Carr hold a news conference after their talks in Sydney on 13 Jan, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

US forces helped France during Somalia rescue attempt

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—The United States helped France last week during an attempted rescue of a secret agent captured by insurgents in Somalia, President Barack Obama confirmed on Sunday in a letter to Congress.

The French team was trying to free Denis Alex, held since 2009 by al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab, but insurgents apparently killed their hostage during the raid, along with a commando.

The French defence ministry said that 17 Somali fighters also died in the fight.

"United States combat aircraft briefly entered Somali airspace to support the rescue operation, if needed.

These aircraft did not employ weapons during the operation," Obama said in his letter to US lawmakers.

Obama sent the letter to Congress to fulfill his obligations under the War Powers Resolution, which requires him to inform policymakers within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action without congressional authorization.

Obama said the operation was warranted to further US national security interests, and said US forces "took no direct part in the assault on the compound where it was believed the French citizen was being held hostage."—Reuters

Syrian troops kill scores of rebels, parliament works for national dialogue

DAMASCUS, 14 Jan—Syrian media said on Sunday that scores of armed rebels were killed nationwide during clashes with army troops, as the Syrian parliament were working to prepare for a national dialogue among all spectra of the Syrian people.

The Syrian army continued operations in several suburbs of the capital Damascus on Sunday, killing 18 rebels in Douma and another 12 in Harasta, the pro-government Sham FM reported.

The radio said the army has called on residents in the surrounding of the Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees to evacuate their homes due to the intensity of clashes between local committee and armed rebels inside the camp.

Separately, army troops killed as many as 60 rebels in the countryside of the northern Aleppo Province, the report said, adding that those rebels were killed while trying to storm a cotton factory.

In the northwestern Province of Idlib, Sham

FM said, 15 militants were killed in the Binish town as the Syrian air force targeted armed groups' gatherings at the Taftanas airbase, which has recently been stormed by rebels and radical militants.

On the opposition side, the Local Coordination Committees (LCC) reported shelling by army troops on several hotspots nationwide as well as intense clashes with the rebels' Free Syrian Army.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the National Reconciliation Committee at the People's Assembly Omar Aussa stressed that the committee will work on getting engaged into in the political process and effectively contributing to make successful the implementation of the political programme outlined by President Bashar al-Assad to solve the crisis.

In a Press conference held on Sunday, Aussa

said the newly-established and democratically-elected committee will take part in all the ongoing preparations to hold the comprehensive national dialogue, considering it as a safe and the only way out of the crisis.

Xinhua



A nurse takes care of a child injured in an accident on an express way in Xifeng county, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 13 Jan, 2013. Five people died and 19 others were injured after a coach collided with a guardrail and rolled over around 5 am on Sunday.

XINHUA

Hugo Chavez's condition improving

CARACAS, 14 Jan—Cancer-stricken Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's lung infection has been controlled and his medical state is improving more than a month after his latest surgery in Cuba, the government said on Sunday.

"Despite his delicate state ... in recent days the general medical evolution has been favourable," said the latest official health update, which was relatively positive compared to others but still illustrated the gravity of Chavez's situation.

"The respiratory infection is controlled, though the commander-president still requires specific measures to solve breathing insufficiency ... he is conscious."

The communique, which gave no more details on his condition, came as the three most powerful government figures after Chavez gathered in Havana to check on him and meet with Cuban allies.

Vice-President Nicolas Maduro, Congress head Diosdado Cabello, and Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez have been shuttling to and

from Cuba since the 58-year-old socialist president's fourth and most serious cancer operation a month ago.

Chavez, who missed his own inauguration for a new, six-year term last week, has not been seen or heard from in public since the surgery. Many Venezuelans are assuming his momentous 14-year rule of the South American OPEC nation could be nearing an end.

The joint presence of top Venezuelan officials in Havana inevitably deepens rumours that Chavez is at death's door — and draws opposition criticism that Raul and Fidel Castro are giving instructions behind the scenes.

"We know which commander is giving the orders to Chavista leaders," opposition legislator Maria Corina Machado tweeted sarcastically, in a reference to the Cuban president.

Officials have been lashing "necrophilic" opponents for such criticism, and Chavez's brother said on Saturday that he was improving daily and not in a coma as rumoured.—Reuters



A Venezuelan man holds a picture of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez during a mass to pray for his recovery at a church in Havana on 12 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Nigerian security force arrests Boko Haram commander

MAIDUGURI, 14 Jan—The Nigerian military troops on Sunday said it arrested another leader of the Boko Haram sect in the northeastern City of Maiduguri.

The troops also said the arrested Boko Haram kingpin was among 10 commanders of the militant sect declared wanted and labelled as terrorists by the Nigeria military authority.

Spokesperson of the security troops known as Joint Task Force (JTF), Lt Col Sagir Musa said the "a high profile Boko Haram commander," Mohammed Zangina who is also known as Musa "is the leader of the

sect in the North Central part of Nigeria and Coordinator of most of the suicide attacks and bombings in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Jos and Potiskum.

"Mohammed Zangina, a high profile Boko Haram Commander and Shura Committee member was arrested at about 12:30 am today (Sunday), 13 January, 2013 in the Government Reserved Area (GRA), Maiduguri," Lt Col Musa said.

"Zangina was in Maiduguri to plan several deadly attacks against civilians and security personnel any moment from today," he added.

The spokesperson said

the arrested Boko Haram leader had earlier survived several security manhunts on his hideouts in Abuja, the Nigeria Federal Capital and the north western cities of Kaduna and Kano as well as Jos in the north central of Nigeria. He said the suspect also coordinated several attacks in Potiskum, north east city and one of the flash point of Boko Haram insurgents.

Militants of the sect staged an uprising in the northeastern city of Maiduguri in 2009, attacking state institutions including prisons, police stations and schools.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

HP's Meg Whitman made \$15.4 million in fiscal 2012

CHICAGO, 14 Jan—Chief executive Meg Whitman received compensation worth about \$15.4 million in 2012 as Hewlett-Packard Co posted a net loss in her first full fiscal year in charge, according to a federal proxy filing. Whitman's base salary was just \$1. Her bonus was \$1.7 million, while the remainder of her compensation was granted in the form of Hewlett-Packard stock options, stock awards and other income, according to the proxy filed with the Securities

and Exchange Commission on Friday.

Her compensation was about 70 percent of previous targets, as the company posted a net loss.

Whitman—the former EBay executive and one-time Republican candidate for California governor—took over as HP's chief executive in the fall of 2011, at a time when the hardware manufacturer had been rocked by a decade of troubled deals, corporate espionage and allegations of sexual harassment in the

executive suite.

Since taking over the reins, Whitman has tried various strategies to turn around the Silicon Valley titan, including plans to cut an estimated 29,000 jobs over the next two years and reverse a previous corporate decision to spin off HP's PC division.

But years of corporate tumult, and the company's shares dropping by nearly 39 percent in the past year, has had investors putting the company's board under intense scrutiny. Whitman is ranked 285th on the Forbes list of the top 400 richest people in America, and 18th on the Forbes list of the World's 100 most powerful women. That drop in stock price, too, has cut some of HP's executive pay in the form of restricted stock awards from earlier years, according to the proxy filing.—Reuters



Hewlett Packard CEO and President Meg Whitman attends the Allen & Co Media Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho on 12 July, 2012.
REUTERS

Softbank to sell stake in eAccess to Samsung, others

TOKYO, 14 Jan —Japan's Softbank Corp (9984.T) is in final talks to sell its stake in eAccess Ltd, representing around 67 percent of voting rights, to Samsung Electronics Co (005930.KS) and 10 others, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The sale would ease concerns that Softbank could hold a monopoly on spectrum allocation designated by Japan's Communications Ministry, the source said.

Softbank, which is awaiting regulatory ap-

proval to buy a 70 percent stake in No. 3 U.S. mobile carrier Sprint Nextel Corp (S N), bought Japanese rival eAccess last October as

cess into a wholly owned subsidiary on 1 January after a share exchange, using 220 billion yen (\$2.47 billion) worth of its own



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

it stepped up competition with its nearest competitor KDDI Corp (9433.T).

Softbank turned eAc-

cess into a wholly owned subsidiary on 1 January after a share exchange, using 220 billion yen (\$2.47 billion) worth of its own

After dividing eAccess shares into voting and non-voting shares, Softbank is

Biden eyeing technology in gun violence fight



US Vice President Joe Biden (3rd L) convenes a meeting with representatives from the video game industry, in a dialogue about gun violence, in his office in Washington, on 11 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—As Vice President Joe Biden prepares a set of proposals to curb gun violence for delivery next week, he is taking a look at technology that would make it impossible for people to fire guns that they did not buy themselves.

At a meeting with video game industry executives on Friday, Biden said he and other officials would meet with experts to explore ways to limit how and

by whom guns are fired.

"We will be meeting with technology experts because, to overstate the case ... a lot could change if, for example, every gun purchased could only be fired by the person who purchased it," Biden said during the meeting while reporters were in the room.

"That technology exists, but it's extremely expensive. But if that were available with every weapon sold, there's significant evidence that ... may very well curtail what happened up in Connecticut. Because had the young man not had access to his mother's arsenal, he may or may not have did what he did," Biden said.

Biden is leading a task force drawing up recommendations on guns to give to President Barack Obama by next Tuesday following the massacre of 20 children and six adults at a Newtown, Connecticut elementary school by a gunman last month. The gunman, Adam Lanza, 20, killed his mother before carrying out the shootings at the school.

So-called smart gun

technology would allow weapons to recognize the fingerprints of a gun owner. According to the Violence Policy Centre, an organization that works to stop gun-related deaths and injuries, the feasibility of such weapons is speculative.

Biden's Friday meeting included representatives from companies that make "first-person shooter" video games such as "Call of Duty," "Medal of Honour" and "Grand Theft Auto."

Biden has met with several groups associated with the gun violence debate this week, including the influential National Rifle Association lobbying organization, which complained after a meeting with Biden on Thursday that the White House was trying to limit constitutionally protected gun rights.

Biden declined to comment specifically on the NRA's criticism of their meeting. "I thought we had a very straightforward, productive meeting," he said. "I don't have any comment about what anybody said about the meeting."

Reuters

Astronomers discover largest known structure in the universe

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — Astronomers have discovered the largest known structure in the universe—a group of quasars so large it would take 4 billion years to cross it while traveling at speed of light. The immense scale also challenges Albert Einstein's Cosmological Principle, the assumption that the universe looks the same from every point of view, researchers said. The findings by academics from Britain's University of Central Lancashire were published in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* and reported on the society's website on Friday.

Quasars are believed

to be the brightest objects in the universe, with light emanating from the nuclei of galaxies from the early days of the universe and visible billions of light-years away. "Since 1982 it has been known that quasars tend to group together in clumps or 'structures' of surprisingly large sizes, forming large quasar groups or LQGs," the society said. This newly discovered large quasar group has a dimension of 500 megaparsecs, each megaparsec measuring 3.3 million light-years. Because the LQG is elongated, its longest dimension is 1,200 megaparsecs, or 4 billion light-years, the society said.—Reuters

Skype founder browses globe for next tech earner

LONDON, 14 Jan — Niklas Zennstrom, co-founder of internet phone service Skype, believes the next hot tech business will just as likely spring from Istanbul or Sao Paulo as from Silicon Valley or the coolest districts of London.

And he is prepared to fly around the world to find it.

"Talent can pop up anywhere in the world, it's not just one city block," the Swedish entrepreneur and venture capitalist said at the headquarters of his Atomico fund, based on upmarket New Bond Street in central London.

Zennstrom, who retains faint traces of a Swedish accent despite his years of globetrotting, is looking for start-ups ready to shift

up a gear into new markets and has the experience, gained from growing Skype into a service used by millions around the world, to help them.

Skype was sold to eBay Inc in 2005 for roughly \$3 billion, before being bought back by a consortium including Zennstrom in 2009 and then two years later sold on to Microsoft Corp for \$8.5 billion, leaving him a multi-millionaire.

"If you have a product that works it's important to scale (up) the business as quickly as possible," said Zennstrom, named by Time Magazine in 2006 as one of its 100 most influential people. "As entrepreneurs, usually you may not have that experience; how does Asia work? Europe?

Latin America?" Atomico, founded by Zennstrom in 2006, has invested in companies in northern Europe including Finland-based Rovio, developer of Angry Birds, and Hailo, a London-based startup that has

developed an app that connects passengers with taxi drivers and has raised \$20 million so far.

It also led a \$105 million funding round for US online retailer Fab in July.

Reuters



A page from the Skype website is seen in Singapore on 10 May, 2011.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Japan PM says Bank of Japan must set 2 percent medium-term inflation goal

TOKYO, 14 Jan—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the Bank of Japan (BOJ) must set a 2 percent inflation target and make it a medium-term, not long-term, goal to show markets it was determined to pursue bold monetary easing to end nearly two decades of deflation. The government is negotiating with the BOJ to issue a joint statement this month to make the central bank accountable for achieving 2 percent inflation, double its current price goal.

“The BOJ basically says it sees 1 percent inflation as a loose goal. That doesn’t show it’s responsible to achieve it and doesn’t show its strong determination,” Abe said told public broadcaster NHK on Sunday.

“The statement must say clearly that 2 percent is

the target. That would lead to fundamental changes” in the way it guides policy, he said. The BOJ set its current 1 percent inflation target last February and eased monetary policy five times in 2012.

Japan is stuck in its fourth recession since 2000 and its export-reliant economy is suffering from a strong yen.

Abe, who won a landslide election last December, has piled pressure on the BOJ for bolder efforts to beat deflation, threatening to revise a law guaranteeing its independence on monetary policy if his demands are not met.

Under intense pressure, the central bank will consider easing monetary policy at its rate review on 21-22 January and respond to Abe’s calls to double its inflation target,



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a news conference at his official residence in Tokyo on 11 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

sources have told Reuters.

In the joint statement likely to be released on 22 January, the BOJ wants to describe the new target as a long-term goal without setting a specific deadline, to leave itself flexibility in guiding future monetary policy.

Abe, however, warned that making 2 percent

inflation a “long-term goal” wasn’t good enough. “That’s too long. It should be a medium-term one. Otherwise markets won’t react,” he said.

The Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, the government’s top economic panel which the BOJ governor attends regularly, could call a meeting to focus on monetary policy and a timeframe, Abe said.

Abe also said he will meet with monetary policy experts on Tuesday, including his special economic adviser Koichi Hamada, to seek views on who would be suitable as next BOJ governor.

“Basically, I’d like to choose someone who can implement bold monetary policy and who shares our views,” he said.—Reuters

Kia’s rising star Schreyer to take charge of Hyundai group car design

SEOUL, 14 Jan—German designer Peter Schreyer, known as the creative brain behind the Audi TT, will oversee both Kia (000270.KS) and Hyundai’s (005380.KS) designs, the Hyundai automotive group said on Sunday, as the carmaker seeks to outdo German rivals Volkswagen and BMW.

Schreyer’s star is rising fast at the South Korean

Kia, acquired by Hyundai Motor in 1998 during the Asian financial crisis, has been expanding sales at a faster pace than Hyundai Motor in markets such as the United States and Europe. Schreyer’s new appointments coincide with Hyundai Motor’s efforts to move up market and boost margins.

A Hyundai spokesman on Sunday cited the group’s need “to more clearly set



Peter Schreyer (2nd L) chief design director of Kia Motors, poses with members of his team beside a Kia concept car at the Frankfurt International Auto Show IAA in Frankfurt on 11 Sept, 2007.—REUTERS

company, where only three weeks ago he was named a president at Kia, the first foreigner to hold the post. He was promoted from chief design officer and executive vice president at Kia. He will assume the newly created role to oversee the design of both Hyundai and Kia, which together make up the world’s fifth biggest automaker.

The design operations of the two carmakers had been run by separate design chiefs.

up each automaker’s own, unique brand colour”.

“President Peter Schreyer, with abundant design experience at world-renowned automakers and deep comprehension of Hyundai-Kia’s corporate culture, will play a great role in consolidating the foundation for Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors to take a leap towards a top-class automaker,” the spokesman, who was not named, said in a statement.

Reuters

Ford takes next step of Lincoln overhaul with luxury crossover

DETROIT, 14 Jan—Ford Motor Co (F.N) will unveil this week a luxury crossover designed to help the company gain a foothold in a fast-growing and profitable segment of

the US luxury automotive market. At the Detroit auto show on Monday, the No 2 US automaker is unveiling a concept version of its Lincoln MKC, an entry-level luxury compact

crossover that shares its underpinnings with the Ford Escape.

Ford is betting that a strong showing in this burgeoning segment will reverse a two-decade sales decline for Lincoln, a brand better known for the Town Car and presidential limos.

The premium crossover segment has more than tripled in the last four years, Ford said. “It’s not a segment that’s been around a long time with entrants that have been there for 10-plus years,” said Kate Pearce, marketing manager for the Lincoln brand.

“This is still evolving, which really provides us an opportunity to come in and

create something unique and differentiated and really grow our position,” she said. Last year, Lincoln sold a little more than 82,000 vehicles in the United States, slightly less than sales of the Ford Mustang, a retro muscle car last redesigned in 2005.

Many analysts said that while Lincoln’s lineup has improved in quality and design, the brand’s lackluster image remains an obstacle. The company is hoping to shed that image and take advantage of the momentum in the US luxury auto market, which Ford predicts will outpace the broader industry this year.—Reuters



The Ford Motor Company’s emblem is pictured at the company’s factory in Almussafes near Valencia on 5 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

France will ask EU to curb use of newer birth control pills

PARIS, 14 Jan—French health authorities will ask the European Union to restrict the use of newer types of contraceptive pills over concerns they might carry health risks.

France’s health minister Marisol Touraine said on Friday the newer pills, which have caught on because they reduce side effects from earlier versions such as weight gain and acne, should only be prescribed by specialist doctors to women who cannot use other types of contraception.

Dominique Maraninchi, head of France’s health regulator, said at the same news conference: “We will

ask Europe not to suspend the pills but to modify prescription guidelines.”

While all oral contraceptives are associated with a risk of blood clots, a number of studies suggest the most recent third and fourth-generation pills carry a higher risk than their predecessors. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) says the risk of an embolism, or blood clot, is twice as high for women using third and fourth-generation pills than for those using earlier versions, although it remains low.

However, the regulator said on Friday it was already well known that

the newer pills carried a “very rare risk of blood clots”, and that there was no reason for women to stop using the contraceptives since there was no new evidence pointing to safety risks. The French government said last week it would stop reimbursing prescription costs of the third and fourth-generation pills and would restrict their use after a woman sued German drugmaker Bayer over alleged side effects.

Marion Larat, 25, sued over a stroke, caused by a blood clot, she suffered following use of a third-generation contraceptive pill.—Reuters

Sun Life, Khazanah to buy Aviva/CIMB Malaysia insurance business for \$563 million



A staff attends to a customer at a branch of CIMB Bank in Kuala Lumpur on 8 Dec, 2009.—REUTERS

HONG KONG/SINGAPORE, 14 Jan—A consortium of Canada’s Sun Life Financial Inc and Malaysian state investor Khazanah Nasional Bhd has agreed to buy British insurer Aviva plc’s Malaysian insurance joint

venture with CIMB Group for about 1.7 billion ringgit (\$563 million), sources said on Sunday, helping the Canadian company to expand its Asian foot print.

Sun Life Financial Inc (SLF.TO) and Khazanah

KHAZA.UL edged out rival Manulife Financial Corp (MFC.TO) to win the eight-month old auction, sources familiar with the sale process said. Britain’s No 2 insurer Aviva is exiting from marginal markets across the world and the sale of Malaysian unit is part of that overhaul. Last month, Aviva sold its US business for \$1.8 billion, its biggest disposal, aimed at boosting its underperforming share price.

The deal is expected to be signed on Monday, the sources added. A Sun Life spokeswoman did not offer an immediate comment.

Reuters

New Zealand PM to highlight US cooperation in Antarctica

WELLINGTON, 14 Jan — New Zealand Prime Minister John Key will visit Antarctica later this week to highlight cooperation between New Zealand and the United States on the ice and to study issues facing the region.

Key is to visit New Zealand science and environmental management programmes, view New Zealand conservation of huts associated with historic journeys on the frozen continent, and participate in a ceremony celebrating

the installation of Maori artwork at New Zealand's Scott Base research centre on Ross Island in the Ross Sea.

"New Zealand has a history of ground-breaking exploration, scientific discovery and involvement in Antarctica, and I am looking forward to meeting the New Zealanders who work there," Key said in a statement on Monday.

The visit from 17 to 21 January would provide an opportunity to see first-hand the issues facing Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Key would also visit US bases at the South Pole and McMurdo Station to reaffirm the close relationship New Zealand and the United States shared on the ice.

"New Zealand and the United States have worked closely together in Antarctica for more than 50 years. Enhanced marine protection for the Ross Sea region, deeper research collaboration and improving the efficiency of our Antarctic programmes are among our current priorities," said Key.

Xinhua



Members of US armed forces take part in a dress rehearsal of the 57th Presidential Inaugural ceremony on the West Steps of the US Capitol in Washington DC, capital of the United States, 13 Jan, 2013. US President Barack Obama will be ceremonially sworn in for a second four-year term on 21 January.

XINHUA

China aims at becoming full IRENA member

ABU DHABI, 14 Jan — China announced on Sunday that it aims at becoming a full member of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2013, a move which was widely welcomed.

Currently, China has an observer status at the 148-member IRENA, which was founded in 2009 and headquartered in Abu Dhabi. The IRENA strives to increase the share of renewable energy like wind energy, solar energy, water power or energy from bio-garbage and geothermal sources by increasing the cooperation and knowledge between the member states.

Speaking at the sidelines of the third annual session of IRENA, Shi Lishan, the Deputy Director General of the National Energy Administration in China and a member of the Chinese delegation, said that his country is looking forward to becoming a member of the UN-related agency to promote its knowledge in renewable energy to the international community.

Shi said that China was investing on a large scale in renewable energy and was able to promote solar, wind and bio-energy.

For his part, director-general of IRENA, Adnan Z Amin said that Beijing's announcement to join IRENA was "fantastic and most encouraging." — Xinhua



Photo taken on 13 Jan, 2013 shows the Xuanwu Lake Park shrouded by dense fog in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province. The air quality of Nanjing has reached the "pollution" level for the 8th consecutive day since 6 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

Three Chinese workers kidnapped in Sudan, one missing

KHARTOUM, 14 Jan — Three Chinese workers were kidnapped by militants in Sudan's Darfur region on Saturday, and a Chinese engineer is missing there, officials with the Chinese embassy in Khartoum told Xinhua on Sunday.

The Sudan branch office of China Railway 18 Bureau Group Co, Ltd reported to the Chinese Embassy in Khartoum that a construction site of the road between El Fasher and Um Keddada in North Darfur State came under attack by a group of armed militants at around 2 pm local time (1100 GMT) on Saturday, according to an embassy official.

Three Chinese drivers who were transporting building materials were kidnapped by the militants along with several Sudanese workers, the source said, adding that another Chinese engineer went missing when inspecting along the road at about 4 pm local time (1300 GMT) on Saturday.

No group or individual has yet claimed responsibility for the

incident. But Mohamed Suleiman Rabih, head of Kuma county of North Darfur State, confirmed the attack and kidnappings to Xinhua on Sunday.

The Sudanese army has arrived at the scene immediately after learning the news, and is now working hard to rescue the abductees and arrest the assailants, Rabih said.

The 168 km-long road between El Fasher and Um Keddada is named the "West Salvation Road" by the Sudanese government. Its construction began in January of 2010.

The Darfur region, located in western Sudan, borders Libya, Chad and the Central African Republic. Some local armed groups, citing the government's negligence in the region's development, have been launching anti-government attacks since 2003.

Figures from the Sudanese government show that almost ten thousands people were killed in the armed conflict while about three million were displaced.

Xinhua

Australians own as many firearms as in 1996

CANBERRA, 14 Jan — Australians now own as many firearms as they did at the time of the Port Arthur shootings in 1996, according to a new study by the University of Sydney revealed recently.

More than one million guns were destroyed in the aftermath of the Port Arthur massacre, but the research by Professor Philip Alpers, from the Sydney University school of public health, said Australians have steadily restocked and the number of firearms in the community now totals around 3.2 million.

In the Port Arthur massacre in Tasmania in 1996, a deranged gunman shot dead 35 people and wounded another 23. Then Prime Minister John Howard pushed through stringent national controls, banning semi-automatic rifles and pump-action shotguns

and introducing more stringent licensing. In the guns buyback, Australians surrendered more than 700,000 firearms.

"What our research found was that a huge number of people gave in their guns for no compensation at all," he said. "These hadn't been added into the discussions. So a million guns were taken out of circulation and put into the smelter."

Gun imports increased after 1996 as people replaced banned guns, Alpers said. "Gradually for the past 10 years, they have been creeping up again." But they are not the semi-automatics specifically prohibited after Port Arthur.

Alpers said the buyback was a spectacular success and afterwards the risk of dying by gunshot halved. The Australian Institute of Criminology homicide study also shows gun murders have

steadily declined from the late 1980s and currently are far outnumbered by murders with knives. Most gun deaths were from suicides and incidents of domestic violence, according to the research.

Only time would tell whether the increasing number of guns made Australia less safe, Alpers said. "It may be a problem, it may be a serious one, it may not be too bad, but we have yet to see." The University of Sydney study's findings will be used by the gun control task force set up by US vice-president Joe Biden in the wake of the Sandy Hook school massacre.

"This is what the Americans are interested in — looking at this it's almost Australia has turned into a public health laboratory in terms of reducing gun violence," he said.

Xinhua

Livni may join future coalition if it moves peace process ahead

JERUSALEM, 14 Jan — Israel's HaTnua party leader Tzipi Livni said on Sunday that she may be willing to join Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's future coalition if his party Likud Beitenu commits to move the peace process ahead.

Livni, who recently created HaTnua, said that Netanyahu's party must engage in "real peace process and not just give negotiations lip service," she told Israel Radio on Sunday.

Recent surveys hint that Netanyahu's Likud Beitenu will lead the next government, while HaTnua is predicted to obtain between five and nine seats at the

Knesset. A HaTnua official told Xinhua that such a deal still hasn't happened.

"We're not making any deals, we're just focusing now on the elections and our purpose is to change the government. We're talking about the fact that we want to make real progress in the peace process, it's the goal of the party."

If we're able to do it in the coalition, we'll do it, because our main goal is to achieve this," the official said. Regarding Livni's attempt to make a centre-left bloc, the official said that though there was a meeting with Labour's party leader Shelly Yehimovich and

Yesh Atid party leader Yair Lapid, they preferred to run independently.

"They didn't give a straight answer, but they prefer to fight this battle on their own," the official said.

With the option of a centre-left bloc of the way, Livni may try now to approach Likud Beitenu and join the future coalition, which will be formed mainly by right-wing parties.

"She is not interested in being a part of the new government unless something can be done to end the deadlock with the Palestinians," the official reiterated.

Xinhua



A grey squirrel plays at a botanical garden in Heihe City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 12 Jan, 2013. The improved environment in Heihe offered wildlife a good place to live.

XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

MAI to run domestic flights

YANGON, 14 Jan—Myanmar Airways International, which is one of the airlines in Myanmar, is projected to ply routes of domestic flights.

MAI runs its flights to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay if it will receive permission. Moreover, MAI will fly to Bagan, Heho, Dawei, Kawthoung, Sittway, Loikaw, Myitkyina, Bhamo and Kalay with the use of

ATR airplanes.

With regard to domestic flights, Ma Aye Mra Tha of MAI said, "We have submitted the proposal to the department concerned to be able to fly our airplanes for domestic flights. Arrangements have already been made to run the flights if we would receive the permission. Flying the domestic routes of Myanmar Airways International is aimed at ensuring safe and sound

travelling of local passengers as our airlines is an international one. Moreover, we plan to provide aviation services to the foreign travellers along their routes."

At present, Myanmar Airways International runs its flights from Yangon to Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Gaya and Guangzhou with the use of eight Air Buses.

Myanma Alinn



Sub-power station built in Haka



HAKA, 14 Jan—With the aim of supplying electricity at full capacity to the local people, extension of 11/0.4 KV, 100 KVA sub-power station with 1320 feet long 11 KV line and 5280 feet long 400 volt power lines started on 9 September in Myothit

Ward of Haka, Haka District of Chin State and the works completed on 6 December.

Thanks to the establishment of sub-power station, the local people now enjoy supply of electricity at full capacity.

MNA

Over 450,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets seized in Tamu

TAMU, 14 Jan—A combined squad comprising surveillance team of Tamu Police Station, Pantha Police Station Commander, Special Anti-Drug Squad and Tatmadawmen of Witok Outpost of No. 266 Infantry Regiment, acting on a tip-off, searched Kenbo 125 motorcycle driven by Maung Maung Oo from Tamu to Kalay near Witok Village on Tamu-Kalay Road at 3 am on 18 December.

They seized 156,000 white pseudo-ephedrine tablets from two polyethylene bags.

According to the information, they waited for another motorcycle. At 3.10 am, they seized one more motorcycle driven by Htan Kin Paung from Tamu to Kalay and seized 156,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets

from two polyethylene bags.

The authorities seized 153,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets from one more motorcycle driven by Win Tun from Tamu to Kalay at 3.20 am.

Tamu Police Station opened files of lawsuits against Maung Maung Oo, 25, son of U Hsan Hmon of Sawbain Ward 4 of Tamu, Nauk Lein Zam, 38, son of U Twa Hin, Man Hauk Khok, 19, son of U Kan Min Tan, Htan Kin Paung, 25, son of U Paung Za Kat, Win Tun, 23, son of U Maung Pun, Aung Thu, 24, son of U Zo Ram Htar Hnar and Lal Ram Ngaik Maora, 22, son of U Lal Ramma of Zaydan Ward 4 in Tamu. In the case, the squad seized 465,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets worth K 55.8 million.

Myanma Alinn

New highway bus lines launched in Kalay

KALAY, 14 Jan—A road transport meets improvement in Kalay of Sagaing Region, new bus lines are running their routes one after another to be able to serve the local people better transportation.

As of 7 January, Cherry Yadana Grand Cabing (Airccons) Bus Line launched its maiden trips from the routes

of Kalay-Mandalay and Tamu-Mandalay.

Bus fares are fixed at K 25000 per passenger at front seats of the bus on Kalay-Mandalay route and K 20000 for ordinary seats, K 30000 for front seats and K 25000 for ordinary seats on Tamu-Mandalay route.

Myanma Alinn

Price of rice rising slight high at Yangon rice brokerage market



YANGON, 14 Jan—Recently, over 30000 bags of rice arrived at Kaingdan No. 2 Jetty in Yangon.

These bags of rice were transported from Kyonmange. An interview was made with the crew of Myanma Alinn daily.

Joint Secretary of Brokerage Association U Tin Oosaid, "Price of rice has been falling as of December 2012. Likewise, inflow of rice to the

brokerages is declining day by day. Due to the information that the State Reserved Rice Committee announced to buy 25-mark Emahta rice as reserve in its second meeting, price of rice was slight high."

At the rice and paddy brokerages on Wadan Street in Lanmadaw Township, buyers and sellers are bustling daily in trading of rice.

Myanma Alinn

Motorcycle thieves arrested in Zeyathiri Township



NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, a squad led by SIP Win Naing of Yezin Police Force, while patrolling in its area to put down theft of motorcycles in Zeyathiri Township, inspected a suspect motorcycle together with Min Khant (a) A-1 of Thayawhan Village of Zeyathiri Township at 3.30 am on 27 November.

After the investigation, the squad could arrest Phyu Tin of Yonbinsaung Village

of Zeyathiri Township, Tin Tun Naing of Wegyi Village, Maw Gyi (a) Soe Naing Htwe of Yonbinsaung Village and Ye Thwin of Yonbinsaung Village in Zeyathiri Township who were included in the gang of motorcycle thieves.

In addition, the combined squad exposed those who escaped the arrest namely Lin Aung, Tun Oo, Zin Bo Min, Min Min and Nan Win. According to the investigations, the squad seized 13 motorcycles and



opened files of lawsuits against the thieves at

Zeyathiri and Pyinmana police stations.—Myanma

Students actively and happily participate in School Family Day celebration on the lawns of Basic Education High School No 2 for 2012-2013 academic year in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 6 January.

MYANMA ALINN



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 15 January, 2013

Administrative reforms

It has been over 21 months since our government has taken over the task of managing the affairs of the country. Numerous consultations, seminars and workshops are ongoing across all sectors as we search for new modalities and paradigms for democratic state-building. Furthermore, reforms to some laws, rules and regulations are being honed to better accommodate both local conditions and modern needs.

In spite of both the government and society's inexperience in promulgating such significant political reforms, as well as the range of time pressures and sectoral challenges that our entire country faces, the transition process in Myanmar has been remarkably smooth.

However, in townships and wards across the country, many citizens are having many problems in dealing with local government officials. Local government officials in some areas run their offices without paying attention to public opinion or without consulting with the general public, without transparency or without informing the public of the plans that are about to be implemented, without paying attention to public inquiries or without thinking about how they might better meet the needs of the public, without following the rules and regulations adopted by the line ministries or regional governments, by accepting bribes that are made possible because of corruption; as deliberately ineffective institutions that make it difficult for the public to interact with the government, and without necessary management capacity and skills.

We must therefore undertake administrative reforms from the ward/village level to the union level. Only then will good governance and clean government prevail in our country.

In order for this to happen, officials from ward/village level to the union level must change their mindset, old behaviour, and the way they used to perform in ways so that the government will be more transparent, accountable, clean and effective.

ARTICLE
Sacred Zwegabin Hill, the Symbolic Beauty of Kayin State

Several natural landscapes in Kayin State of Myanmar are dominated by a single hill range wellknown as Zwegabin Hill. Its sublime beauty and majesty can equate it with any sacred hill at home or abroad. Rising over 2700 feet above sea level and running north to south for a length of 20 miles, Zwegabin is a thickly forested hill range, within the driving distance from Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State. A good motor road runs from Hpa-an to Don-yin-Maing Yan for about 8 miles to get to Tawpon village which lies near the foot of the hill on the west side. The first station where you prepare for the ascent is *Sa Khan Gyi* where there are a monastery, a pagoda, *zayats* [rest houses] and a water well under the dense green foliage. After a brief respite begins an up-hill journey of 3 and a half miles. The names of four rest stations on the ascent challenge the stamina of trained hikers and mountaineers— first *Shwe Yin So* station, meaning “Exhausted to the point of quick heart beating”, second *Saing Tamaw* station, meaning “a banteng would have to look up to climb”, third, “*Do pin Khaunglaung* station” meaning “climb up slow and steady like *Do pin* bell”, and fourth “*Maungyin Leint Kya* station” meaning “a novice monk fell down station”. However, these names should not be taken literally. They simply exaggerate the arduous up-hill journey for you to collect enough strength and zeal.

For ascent on the east side of the hill, a six mile

car road runs from Hpa-an to Naung Ton and then to Ohn Tabin village in Khalaukno village tract. After crossing the green fields you came to Thitcha Taung village from where you begin your ascent. Like the names of the stations on the west ascent, the name of one of the two stations on this side of the up-hill journey exaggerates the acrophobia feeling one might get when one is on a height. “*Shwe yin Tone* station” meaning “Heart shaky station”. But the name of the other station abates the speed of your heart beat. “*Yey Kan gu* station” meaning “a cavern with a water tank” station. With only two rest stations on the east side ascent, the west side ascent is much less arduous and tiresome and so, much used by pilgrims and tourists.

The flora of Zwegabin hill is noted for herbalistic qualities and fragrance, especially rare orchids particularly “*Gamone-In*” are much sought after for local and foreign markets. There is a saying in a rhymed couplet “*Gamone Sone-Lin, Zwegabin*” meaning “Zwegabin hill, Gamone orchids fill”.

Fossils and minerals of this hill range prove that once upon a time, there was sea around it. They show pronounced marine characteristics. Rock formations, caves, caverns with running sub-terranean water bodies further confirm its maritime associations.

The name Zwegabin is corrupted from its original Kayin name “*Do Kaywe Kabin*”. “*Do*” means hill, *Kaywe* means to tie and *Kabin* means ship. The hill to which ships are tied. In other words, the hill off which foreign ships are anchored. Another name of this hill in Mon “*Bandava Giri*” has similar meaning. “*Bandava*” in old Mon means “to tie” and “*Giri*” means a hill. Hence the hill where ships are tied or anchored. Some old Mon folks have their version of the meaning of Zwegabin. Zwegabin is a corruption of the original old Mon word “*Pha wei Kaban*”. *Pha wei* means Bannyan tree and *Kaban* means sour. So *Phawei Kaban* means Sour Bannyan Tree [ie. Its leaves are naturally sour]. They make good salad or vegetable dish in traditional culinary art]. *Pha wei Kaban*

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Hill means the Hill with sour bannyan trees growing wild on it. These evidences attest beyond doubt that Zwegabin Hill was surrounded by sea in days of yore.

Like other sacred pagoda hills in the country, Zwegabin hill with such natural and sublime beauties, is bound to be wrapped up with mythology, folktales, history and of course Buddhism. Its legends are closely associated with those of its neighbouring sacred hills such as *Kyaik Hti Yoe* and *Kelasa* hills. The following is the Buddhist legend of Zwegabin hill with local myths and folklores woven into it.

Just about the time Gotama Buddha was about to be revealed, there was an old kingdom called Sudana Nagara or the kingdom of Thaton, where Tisadhamma Raja and his chief queen Agga Mahethi Sri Kapa ruled. They had two sons—the elder son Tisa Dhamma (named after his father as he resembled his father) and the younger Siharaja because he had the signs of a lion on his soles. When they reached the age of 22 and 20 years respectively, the aging father decided to hand over to them the affairs of the state — the elder to succeed him and the younger to be crown prince. But due to their virtues and moral qualities acquired in their previous existences and present lives, they were tired of mundane life. They refused to accept the father's assignments. They insisted to allow them to become hermit to live in forest recluse. Finally the royal parents had to give consent to their wishes. First they went up over 3000 feet high Gisa Giri hill (present Zingyaik Hill) and lived in a hermitage on its summit. Later they decided to separate, as practicing Dhamma in isolated reclusion would be more effective. The elder hermit remained on Zingyaik hill, while the younger hermit moved to the summit of Zwegabin hill (then called *Bandava Giri*) with the River Than Lwin dividing at a distance of 30 miles. They arranged to communicate each other

by lighting fire as signal in case of emergency. Their practice of Samatha (concentration of mind) in reclusion gained them “Zen” a certain degree of psychic power.

There was an island in the sea near Zingyaik hill. On this island lived a female naga serpent. She fell in love with a Weikza, a magician alchemist and she laid two eggs and returned to her underwater naga serpent kingdom and the Weikza repaired to Himalayan Forests. Hermit Tisa found the two eggs and he gave one to his younger brother Hermit Siha. Human boys were born out of the two eggs. The boy born out of Hermit Siha's egg, on reaching 10 years of age died of small pox, to be reborn to Sumana, daughter of Atula the wealthy man of Mithila kingdom. When Gotama Buddha visited Mithila kingdom and preached Dhamma, Sumana's son who was a ten year old monk novice, after hearing the Dhamma became Arahata (Saint). He became wellknown as Ashin Gavampati.

The boy born out of Hermit Tisa's egg grew up into a brave handsome lad. Hermit Tisa taught him 18 princely arts. He was named Naga Weikza. The king of Sudana Nagara died of old age. Naga Weikza was married to Naga Thuza, the daughter of the headman of Kywe Chan village. They were enthroned to succeed the king of Sudana Nagara. Saint Gavampati, now a full-fledged monk visited King Naga Weikza to explain the story of his previous life when he died at 10 years of age and that they were brothers. He informed the king about the Buddha and his teachings. Through Ashin Gavampati, the king invited the Buddha to his kingdom for teaching. The king built a big monastery helped by Sakka Deva for the Buddha and his disciple monks to reside. The Buddha, his disciple monks and Ashin Gavampati arrived. At the monastery the Buddha preached his teachings (Dhamma) for

(see page 9)

Remembrance in the making



Cartoon Thabyay

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Singapore to strengthen cooperation between two armed forces

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — Lieutenant General Neo Kian Hong, the Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces, welcomed Commander-in-Chief of

Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Singapore this morning.

At the meeting held at the ministry, both sides exchanged views on global and regional issues, strengthening mutual cooperation between the two armed forces and promotion of infrastructural development, training and exchange of visits of warships and matters related to the meeting of the Ministers of Defence of ASEAN countries.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services



Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Lieutenant General Neo Kian Hong, the Chief of Defence Force of Singapore Armed Forces.—MNA

and party heard reports on upgrading measures of Singaporean Defence Forces and establishment of regional security presented by officials of the Singaporean Armed Forces at Joint Staff Conference

Room. Yesterday evening, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited Gardens by the Bay and viewed round flower dome, cloud forest and canopy booths.

The Commander-in-

Chief of Defence Services and party also attended dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore and wife and met families of Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

MNA

ARTICLE

Sacred Zwegabin Hill, the Symbolic Beauty of Kayin...

(from page 8)

days. Many listeners became Arahāt (Saint) and the entire kingdom embraced Buddha Dhamma. On request by the hermits, the Buddha gave as his representations to venerate, six strands of hair from his head, two each to the three hermits—(1) Hermit Tisa of Gisa Giri hill, (2) Hermit Siha of Bandava Giri (Zwegabin Hill) and (3) Hermit Kelasa of Kelasa Giri (Kelasa Hill). They enshrined each, one of the two hair relics in the pagodas built on the summits of their respective hill abodes. The remaining three hair relics were enshrined by Hermit Tisa, when he grew old, in a rocking boulder on the cliff of Paung Laung hill range. This hair relic Pagoda on a rocking stone is world renown as Kyaik Hti Yoe.

The hair relic Pagoda on the summit of Zwegabin hill was originally called Bandara Giri Pagoda. Today as the hill is commonly called Zwegabin, the pagoda is also called Zwegabin Pagoda. The original height of the Pagoda was 30 cubits. It was repaired and renovated by Sey—wingaba Sayadaw monk U Thuriya in 1965, and by monk U Zagara in 1966.

There is a 7 cubit high pagoda named Thagya Phaya at the north-east corner of the lower precinct. Its legend is interesting. To the east bank of the River Than Lwin (Asakani Nadi River in those days) there was a big forest named Pa-an-a-vana (Pa-an wun). In a big cave (today Sadan Gu) there dwelt a Kayin hunter

named “La Swe”. King Tisa Sakka stationed on a hill near Dohana hill range to subdue the rebellion. To commemorate his conquest of the rebellion the king built a town “Zeya Myo” (the ruins of this old town are still visible near present day Kawkareik).

The King stayed at this town for 7 months. Hunter La Swè supplied game meat to the King who was so pleased that he rewarded La Swè with the fief of Pan-an wun forest, and also appointed La Swè “Governor of the town, and the title “Luddayaw Raja” was conferred upon him. La Swè built a town named Pa-an Wuna [To-day Pa-an].

One day, hunter King returned to the forest to hunt. The spear he threw at a deer missed it narrowly and disappeared. He became repentant and gave up killing and hunting and vowed to keep five moral precepts [Pancha Sila] for life. When the Buddha visited his kingdom he offered rice food to the Buddha who preached Dhamma to the King and his people. Sakka Deva offered the Buddha cool water to clean his mouth after partaking alms food. Four grains of rice came out with the cool water washed out from the Buddha’s mouth. Sakka Deva enshrined the four rice grains in a stupa built on the spot. Today this stupa is called Thagya Phaya.

Of the many monuments on Zwegabin hill the following deserve archaeological and historical values:—(1) an old ordination hall (2) a collection of glazed Martaban jars, each

with a storage capacity of 100 visses of cooking oil, brought up and placed on the summit for rain water storage. Unfortunately only five survived intact today. The rest were either vandalized or stolen by antique robbers, (3) two bells, one cast in Tawpon village of Donyin in 1915 and the other cast in Taung Galay village of Naungton in 1922, (4) a huge rain water storage tank built in 1948 by monk Sayadaw U Ketu and villagers of Naunglon (5) a zayat [resthouse] for pilgrims and visitors (b) a Buddha’s foot print replica installed in 1950 (7) a bronze Buddha image (8) a Dhammayone hall [for preaching Dhamma] of concrete cement, (9) a big rain water storage tank in the compound of Inkyin Hpo monastery to the west of the hill.

The repairs, renovation, maintenance and development works are carried out by Auvadacariya Sayadaw monks, Pagoda Trustees and local people. In 1963, electricity was installed to light up the Zwegabin Pagoda on the summit with the fund raised locally.

Ahtet Yeytagun station and the monastery have a history to tell. They were built by a Kayin monk who returned from Inwa, an old capital in upper Myanmar after he finished religious learning there. His lay name was Hpoo Tameik and his monk name was U Nanda Marla. He and other two Kayin monks from Hnitchan and Tawpon villagers built the monastery. The third abbot of this monastery also a Kayin monk U Sandawara wrote in Po-Kayin language in verse form three Jataka stories (1) Vidura (2) Mahawsada and

(3) Suvannasarma, and many Kayin fables. The 10th abbot U Nandiya, also a Kayin monk, promoted Buddhism, Po-Kayin language and literature. Since the last two centuries, this monastery has been the centre for spreading Buddha Sasana to other Kayin villagers. In the large compound of the monasteries, there used to be over 100 mantabanglazed jars for rain water storage. Today only three jars with dating survive. They are (1) the jar donated in 1869 AD by K San Hla and Ma Ngwe (2) the jar donated in 1869 AD on Fullmoon Day of Tabodwe by Ko OK and Ma Deik and (3) the jar donated in 1869 AD, Fullmoon of Tabodwe by Maung Ngwe Zin and Ma Chit.

Martaban jars of super size and super storage capacity were much sought after commodities of Myanmar in the 14th to mid 16th centuries when the Portuguese and the Dutch alternately held sway in the seas of South East Asia, vying each other for spice trade and Chinese luxuries for western markets. Today there glazed martaban jars of old dating become top items of antique collectors the world over. Because in those days, these glazed jars were exported from the port of Martaban at the gulf of the Than Lwin River, they came to acquire the trade mark “Martaban”. The places where they were manufactured were Twantay across the Yangon River and La-gun-bye near Pegu.

Places of interest at the foot of Zwegabin hill are many. To mention but a few are (1) a big natural cave “Sadan Cave” (2) an

old brick monastery at Auk Yey Tagun station, where in 1964 a committee for Research and Revival of Po-Kayin language, literature, culture and Buddhism was formed. Abbot U Zeyzeinta founded a Parahita school and Orphanage Home (3) Kaw Kha Thaung natural cave with a natural lake and a monastery (4) Kyauk Kalat Zedi in the paddy fields — a 200 foot high stone carved by sea waves in the shape of a tray with a stem, a seven foot high pagoda on it. I was the abbot of Oo Shit Kan monastery who built it. Yellowish fragrant chung-pungi three grow widely on it making a picturesque landscape (5) Ta Nine Ta Pine Zedi on the two boulders, one placed on top of the other, probably by sea waves, where pilgrims unable to ascent lofty Zwegabin hill, stop here to gaze at the Zwegabin Pagoda on the summit (6) Phaya Nga Su built on a stone on which Sa Ma alphabets appeared. The stone with Sa Ma alphabets was enshrined in the central Pagoda with four corner pagodas around it. It is named “Mahasuddhasana Eisathaya Katkyaw Zedi” (7) other pagodas on Zwegabin range such as Mu Khwe Taung Zedi, Weikza Nyi Naung Zedi, Naga pat Zedi, Sittara Mahe Zedi, etc (8) Man made orbored named Lumbini Garden lies not far from Zwegabin hill. Monk and Lay environ on mentalists revived the forest in that area by planting sal trees to resemble the Lumbini of Buddha’s Time in Nepal. Later fruit trees, flowering trees, shady trees and medicinal trees were

welcome there. Buddha statues of sitting posture were placed under big shady trees, consecrating the entire area.

Zwegabin Hill is accessible by land, water and air, because of newly constructed roads, bridges and airport, particularly the Myaing Galay-Pa-an Bridge, spanning the Than Lwin River, and the Mutama-Mawlamyine Bridge spanning the wide gulf of Murtaban and other bridges crossing the distributaries and minor rivers in Kayin and Mon States. We can drive from Yangon straight to Pa-an and then to Zwegabin hill or from Yangon to Mawlamyine and then to Pa-an to get to Zwegabin Hill. You can take flight to Pa-an airport and drive to Zwegabin Hill. If you have enough time and if you care for riverine trip, get on to any water craft at Mawlamyine jetty which is bound for up-stream journey on the River Than Lwin to Shwe gun. Endless riverscapes and Landscapes enter into your vision while you enjoy cool breeze. Approaching Pa-an, after seeing some time stone caves on either side of the River, majestic Zwegabin Hill suddenly appears in your sight. As your watercraft twists and turns you are sure to catch different views of this sacred Hill. It is said that at auspicious moment from a vantage view point Zwegabin Hill appears in your vision that image of a dancing Kayin couple in their gala costumes—the symbolic beauty of Kayin State.

(It is my apology to Sayagyi U Khin Maung Nyunt for delay in publication of this article. — Chief Editor)

AL Chief urges to dispatch UN peace keepers to protect Syrians

CAIRO, 14 Jan—Arab League (AL) Secretary-General Nabil al-Arabi said on Sunday the UN Security Council should dispatch peace keeping forces to protect the Syrians, stressing in the meantime that the forces should not be sent for fighting.

During the preliminary session of the AL Council's emergency meeting, Arabi called on the UN Security Council to issue a decision according to article No 7

of the UN Charter to send peace keeping forces to Syria to urge ceasefire there and protect the Syrian people.

Arabi also said that talks are underway with UN-AL joint special representative to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi to find a mechanism for solving the crisis, but adding there is no apparent solution in the near future. Meanwhile, Adnan Mansour, Lebanon's foreign minister and the presi-

dent of the AL Council's current session, said that "The number of Syrians refugees in Lebanon has reached 200,000 and 75 percent of them are children and women, which imposed a heavy burden over the required services in the country."

Lebanon is looking for solutions to solve the refugee crisis and to alleviate their sufferings until their return back home, Mansour added.—Xinhua



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd from L) waves to visitors at Meiji Shrine in Tokyo on 13 Jan, 2013. Abe became the first prime minister to visit the Shinto shrine with strong imperial connections since January 2007, when he offered prayers during his previous stint as premier. His wife Akie (3rd from L) accompanied him.—KYODO NEWS

Jordanian woman dies of H1N1 flu

AMMAN, 14 Jan—Jordanian Health Ministry announced on Sunday that a Jordanian woman died after suffering from H1N1 influenza. "The victim, in her forties, was admitted to a private hospital in Amman last on Sunday and suffered from acute pneumonia," Minister of Health Abdul Latif Wreikat told the state-run Petra news agency.

"Lab and clinical tests later revealed that the woman was infected with H1N1 virus," Wreikat said.

He added that the woman was given the necessary medication but she died on Friday, reiterating that as many as 75 people have been tested positive with H1N1 influenza. A 26-year-old Jordanian man died last week in the northern City of Irbid after suffering from the H1N1 influenza strain known as swine flu. The H1N1 epidemic first erupted in 2009 in Mexico, and then spread worldwide. The virus has killed as least 26 people in Jordan in recent years.—Xinhua

Three soldiers killed in attack in central Iraq

TIKRIT, 14 Jan—At least three soldiers were killed by gunmen near the city of Samarra in Salahuddin Province which lies to the north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Sunday, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred in the morning when gunmen opened fire and threw hand grenades at an Iraqi army checkpoint on a highway near Samarra, some 110 km north of Baghdad, a source from the provincial police command said on condition of anonymity.

Salahuddin is a Sunni-dominated Province. Its capital city of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, is the hometown of the former President Saddam Hussein.

Violence in Iraq has decreased from its climax in 2006 and 2007, when sectarian conflicts pushed the country to the brink of a civil war, but tensions and sporadic shootings and bombings are still common across the country.

Xinhua

Nicaraguan VP spotlights Chavez's leading role in L America

MANAGUA, 14 Jan—Reformers across the world identify with ailing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's leading role in Latin America, Nicaraguan Vice President Omar Halleslevens said on Sunday.

Halleslevens said Chavez is not only a national leader in Venezuela,

but a political figure whose influence has been extended to the whole region and the world at large.

"Hugo Chavez not only belongs to Venezuela... Hugo Chavez belongs to all of the Americas," he said. Halleslevens voiced the hope that Chavez will make a full recovery and return to the

presidency. Chavez, 58, underwent a fourth operation on 11 December, but then contracted a lung infection that has complicated his recovery. He was re-elected in October last year to another six-year term, but was too ill to attend inauguration scheduled for 10 January.—Xinhua

Senior PKK member killed in SE Turkey

ANKARA, 14 Jan—A senior member of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) was killed by the Turkish security forces in southeastern Turkey on Sunday, private Dogan news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the Turkish security forces launched a security opera-

tion into a house in Nusaybin town of Mardin Province of Turkey, Mardin Governor Turhan Ayvaz was quoted as saying.

The clash between the security forces and the PKK members in the house took 20 minutes, and a senior PKK member was killed, the governor said.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey and most of the international community, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Since then, over 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the group.—Xinhua



Young women who are or will turn 20 years old as of 1 April wearing traditional attire take aim in the "Toshiya" archery event at Sanjusangendo temple in Kyoto on 13 Jan, 2013. Around 1,500 people from across the country, including those celebrating their coming of age, took part in the event.—KYODO NEWS

Rough road ahead for Egypt to normalize ties with Iran

CAIRO, 14 Jan—Some states pressure Egypt not to establish relations with Iran, but after the Egyptian uprising, Egypt does not accept dictations, Ambassador Mojtaba Amani, head of the Iranian Interests Office in Cairo, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview Sunday.

"Egypt and Iran need to take further steps to normalize ties in the future," Amani said, stressing that the non-completion of all

Egyptian revolutionary institutions was the reason that Egypt was reluctant to establish full relations with Iran. "Iran doesn't have any problems or obstacles in this regard, but the Egyptian side has some reservations," he added.

Amani told Xinhua that the first visit of Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi to Teheran was not for Egyptian-Iranian talks but for the Non-aligned Movements (NAM) conference,

and also Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's upcoming first visit to Cairo would be for attending an Islamic summit, "yet these are still considered important steps."

Commenting on the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi to Cairo, Amani said that "Salehi's visit to Cairo was meant for tete-a-tete meetings for the first time in decades, since the relations were cut off."—Xinhua



People enjoy dancing in Cuihu Park in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 13 Jan, 2013. Citizens went for outdoor activities as the weather got warmer in Kunming. XINHUA

Malian PM visits Algeria to discuss cooperation

ALGIERS, 14 Jan—Malian Prime Minister Diango Cissoko arrived on Sunday in Algeria as part of a two-day visit to discuss cooperation between the two neighbouring nations amid violence shaking Mali, local APS news agency reported.

Diango Cissoko, accompanied by government and military officials, will hold talks with Algerian leaders and senior officials, including President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

The security issue will take the lion's share in this visit, as the two countries will exchange views on the latest developments in the northern part of Mali, which is controlled by extremist armed groups linked to al-Qaeda, according to an official statement.

The two parties will also consider ways to strengthen cooperation to reach a political resolution to the crisis there, and to eradicate terrorism and the organized crime groups which threaten the stability of the whole Sahel region, the statement

added.

On Saturday, Algeria "strongly condemned the attacks committed by terrorist groups in the locality of Mopti (Mali's central region), and considered them as a new assault against the territorial integrity of Mali," said a statement issued by Algerian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Amar Belani.

The official expressed that "unequivocal support of Algeria to the transitional Malian authorities."

The northern part of Mali is controlled for months by extremist groups linked to al-Qaeda, including the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Movement for Unity and Jihad in Western Africa (MUJAO).

The UN Security Council had agreed last month to authorize the African-led International Support Mission in Mali, with 3,300 soldiers deployed, to support the African country in its fight against terrorists and armed rebel groups.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Beijing moves to curb prolonged haze pollution

BEIJING, 14 Jan—Choked in dense smog for three consecutive days, Beijing started emergency response measures on Sunday to curb the air pollution at hazardous levels.

Monitoring data showed the Air Quality Index in most parts of the capital reached 500, the maximum pollution level, on Sunday, the third hazy, grey day.

Emergency response measures were adopted on Sunday in some areas to deal with the heavy pollution, a senior official with the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau said.

Outdoor sports activities for primary and middle schools were ordered to be halted from Sunday to Tuesday in extreme pollution

areas, including Tongzhou, Miyun, Daxing, Mentougou and Fangshan districts, the municipal authorities said.

Construction was suspended at 28 construction sites and 54 businesses reduced their emissions by 30 percent, with Beijing Hyundai Motor Company halting production on Sunday, the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau said.

Fourteen inspection teams were dispatched to 14 districts and counties to oversee the pollution-reduction measures on Sunday, the bureau added.

Beijing has a permanent population of around 20 million and some 5.2 million vehicles. Pollutants, parts of which came from vehi-

cle waste and coal burning in the chilly winter, gradually accumulated in recent windless days. The hazy weather would continue until Wednesday in Beijing, local meteorologists said.

“Such a prolonged pollution is rare in Beijing,” said a university undergraduate who only gave his surname Wang. He wore a mask to “avoid pollution and flu infection.”

The 22-year-old student, who has been living in Beijing since childhood, told *Xinhua* he expected the government to take more timely and effective actions, such as the dissemination of air pollution information and the suspension of classes for children who are vulnerable to diseases.—*Xinhua*



Fire damage is seen at the nursery ward of PBM Government Hospital in Bikaner, India, on 13 Jan, 2013. A fire broke out on early Sunday morning due to a short circuit in the air-conditioner at the nursery ward of PBM Government Hospital in Bikaner where three children were injured.—*Xinhua*

China extends 200,000 USD in aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan

AMMAN, 14 Jan—China on Sunday donated 200,000 US dollars for Syrian refugees in Jordan, the Chinese Embassy in Amman said in a statement.

The aid seeks to support Syrian refugees in the country, and preparations

will start soon to transfer the money, said the statement.

There are around 300,000 Syrians who fled the unrest in their country to Jordan since early 2011, according to official figures.

Aid groups said Syr-

ians in the Zaatari camp, which is home to more than 45,000 Syrians, are facing difficult conditions.

Jordan has repeatedly appealed for international aid to assist the refugees due to the limited resources in the Arab kingdom.—*Xinhua*

HK airport traffic hits record high

HONG KONG, 14 Jan—Passenger volume and air traffic movements at Hong Kong International Airport hit record highs of 56.5 million and 352,000 last year, representing yearly growth of 4.7 percent and 5.3 percent, the airport authority said on Sunday.

The airport authority said that cargo volume rose 2.2 percent to 4 million tonnes. The airport also reported 30,800 flight movements in December 2012, a 5.1 percent year-on-year increase and a new monthly record. The previous record for monthly flight movements was set in August 2012.

During the month, the airport also received 5 million passengers and handled 372,000 tonnes of cargo, registering year-on-year growth of 3.9 percent and 7.6 percent.

The growth in passenger traffic was driven mainly by Hong Kong resident travel, which saw a 7 percent rise over the same

month last year. Passenger traffic to and from South-east Asia and Taiwan performed particularly well.

Growth in December cargo throughput was primarily due to an 8 percent year-on-year growth in exports. During the month, cargo throughput to and from North America and the Chinese Mainland outperformed other key regions.

Airport Chief Executive Officer Stanley Hui said that despite the challenging global economic environment, regional economic growth continued to drive traffic increasing at the airport in 2012.

New annual records were also set in cross-boundary traffic. During the year, traffic between the airport and Pearl River Delta destinations by coaches and ferry services at the SkyPier grew by 3.5 percent and 8 percent to over 1.9 million and 2.6 million passenger trips.

Xinhua



A villager makes a red lantern at a workshop in Yangzhao Village, a lantern production base in Jishan County of Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 12 Jan, 2013. Chinese people traditionally hang red lanterns to greet and celebrate the Spring Festival, which falls on 10 February this year.—*Xinhua*



Young men and women offer silent prayers during a ceremony on 13 Jan, 2013, in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, which was devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, ahead of the Coming-of-Age Day national holiday on 14 January.—*KYODO NEWS*

Police arrest 6 men for gangraping housewife in northern India

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan—Indian police have arrested six men for allegedly gangraping a 29-year-old housewife on a bus in the northern state of Punjab Friday, a case almost similar to last year's horrific gangrape of a 23-year-old medical student in the national capital, a police official said on Sunday.

“The gruesome incident happened in a remote village near the city of Amritsar on late Friday night. The victim was on way to her village on the bus when the driver and conductor abducted her and took her to an undisclosed location where they and their five accomplices took turns to rape her before dumping her near her village,” the official said on condition of anonymity.

Six of the seven accused have been arrested and a manhunt has been

launched to track down the seventh accused who is on the run since the incident came to light, he said.

The latest case came barely a month after the Delhi University student was gangraped by six men on a moving bus in the national capital. She and her boyfriend, who had boarded the bus after watching a movie at a multiplex, were also beaten up mercilessly before being thrown off the vehicle.

Earlier this month, the 23-year-old student succumbed to her injuries at a hospital in Singapore, where she was flown in after her condition worsened at a government hospital in the Indian capital.

All the accused are currently in judicial custody facing rape and murder charges which carry a maximum punishment of death penalty.—*Xinhua*



Yokozuna Hakuho (back) pushes down komusubi Shohozan on 13 Jan, 2013, the opening day of the 2013 New Year Grand Sumo Tournament at Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo.—*KYODO NEWS*

Official stresses safety in nuclear power development

JINAN, 14 Jan—State Councilor Liu Yandong on Sunday stressed supervision and management efforts to ensure the “absolute safety” of a new nuclear power plant in east China's coastal city of Rongcheng.

Liu made the remarks during an inspection tour to the construction site of a Chinese-developed high-temperature gas-cooled reactor at Shidao Bay, the first of its kind in the country.

A key project out of the country's technological innovation efforts, the facility will become the world's first commercial fourth-generation nuclear power plant that incorporates upgraded safety fea-

tures, the official said.

She called for better coordination among related government departments, enterprises, and research institutes to achieve more technological breakthroughs in the project.

Engineering, industrialization and internationalization levels of the project should be boosted in order to achieve technological progresses and support the nuclear power industry development as well, according to the official.

She said the project should be carried out in an active and steady manner to provide technological backup for promoting the development of clean energy in China.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Telecommunication Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee
Nay Pyi Taw

Press Release

**Expression of Interest regarding the tender for two Telecommunications Service Licences
in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Date: 15 January, 2013

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has laid down the policy framework for the development of the country's telecommunications and ICT industry by facilitating competition of both local and international operators in the sector. One of the principal goals for this is to increase the overall tele-density of the country to 75% to 80% in 2015-2016, to make the telecommunications services available to the public at affordable prices, and to give the public the capability of choice for the telecoms services.

In this context, the Union Government will award two nationwide telecommunications service licences by the first half of 2013. The Telecommunication Operator Tender Selection Committee officially set up by the Union Government invites telecommunications companies to express their interest.

As a first step, interested entities are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) **not later than 3 pm, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on January 25th, 2013 to the Telecommunication Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee at mcit_tender@mcit.gov.mm or to Telecommunication Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee, Office Building No (32), Nay Pyi Taw; Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**

The submission form for the Expression of Interest (EOI), guidelines for submission and all relevant documents are available for download from this link <http://www.mcit.gov.mm/industries/tender.htm>.

Chairman
Telecommunication Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee,
Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KAMNIK VOY NO (1)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KAMNIK VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VINALINEE STAR VOY NO (12148)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VINALINEE STAR VOY NO (12148) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KOOKYANG SHIPPING
KOREA**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKHONTHI NO (164)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (164) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**Obama undergoes fitness
exam at Pentagon**

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — President Barack Obama had a little personal fitness boot camp at the Pentagon on Saturday.

Obama, 51, participated in what the White House described as a fitness evaluation at a Pentagon clinic, part of the periodic medical examination of him that is coordinated by the president's doctor.

He was at the Fit to

Win Clinic inside the Pentagon. The clinic's website says its objective is to enhance "military readiness and civilian wellness through fitness, nutrition, health education and positive lifestyle behavior changes."

The White House provided few details but said "the results of the president's periodic medical exam will be released before the end of the month." — Reuters



President Barack Obama addresses a joint news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 11 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

**Three killed in train accident
in southern France**

PARIS, 14 Jan — Three people were killed when hit by a train in the southern French city of Marseille, radio France Info reported on Saturday.

The accident occurred around 6:10 pm (1710 GMT) when the TER was leaving the station of St Joseph in the direction of Aix-en-Provence.

It clashed with the three victims, a girl and her

parents, who were on the rail road at the time of tragedy, according to French railway company SNCF.

Police sources indicated that the victims is from a Romanian family, the man and the woman were in their thirties, with their five-year-old girl. Police department has opened an investigation into the accident.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA HONOUR NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA HONOUR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA TRANS SHIPPING
CO. LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (331N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (331N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (006)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES.

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12029N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12029N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S T.S LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Newly single Bradley Cooper's mother will be his Oscar date



The 38-year-old actor told E! News his mother claimed his plus-one ticket for the Academy Awards on February 24 long before he was even nominated in this year's Best Actor category.

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan—Silver Linings Playbook Bradley Cooper star - who won the award for Best Actor in a Comedy at the Critics Choice Movie Awards on Thursday (10.01.13) - has revealed he will walk the red carpet with his

mother Gloria before the Oscars next month after recently splitting from his girlfriend of more than one year Zoe Saldana.

The 38-year-old actor told E! News his mother claimed his plus-one ticket for the Academy Awards on February 24 long before he was even nominated in this year's Best Actor category.

He said: "Oh yeah, that was done. One night, when I started the profession, [my mom said], 'If you ever [get nominated], I am the date. She was freaking out.'" The newly single star recently revealed that his parents are his inspiration and he hopes to have a traditional family home like theirs.

He said: "I would say I am a romantic, for sure. I think most guys are deep down. I look at my parents, who have been married happily since 1963, and my grandparents are the same. What guy wouldn't want that?"

PTI

Halle Berry honoured at Bet Awards



The 46-year-old actress was just one of high profile stars who were celebrated at the prestigious event in Washington, DC, where Alicia Keys is performing along with a host of other R&B and soul stars.— PTI

NEW YORK, 14 Jan—Cloud Atlas star Halle Berry was honoured for her contribution to cinema at the Bet Awards.

The 46-year-old actress was just one of high profile stars who were celebrated at the prestigious event in Washington, DC, where Alicia Keys is performing along with a host of other R&B and soul stars, reported Huffington Post online.

The Girl On Fire singer appeared alongside Erykah Badu, Wayne Brady, Brandy, Mint, Jimmy Jam, Ledi-si, the SOS Band and Terry Lewis at the event in the Warner Theatre.

Berry's prestigious honour comes after a difficult few months for the Oscar winning actress.

Her fiancé Olivier Martinez was involved in a physical fight with the father of her daughter Nahla, four, Gabriel Aubry in November.

The actress recently resolved her custody battle with the 36-year-old Canadian model and spent Christmas in Paris with her French actor boyfriend.— PTI

Ben Affleck upsets Spielberg at Golden Globes; Day-Lewis wins Best Actor

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan—Ben Affleck emerged as the giant-killer at the Golden Globes this year, winning Best Director and Best Picture—Drama for Argo, beating Steven Spielberg's Lincoln, Kathryn Bigelow's Zero Dark Thirty, Ang Lee's Life Of Pi and Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained. This, just days after he was snubbed for Best Director in the Oscar nominations.

Steven Spielberg's Lincoln, which leads the Oscar race with 12 nominations, scored just one Globe for Daniel Day-Lewis who won Best Actor - Drama. Zero Dark Thirty, also an Oscar

favourite, won Best Actress—Drama for Jessica Chastain.

Les Miserables scooped three Globes, the most this year, winning Best Picture—Comedy/Musical, Best Actor—Comedy/Musical for Hugh Jackman and Best Supporting Actress for Anne Hathaway.

Les Miserables also won its face-off with Silver Linings Playbook, which won just a single Globe, Best Actress—Comedy/Musical for Jennifer Lawrence. The two movies will be facing off at the Oscars again.

Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained scored twice. Christoph Waltz picked up the first award of the evening—

Best Supporting Actor, his second Globe for his second Tarantino movie after Inglourious Basterds. Tarantino also won Best Screenplay.

Life Of Pi won Best Original Score while Adele won Best Original Song for Skyfall. Homeland blitzed the TV awards winning Best Drama Series as well as Best Drama Actor and Actress for Damian Lewis and Claire Danes, who won her third in a row Globe, and second in a row for Homeland.

Jodie Foster received the Cecil B De-Mille Award for Lifetime Achievement from actor Robert Downey Jr.

Complete list of winners:

Best Motion Picture - Drama: Argo
Best Actor in a Motion Picture—Drama: Daniel Day-Lewis—Lincoln
Best Actress in a Motion Picture—Drama: Jessica Chastain—Zero Dark Thirty
Best Actor in a Motion Picture—Comedy Or Musical: Hugh Jackman—Les Miserables
Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture: Christoph Waltz—Django Unchained
Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture: Anne Hathaway—Les Miserables
Best Director - Motion Picture: Ben Affleck—Argo
Best Actress in a Mini Series or TV Movie: Julianne Moore—Game Change
Best Supporting Actress in a Mini Series or TV Movie: Maggie Smith, Dowton Abbey
Best Mini Series or Motion Picture made for TV: Game Change
Best Actor In A Television Series—Comedy Or Musical: Don Cheadle—House Of Lies
Best Actor In A Television Series - Drama: Damian Lewis—Homeland
Best Television Series—Drama: Homeland
Best Original Score—Motion Picture: Mychael Danna—Life Of Pi
Best Original Song—Motion Picture: Adele for Skyfall—Skyfall
Best Actor in a Mini-Series or TV Movie: Kevin Costner—Hatfields & McCoy's
Best Actress in a Motion Picture—Comedy Or Musical: Jennifer Lawrence
Silver Linings Playbook
Best Supporting Actor in a Series, Mini-Series or TV Movie: Ed Harris - Game Change
Best Screenplay: Quentin Tarantino—Django Unchained
Best Foreign Film: Amour (Austria)
Best Actress in a Television Series—Drama: Claire Danes—Homeland
Best TV Series Comedy Or Musical: Girls
Best Motion Picture—Comedy Or Musical: Les Miserables.

PTI

SPORTS

Golf: Oosthuizen up to fourth in world with one-shot Durban win

DURBAN, 14 Jan— World number six Louis Oosthuizen fired a six-under-par 66 to overhaul third-round leader Scott Jamieson and clinch the Volvo Golf Champions by one shot on Sunday, a victory that will move him to fourth in the rankings. Jamieson had held a five-stroke advantage after 54 holes but seven birdies from the 2010 British Open champion Oosthuizen gave him a sixth European Tour win on 16-under 272 ahead of

Briton Jamieson (72), who nearly holed a chip at the 18th to force a playoff.

Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (68) sealed third place a shot further back while triple major winner Padraig Harrington (68) finished

fourth on 12-under. Oosthuizen, who yesterday surrendered the lead as he struggled to a 74, birdied two of the first three holes to put the pressure on Jamieson. Further birdies

at the sixth and eighth holes rounded off an outward nine of 32 and he had reduced the deficit to one by the turn. Birdies at the 10th and

11th holes propelled him into the lead, and despite bogeying the par-four 16th after finding the green-side bunker, Oosthuizen's two-putt pars at the 17th and 18th holes were enough to clinch victory."

Reuters



Juventus' lead in Serie A sliced

ROME, 14 Jan— Juventus had their lead at the top of Serie A slice to three points after they drew 1-1 at Parma while Lazio beat Atalanta 2-0 on Sunday. Juventus, following their last weekend's surprise loss to Sampdoria, were desperate to beat Parma in order to maintain their five-point lead over second-placed Lazio. Andrea Pirlo put the visitors ahead with a fortuitous free-kick just after the break, but Nicola Sansone rescued a deserved point for Parma after he intercepted Mirko Vucinic's



dummy behind the Juventus backline to level the tie. Juventus head coach Antonio Conte said he was responsible for Sansone's goal.

"The goal was my fault, because I called the dummy when Vucinic was on the one-on-one," said Conte. "Juventus deserved to win considering everything we did today, but were playing against a tough side and give credit to Parma," he said.

Xinhua



Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return to compatriot Olga Puchkova during their women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 14 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Sharapova doles out double-bagel to fellow Russian

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan— Maria Sharapova showed no sign of discomfort as she dismantled fellow Russian Olga Puchkova 6-0, 6-0 to cruise into the second round of the Australian Open on Monday.

Having pulled out of warm-up tournaments after suffering pain in her neck and collarbone, second seed Sharapova appeared desperate for competition but was given little of it in

a 55-minute rout.

Sharapova had to save two break-points in her first service game but it was smooth sailing from then on, the 107th-ranked Puchkova collapsing in a hail of unforced errors.

Puchkova surrendered the match with a forehand that floated long as Sharapova set up a second-round match against Croatia's Petra Martic or Japan's Misaki Doi.—Reuters

Dutch Kramer and Wust claim victory at European Speed Skating Championships

THE HAGUE, 14 Jan— Dutch speed skaters Sven Kramer and Ireen Wust won the men's and women's European Championships all-round titles on Sunday in Heerenveen, the Netherlands. Kramer, who ended seventh in the 500 meters and won the 5,000m on Friday, finished eighth on the 1,500m on Saturday and on Sunday he secured victory on the final distance, the 10,000m. Kramer became allround European champion for the sixth time. Dutchman Jan Blokhuijsen ended second and Norwe-

gian Havarð Bokko became third.

In the women's tournament Wust won the 1,500m on Sunday and finished second on the final distance, the 5,000m, after having finished fourth in the 500m and winning the 3,000m on Saturday.—Xinhua



Dutch speed skaters Sven Kramer and Ireen Wust (left). XINHUA

Barca win again to make it 18 wins from 19 in first half of season

MADRID, 14 Jan—FC Barcelona won 3-1 away to Malaga to remain 11 points clear of Atletico Madrid and moved 18 clear of Real Madrid, while completing a quite incredible first half to the season. The win means that Barca have won 18 of their first 19 matches of the season, taking 55 points from a possible 57, scoring 64 goals and conceding 20.

The best news for Barcelona was that coach Tito Vilanova was back on the bench after his trip to New York during the week for a second opinion on his cancer treatment. He sat alongside central defender Carles Puyol, who was rested with Javier Mascherano partnering

Gerard Pique at the back for Barca. The pitch in the Rosaleda Stadium has not been in good condition all season, but that didn't stop



Barcelona playing their usual passing game and Messi saw an early effort saved by Malaga keeper, Willy Caballero.

Caballero was alert on a second occasion to rush out of his area as the striker ran through on goal, while Cesc Fabrigas fired over for the visitors, but Messi was not to be denied after 27 minutes when he latched onto a poor backpass, before tricking Caballero and rolling the ball into an empty net. Malaga's best chance in the first half was a header from Roque Santa Cruz, which went straight into the arms of Barca keeper, Victor Valdes. Cesc Fabrigas doubled Barca lead five minutes into the second half with a neat control and shot close to the post that left Caballero helpless following a magnificent pass from Messi.

Xinhua

Manchester United seven points clear after beating Liverpool

MANCHESTER, 14 Jan—Manchester United went seven points clear at the top of the Premier League, for a few hours at least, after a 2-1 win over Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Goals from Robin van Persie and Nemanja Vidic gave United a 2-0 lead before Liverpool substitute Daniel Sturridge pulled one back for the visitors in this latest clash between England's two most successful clubs.

Van Persie gave United a 19th minute lead when

he swept in Patrice Evra's cross from eight yards out.

It was the Dutch striker's 17th Premier League goal this term, and 21st in all competitions, since he arrived at Old Trafford in a £24 million (\$39 million) pre-season move from top-flight rivals Arsenal. United made it 2-0 nine minutes after half-time when full-back Evra's header from van Persie's free-kick deflected in off centre-half Vidic.

But three minutes later Sturridge, on at the start of the second half for Lucas Leiva, marked his Premier League debut for Liverpool with a goal when he followed up the rebound after David de Gea saved skipper Steven Gerrard's shot from outside the box.

It was Sturridge's second goal in as many games



Manchester United 10 points clear after beating Liverpool.—PTI

for Liverpool following his move from European champions Chelsea after he was on target in the 2-1 FA Cup win over Mansfield last weekend.

However, Sturridge

failed to make the most of two more chances and United held on for a victory that gave them a league double over Liverpool, who remained in eighth place, this season.

PTI

GENERAL



President of Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye Kyi presented prizes to child at 65th Anniversary Independence Day Child and Mother Competition at BEHS(2) Sanchaung on 2 January.
MYANMA ALINN

Rookie Henley wins by three shots at Waialae

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — American Russell Henley, remarkably unflappable for a PGA Tour rookie, became the youngest ever champion at the Sony Open in Hawaii when he won his maiden title on the US circuit by three shots on Sunday.

Aged just 23, the fresh-faced Web.com Tour graduate displayed ice-cool nerves as he stormed home with five consecutive birdies to fire a seven-under-par 63 on the tree-lined layout at Waialae Country Club.

Co-leader overnight with fellow rookie and good friend Scott Langley, Henley mixed eight birdies with a lone bogey to post a record 24-under total of 256 in the PGA Tour's first full-field event of the season.

South African Tim

Clark, bidding for his second title on the circuit, signed off with birdies on



Russell Henley of the US waves to the gallery after putting on the fourth green during the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament in Honolulu, Hawaii on 13 Jan, 2013.— REUTERS

the last four holes for a matching 63 to secure second place.

First-round leader

Langley faded with three bogeys on the back nine, carding a 70 to finish in a

tie for third at 17 under with fellow American Charles Howell III (66).

Reuters

Brady powers Patriots past Texans into AFC title game

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — Tom Brady set a record for most playoff wins by a quarterback in leading the New England Patriots to a 41-28 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday to move one win away from a second consecutive trip to the Super Bowl.

Brady, who surpassed Hall of Famer Joe Montana with his 17th playoff win,

completed 25-of-40 passes for 344 yards and three touchdowns in the divisional playoff, setting up a rematch of last year's AFC title game with the Baltimore Ravens.

Brady led a balanced attack that was lifted by the play of reserve running back Shane Vereen, who rushed for one touchdown and caught a pair of TD

passes after filling in for injured Danny Woodhead. The Patriots, who will host Baltimore on 20 January, beat the Ravens 23-20 at home last year for the AFC title to earn their fifth berth in the Super Bowl since 2001.

New England tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was playing in his second game since breaking his forearm, broke his arm again on Sunday and is expected to miss the rest of the playoffs.

New England built a 38-13 lead early in the fourth quarter before Houston mounted a frantic comeback that produced a pair of touchdowns to draw within 10 points at 38-28 with just over five minutes to play.

The Patriots recovered an onside-kick and moved the ball into field goal range with kicker Stephen Gostkowski nailing his attempt from 38 yards to put the finishing touch on the victory.

Reuters



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (C) celebrates with his teammates Ryan Wendell (L) and Logan Mankins (R) after he threw a touchdown pass during the fourth quarter of their NFL AFC Divisional playoff football game against the Houston Texans in Foxborough, Massachusetts on 13 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-1-13 09:30 am ~

16-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Organic Farming
- * Deaf School
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "consequences of Misdeeds"
- * News
- * BOT System precise and speedy for the People, Cooperate shall we... (Yamaethin to Meiktila Road)
- * Delicious Mango Jam
- * News
- * Novitiation Ceremony of 1000 Novice-to-be at Aung Zabu Tawya Dhamma Yeiktha
- * Press conference by NLD
- * News
- * "Topic on Journal" Fascinating Myanmar Tapestry
- * White Gold from Manaw Land
- * News
- * A Visit to Today's A Laung Taw Kathapha
- * News
- * My golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies "Deadhead Yet cherished"

MYANMAR TV

(15-1-2013, Tuesday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 5:10 pm | National Spirit Spirit |
| 7:15 am | 2. Dhamma Puja Song | 5:25 pm | 12. Documentary |
| 7:25 am | 3. To Be Healthy Exercise | 5:40 pm | 13. Sweet Melody |
| 7:30 am | 4. Morning News | 5:40 pm | 16. Documentary |
| 8:00 am | 5. Song of National Races | 6:00 pm | 17. Evening News |
| 8:05 am | 6. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 6:15 pm | 18. Weather Report |
| 4:00 pm | 7. Martial Song | 6:20 pm | 19. Sing & Enjoy |
| 4:30 pm | 8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies | 6:50 pm | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 4:45 pm | 9. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Physics) | 7:00 pm | 21. News |
| 5:05 pm | 10. Songs For Upholding | 7:10 pm | 22. TV Drama Series |
| | | 8:00 pm | 23. News |
| | | | 24. International News |
| | | | 25. Weather Report |
| | | | 26. Bakery World |
| | | | 27. "Weather Pattern in January and Cold Season Phenomena" |
| | | | 28. Teleplay |
| | | | 10:00 pm |
| | | | 29. News |
| | | | 30. India Drama Series |

Venus thrashes Voskoboeva, Sharapova in her sights

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Venus Williams took the first step towards a potential third round clash with Maria Sharapova with a 6-1, 6-0 thrashing of Kazakhstan's Galina Voskoboeva at the Australian Open on Monday.

The 32-year-old Williams, who won her first tournament in almost three years in Luxembourg last October after battling injuries and illness, was simply too powerful for the 28-year-old, who had problems with her serve the entire match. The Kazakh often lost the ball in the sun



Venus Williams of the US hits a return to Galina Voskoboeva of Kazakhstan during their women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 14 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

during her toss, while on several occasions it drifted the wrong side of the service line.—Reuters

Alpine skiing: Extraordinary Hirscher wins in Adelboden



Marcel Hirscher of Austria clears a gate during the first run of the Alpine Skiing World Cup men's slalom ski race in Adelboden on 13 Jan, 2013.— REUTERS

ADELBODEN, (Switzerland), 14 Jan —Austria's Marcel Hirscher won his third World Cup slalom in succession on Sunday, fighting back from the disappointment of the previous day. With a blistering second run, the World Cup

holder and leader came back from eighth in the morning leg to win in a combined time of one minute 51.75 seconds.

Beaten in Saturday's giant slalom after a bad mistake on one of the last gates, Hirscher reasserted his su-

premacy and increased his lead in the World Cup overall standings to 126 points over Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal.

"Obviously, it's not the same outcome as yesterday. Sometimes you make the most of the opportunity and sometimes you push too hard," Hirscher told reporters. "It has nothing to do with pressure as I handle it well when I'm leading after the first run. It's just that today's second run was extraordinary."

Reuters

Constitutional tribunal will have to settle many disputes in the future

Lack of power to pass final resolution may cause more problems



Photo shows arrival of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — On the second-day of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sixth regular session held today, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint read out the message on the attendance of the President at the summit to mark the 20th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership held in New Delhi of India and the message was put on record.

Next, three Hluttaw



Lt-Col Myo Myint Oo makes discussion.

MNA

representatives held discussions on establishment of diplomatic ties with the Republic of Armenia.

Then Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw made clarifications on the matter that 33 Myanmar embassies, three Myanmar's permanent representative offices and four Myanmar consulate-general offices totaling 40 were being kept open in foreign countries. Ambassadors, permanent representatives and consul-generals were being appointed and assigned duties there. They were concurrently appointed as officials for some countries and organizations totaling 38 including European Commission and European

Union.

The Hluttaw approved the establishment of diplomatic ties with the Republic of Armenia with a unanimous support.

Then those present held discussions on the comments of the President on the Bill amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law and the bill was approved as the approval of the Hluttaw for the Bill.

Next, the comments of the President on the Bill amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law were discussed.

The President's comments on Section (2) (a) of the Bill in which Article 321 of the Constitution says that "the President shall submit the candidature list of total nine persons, three members chosen by him, three members chosen by the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and three members chosen the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, out of them, the nomination for the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union should be sought approval from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The amendment by the Hluttaw is contrary to the Constitution, and out of the 22 laws that were enacted in accordance with the Section 443 of the Constitution, those which are not contrary to the Constitution shall remain in force, according to the Section 446 of the Constitution, and if a law is contrary to the Constitution, it would be annulled automatically.

Regarding the Sub-section (b) of the Section

2 of the bill, Section 12 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union compiles and states the duties of the Constitutional Tribunal. The additional Sub-section (i) does not include in the constitution, and if it is prescribed, it would harm the judiciary right of the Constitutional Tribunal which is the constitutional highest court, interfering in the judiciary sector.



Major Tin Aung Moe makes discussion.

MNA

And, it is also contrary to the judicial principle: to administer justice independently according to law: prescribed in the Sub-section (a) of the Section 19 of the Constitution. Besides, as it is also contrary to the Sub-section (a) of the Section-11 of the Constitution, the additional sub-section should not be prescribed, considering the fact of the essence of the democracy.

Regarding the Section 3 of the bill, if Section 23 and 24 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union are amended and substituted, a final decision of the Constitutional Tribunal will be relevant only to the decision of a court

which is stated in the Sub-section (g) of the Section 12 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. It means that decisions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union will not be final for the remaining cases and appeals can be made to the decisions. As the amendment is contrary to the fact that the resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union shall be final and conclusive of the Section 324 of the State Constitution, it will be annulled, according to the Section 446 of the State Constitution.

Regarding the Section 4 of the bill, resolutions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union shall take effect the departmental organizations and personnel concerned, according the Section 25 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. The essence of the Section 25 is aimed at not occurring disputes over the effects of the resolutions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. If Section 25 of the Constitutional Tribunal is not prescribed, there would be disputes and defining. Therefore, it is found that the original Section 25 should not be revoked.

U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency said that the tribunal will have to settle many disputes in the future and if the resolution of the tribunal is not final, it would provoke more problems in the future. So, the President's comment was appropriate, he said. Regarding the section 4 of the Bill, original provision of section 25 was

terminated and the comment of the Joint Bill Committee was appropriate.

Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Lt-Col Myo Myint Oo discussed that Article 142 of the Constitution of Cambodia states that the Decisions of the Constitutional Council are final; Article 24 (c) of the Constitution of Indonesia states that the Constitutional Court shall possess the authority to try a case at the first and final level and shall have the

organizations and personnel.

U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney-General of the Union, discussed that the Section 6 of the constitutional tribunal law should not be amended.

As the Section 25 of the constitutional tribunal law should not be terminated because it is a necessary provision for enforcement of the law and not contrary to the constitution despite the fact it is not prescribed in the constitution, he said.

He referred to Section 48 of the constitution



Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo participates in discussion.

MNA

final power of decision in reviewing laws against the Constitution; Article 79 of the Constitution of Russia states that the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall be final and may not be appealed; and Article 167 (5) of the Constitution of South Africa states that the Constitutional Court makes the final decision.

which suggests, "The Basic Principles of the Union shall be the guidance in enacting laws by legislature and in interpreting the provisions of the constitution and other laws."

He said the Basic Principles should be put into consideration. Amendment of a law conflicting with the constitution or prescription of an amendment bill should be made in accord with the provisions in the chapter of Amendment of the Constitution.

Next, Deputy Hluttaw Speaker U Mya Nyein read out the report of the Joint Bill Committee. While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section (2) (a) of the Bill, the bill was approved as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section (2) (b) of the Bill, the bill was approved as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section (2) of the Bill, the bill was approved as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

While seeking the approval of Hluttaw as regard Section (4) of the Bill, the bill was approved by 186 yes votes, 370 abstentions and 37 no votes as the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Bill.

Today's session came to an end at 1.05 pm and the third-day session will continue tomorrow.

MNA



U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency makes discussion.—MNA

He then discussed that provisions in the original law are still valid. Amending the constitutional tribunal law could make it conflicting with the constitution and may require amendment of the constitution.

Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Maj Tin Aung Moe discussed that the termination of Section 25 in the original law as the amendment bill proposes should be reconsidered by the Hluttaw because it would make the effect of resolutions of the tribunal ambiguous. The original Section 25 suggests that the resolutions of the tribunal affect respective regions instead of government