The New Light of Myanmar
THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU
Volume XX, Number 271 | 5th Waxing of Pyatho 1374 ME | Wednesday, 16 January, 2013

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Special Advisor to UNSG

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

They exchanged views on providing long-term assistance in education and health, humanitarian aids to Rakhine State, Aljazeera's fabricated broadcast, stability in Rakhine State, trust-building in peace process, efforts for granting citizenship in accord with the laws and plans for cooperation with international organizations.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Thant Kyaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win and Daw Su Su Hlaing and departmental heads.

MNA

***Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar receives a delegation led by Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar.*—MNA**

Myanmar, China to promote trade

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun receives a delegation led by Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China, at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They held a cordial discussion on further promoting trade between the two countries, successful functioning of businesses based on amity, and more investments in the sectors of transport, electricity and infrastructures.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and officials from the President Office.

The Chinese Vice Commerce Minister was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and high-ranking officials.

MNA

Myanmar Archery Team crowns victory at fifth South East Asian Archery Championship

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—"Myanmar Archery Team has secured 251 medals—87 gold medals, 86 silver medals and 78 bronze medals—at International events since 1995. It has lifted nation's pride and proved as one of the most successful teams in South East Asia. It should keep winning streaks in XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by our country", said Union Minister U Tint Hsan at the fifth South East Asian Archery Championship and the XXVIISEA Games Trial Archery Competition Prize Presentation Ceremony at Wunna Theiddhi archery range yesterday evening.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, officials, athletes and coaches attended the ceremony.

Officials of Myanmar Archery Federation explained future tasks. Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and officials awarded winners.

Archer Ma Thin Thin Khaing, five-gold medalist spoke words of thanks.

Myanmar stood first among Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand earning nine gold medals, four silver medals and three bronze medals. Well-wishers donated cash to MAF.

MNA

***Myanmar Archery Team celebrates their victory.*—MNA**

LOCAL NEWS

Three KIA members return to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 15Jan — Three members of KIA group — two men with the rank of private and one ordinary private bringing along with arms and ammunition— returned to legal fold to local Tatmadaw columns on 13 January.

U Khin Aung Myint with the rank of ordinary private of a battalion under Laiza Headquarters of KIA, who live in Talawgyi village of Myitkyina, bringing along with one M 25 rocket launcher, one magazine, five caps, five shells and a set of camouflage and La Saing and Gam Aung with the rank of private of No (33) battalion of KIA bringing together with four China-made grenades to the Tatmadaw outposts at 11.15 am and 12 noon respectively.

MNA

Aye's Family Auto Trade Centre opened

YANGON, 15 Jan—A ceremony to open the Auto Showroom of Aye's Family Co., Ltd was held in conjunction with the ceremony to start construction of 27-storey Diamond Valley Rise Business Centre at Aye's Family Auto Trade Centre on KabaAye Pagoda road on 13 January.

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

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the Auto Showroom.

Then the chairman of the company gave an account of the design of 27-storey building in which 376 apartments, offices and conference rooms and a parking lot with the capacity of 525 vehicles will be included. It is set to complete the construction work within two years.

MNA

Primary school emerges in Thayatkonkyundate village of Mawlamyinegyun Township

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 15 Jan — An upgrading ceremony of Basic Education Primary School (branch) of Thayatkonkyundate village was held at the recently-upgraded primary school in the village in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 12 January.

Deputy Head of Mawlamyinegyun Township General Administration Department U Hsan Linn Oo, Assistant Education Officer U Bo Gi and Village Administrator U Kyaw Htwe formally opened the signboard of the primary school.

Next, School Head Daw Aye Aye San and a local called for collaborative efforts for all-round development of the school.

Kyemon

Mawlamyine-Yangon express down-train derails near Bago railway station

MAWLAMYINE, 15 Jan — A rail accident happened to the No. (36) express down-train bound to Yangon from Mawlamyine near Bago railway station at about 4 am on 12 January.

The train left the track and plunged down the embankment while it reached a creek crossing bridge near the railway station. Thanks to officials concerned of the station, the train resumed its service and left for Yangon at about 3 pm on that day. The derailment left no injury and property damage, it is learnt.

Kyemon

Old woman crossing over the road knocked down by a motorbike

PYAY, 15 Jan — An old woman was knocked down by a motorbike on Bayintnaung Street in Khittaya Myothit ward of Pyay of Bago Region at about 7.30 am on 6 January and she was pronounced dead at the hospital due to serious injures.

The motorbike driven by Zwe San of Kyarnikan ward in Shwedaung together with Zeyar Htet of Sanpya ward in Shwedaung knocked down Daw Hla Yin (85 years) of Khittaya Myothit ward while the latter was crossing over the street.

The road accident left the victim seriously injured and hurt motorcyclist and his companion with minor injuries. They were taken to the hospital and the 85-year-old woman died there.—*Kyemon*

One million cubic feet natural gas for passenger buses in Yangon

YANGON, 15 Jan — According to Chairman of All-Bus Line Control Committee U Hla Aung, passenger buses which are going to run bus routes in Yangon will be provided with one million cubic feet of natural gas.

It is the plan of Yangon Region Government that will cover all passenger buses waiting for supply of natural gas. City buses will be allowed to use natural gas, but taxies excluded.

Kyemon

Unhealthy foodstuffs incinerated in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 15 Jan — A ceremony to destroy 3148 packets of 14 kinds of confectionery inappropriate for the people to eat was held at a compound near the Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Office in Ward-6 of Kyaukme on 12 January.

The unhealthy foodstuffs illegally imported from the neighbouring country were seized recently in the urban wards of Kyaukme and Naungpein village. They were incinerated by Head of Kyaukme Township Fire Services Department U Ko Ko Gyi and firemen at the ceremony.

It was also attended by Kyaukme Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing, Head of Kyaukme Township Police Force Police Captain Tin Htay, Kyaukme Township Executive Office U Thaung Htaik and departmental personnel.

Kyemon

Pazundaung Yegyaw market to be upgraded soon

YANGON, 15 Jan — Aung Myin Pyae Son Company will take the responsibility for upgrading of Yegyaw Market of Markets Department under Yangon City Development Committee in Pazundaung Township, here, and the company will start construction work soon.

The newly-upgraded market will be an eight-storey building. Shop-keepers of the old market will be relocated on the ground floor. The first floor will include a supermarket, training centers and a parking lot with the capacity of 50 vehicles. Fifty apartments and a gymnasium will be included on the remaining floors. Two lifts will be installed at the building. It is set to complete the construction works within a period of 14 months. While the market is under construction, it is planned to build a temporary market at a suitable site for the convenience of shop-keepers to run their businesses. Coordination between responsible persons and shop-keepers and ward dwellers is being made to choose the site for construction of the temporary market. Managing Director U Aung Min of the company said the construction of the new market would be carried out in accord with the city characteristics.

Kyemon

Six security personnel killed in clash in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 15 Jan—At least six Pakistani security personnel were killed and 16 others injured during an armed clash with militants on Tuesday morning in the country's northwestern region of Khyber Agency, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channels, quoting official sources, reported that the clash was triggered when security forces started a search operation in the Bara Tehsil area of the Khyber Agency, one of the seven restive tribal regions of Pakistan.

The militants hiding in the area attacked security personnel and killed six of them, leaving 16 others injured including local people.

After the attack, the forces retaliated with full strength.

There were no reports about the number of casualties on the militants'side.

On 4 January, at least 15 terrorists were shot dead and several others injured in an operation by security forces in Tirah Valley of the same region.—*Xinhua*

West African army chiefs to approve Mali troops plan

BAMAKO, 15 Jan—West African defence chiefs will on Tuesday approve plans to speed up the deployment of African troops against Islamist rebels in northern Mali, with some regional soldiers seen arriving next week.

France has already poured hundreds of troops into Mali and carried out days of air strikes in a vast desert area seized last year by an Islamist alliance that combines al-Qaeda's north African wing AQIM with Mali's home-grown MUJWA and Ansar Dine rebel groups.

Western and regional powers are concerned the insurgents will use Mali's north as a launchpad for international attacks.

"On 15 January, the committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff will meet in Bamako to approve the contingency plan," the mission head of the ECOWAS grouping of West African states, Aboudou Toure Cheaka, told *Reuters*.

"I can tell you that in one week, the troops will effectively be on the ground," he said, adding their immediate mission would be to help stop the rebel advance while preparations for a full intervention plan continued.

He did not say how many soldiers would arrive.

The original timetable for the 3,300-strong UN-sanctioned African force—backed by western logistics, money and intelligence services—did not initially foresee full deployment before September due to logistical constraints.

Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Guinea have all offered troops. But regional powerhouse Nigeria, which is due to lead the mission, has cautioned that even if some troops arrive in Mali soon, training will take more time.

French soldiers walk past a hangar they are staying at the Malian army air base in Bamako on 14 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

The plan is being fast-tracked after France rushed to respond to a plea for help by Mali's government after mobile columns of Islamist fighters last week threatened the central garrison towns of Mopti and Sevare, with its key airport.

The French defence ministry said on Monday it aimed to deploy some 2,500 soldiers to Mali to bolster the Malian army and the eventual West African force.—*Reuters*

Two eastern states join call for tighter gun control

ANNAPOLIS, 15 Jan—Maryland and Delaware have joined the push for a ban in the United States on assault weapons and some types of ammunition magazines after last month's Connecticut school massacre.

Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden joined leaders of the mid-Atlantic state on Monday in announcing new gun measures while his father, Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, was preparing national gun control proposals.

The announcements from the two states exposed a widening divide over gun control between states with Democratic majorities and large urban areas, particularly along the east coast, and more rural states, many of which are represented by Republicans.

"Military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips designed for battle have no place on our streets," said Beau Biden, echoing comments made by his father since a gunman killed 20 children and six adults in a school in Newtown, Connecticut on 14 December.

The Delaware proposals are due to be introduced in the legislature in the next two weeks.

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who is often discussed as a possible 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, said on Monday that he would propose later this week a tighter ban on assault weapons and on certain types of ammunition magazines.

"Perhaps there is no way to completely prevent the next Newtown tragedy," he said. "But then again, perhaps there is."

Reuters

Cuba's new immigration law comes into effect

HAVANA, 15 Jan—Cuba's much-anticipated new immigration law, which eases restrictions on leaving and entering the Caribbean island, went into effect on Monday.

The new law has, for the first time in 50 years, removed the requirements for an exit visa and a letter of invitation to travel abroad, making it one of the most popular reforms enacted so far.

The law also extends the time Cubans can stay abroad, from 11 to 24 months, and the time Cubans residing abroad can stay in Cuba, from 30 to 90 days.

The "upgrade in immigration policy" brings Cuba closer to its goal of facilitating "legal, orderly and safe" travel and of "strengthening its relationship with its emigres," the official newspaper *Granma* said.

What the Cubans need now for traveling abroad is a valid passport and a visa from the destination country.

"Anyone who has the ability to travel can do it now because there are no limitations as long as you have a passport and a visa," said Mireya Moran, a Cuba citizen.

Scrapping the exit visa and letter of invitation also lifts financial burdens for many Cubans, since the first costs 150 Cuban convertible pesos (170 US dollars) and the latter, 120 convertible pesos (150 dollars).—*Xinhua*

Train carrying army recruits derails in Egypt, 19 killed

CAIRO, 15 Jan—A military train carrying young recruits to an army camp derailed in a Cairo suburb on Tuesday, killing 19 people and injuring 107, Egypt's Health Ministry spokesman said. The train was travelling from Upper Egypt to Cairo when it derailed in the Giza neighbourhood of Badrashin, a security source said, adding that the train was a military vehicle carrying conscripted youth on their way to an army camp.

The injured passengers were taken to hospitals, Ahmed Omar, the health ministry spokesman, told the state news agency *MENA*.

There was no further information available about the identities of the 17 dead except the names of the hospitals to which their corpses were sent, published on *MENA*. "The Egyptian Ambulance Authority has sent 66 ambulance cars to the site of the accident to move the bodies of the injured and the corpses of the victims to hospitals," Omar told *MENA*.

Egypt's roads and railways have a poor safety record, and Egyptians have long complained that successive governments have failed to enforce even basic safeguards, leading to a string of deadly crashes.

Reuters

People stand around the wreckage of a military train crash in the Giza neighbourhood of Badrashin, about 40 km (25 miles) west of Cairo on 15 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Volunteers from other villages wash dishes in the makeshift tents in Zhenxiong County of Zhaotong City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 14 Jan, 2013. Forty-six people died and two others injured in a landslide which hit the Zhaojiagou area of Gaopo Village around 8:20 am on 11 January. More than 500 villagers have been moved to makeshift tents near the village.—XINHUA

Kenya's polls chief says ready for presidential run-off

NAIROBI, 15 Jan—Kenya's electoral body said on Monday that it has finalized preparations in case of a presidential run-off in 4 March national polls.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Chairman Isaack Hassan told journalists in Nairobi that through a subsidiary legislation, the legal framework has been established.

"Both financial and logistical arrangements are in place in case the first round of presidential elections does not produce a clear winner," Hassan said during an international conference to discuss Kenya's preparedness on the upcoming general elections.

The two-day conference brought together over 100 electoral stakeholders to deliberate and debate through the topical questions of a presidential run-off and dispute resolution.

Hassan's remark came in the wake of recent opinion polls indicating that none of the presidential aspirants has a clear absolute majority. According to the electoral law, if no presidential candidate garners more than 50 percent plus one vote and 25 percent of the vote in at least 24 counties and there is not dispute, the second round should be held within 30 days of the declaration of the results.

Hassan added Kenya will borrow lessons from other African countries that have held successful presidential run-offs. IEBC said that the Treasury has already allocated funds and that the parliament has approved it in a supplementary budget.

He added that in case of a second round, the same electoral officers and security who are employed and trained during the first round will be redeployed due to the anticipated time constraints.

"We are ready for a presidential run-off since we have realized that this will be hotly contested elections," Hassan said.—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ghost nets threaten sea turtles in Australia: CSIRO

CANBERRA, 15 Jan—Ghost nets, the fishing nets that have been left or lost in the ocean by fishermen, are threatening the wildlife in the sea of Australia, especially for sea turtles, scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) said in a statement on Monday. According to the figures in the statement, around 640,000 tonnes of fishing gear is lost or discarded each year.

These ghost nets, originating mainly from fisheries in Asia and Australia, are a particular problem in Australia's Gulf of Carpentaria, where they can reach densities of up to three tonnes/km, among the highest recorded worldwide. It is also a global problem, capturing seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles worldwide. Lost or abandoned fishing gear makes up only 20 percent of marine debris but has a disproportionate effect because it is designed to capture wildlife.

Australia is home to six of the world's seven threatened species of marine turtle.—*Xinhua*

Google releases Chrome Beta channel for Android 4.0 and above

MUMBAI, 15 Jan—Google has introduced the Chrome Beta channel for smartphones and tablets running Android 4.0 and above. The company's latest Beta channel for phones and tablets now joins their existing Beta versions of Chrome for Mac, Windows, Linux and Chrome OS.

Version 25.0.1364.8 of Chrome Beta, which is now available in the Google Play Store will allow users to access and try out new features of the browser before they're rolled out as stable.

Users must keep in mind that since the browser is in the beta phase, they are liable to come across bumps and encounter various bugs. As a user you can, however, provide feedback regarding issues.

Users can install the Beta alongside their current version of Chrome for Android. Google promises to push timely updates so that users can test out their latest work as soon as it's ready.

Google says Chrome for Android beta now has all the same optimisation and speed that its desktop browsers have, including improvements to the Octane performance benchmark. The changes are expected to bring an improvement of about 25-30%. The update also includes HTML5 features for developers like CSS Filters.—*PTI*

HTC seeks Myanmar edge with local font phones

YANGON, 15 Jan—Peter Chou, CEO of Taiwan smartphone company HTC Corp, launched on Monday what he hopes will be a major boost to both a backward tech sector in Myanmar, his country of birth, and to his company's share of one of the few untapped mobile markets: a phone that locals can use out of the box.

Until now, Chou says, Myanmarsar users of mobile phones and computers must install fonts in their own language, a process that is cumbersome, often invalidates the device's warranty and has, he says, slowed innovation and the embrace of technology.

HTC has instead teamed up with a local distributor and a software developer to customize

Peter Chou holds one of his devices sporting a new Myanmar font ahead of Monday's launch of the product in Yangon on 13 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

Google's Android operating system so its devices display local fonts and sport a dedicated and, Chou says, intuitive, Myanmar language onscreen keyboard.

"You don't have to spend two months to learn how to type it," Chou said in an interview ahead of the launch. "You just type it. We want to give people here a computing device they don't have to learn. They just try it, they just use it, they just get it."

Myanmar IT experts say that while the country's alphabet is no more complex than some other Asian scripts, a failure to agree how to apply an international standard for language symbols called Unicode to existing versions of the computer font has made it difficult to bake the language into software.

The issue of fonts may seem a basic one, but reflects the challenges Myanmar faces in catching up with its neighbours.

Myanmar has one of the lowest mobile penetration rates in the world, with only 3 percent of the population owning a phone in 2011, according to the World Bank.

Reuters

New headphones for deep, refreshing sleep

NEW DELHI, 15 Jan—A headband with built-in earphones could lull you to deep sleep, without even waking a partner sleeping by your side.

Existing versions are wired with a phone, but a wireless version, slated to go on sale in April, has just won a prestigious award at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

"Being able to sleep soundly is crucial to feeling well overall, and SleepPhones help by playing relaxing audio, drowning out noise, and establishing a positive bedtime routine," says Wei-Shin Lai, one of the inventors of the headphones.

The firm began selling the product in 2007, when Lai was working as a doctor.

"In 2007, I had trouble falling back to sleep after patient phone calls late at night as a family doctor. My husband suggested that I listen to something to take my mind off of patient concerns," says Lai, the *Daily Mail* reports.

"Since I didn't want to disturb my husband while he slept, I needed headphones or ear buds I could wear in bed. But there was nothing comfortable in the market so I came up with stuffing speakers inside a headband," adds Lai.—*PTI*

Apple cuts LCD panel orders for iPhone 5 on weak demand

NEW YORK, 15 Jan—Apple Inc has almost halved its order with suppliers of LCD panels for the iPhone 5 in the current quarter due to weak demand, *the Nikkei* reported on Monday.

Apple has asked suppliers Japan Display Inc, Sharp Corp and South Korean company LG Display Co Ltd, to cut supply, down from an initial plan to order about 65 million units in the quarter, the Japanese daily said.

Japan Display's plant in Nomi, Ishikawa Prefecture, where the iPhone maker has invested heavily, is expected to temporarily reduce output by 70 percent to 80 percent compared to the October to December period, *the financial daily* reported. Sharp's dedicated facility for iPhone 5 LCD panels in Mie Prefecture will lower production in January and February by about 40 percent from the October to December quarter, when it was near full capacity, the daily said.

Reuters

An Apple iPhone 5 phone is displayed in the Apple Store on 5th Avenue in New York, on 21 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

Meet Cookoo, Pebble competitor smart watch with a long battery life

MUMBAI, 15 Jan—"Smart" watches that talk to cellphones have been around for some time, but they've been hampered by their high battery drain — usually needing recharging every few days. At this week's International CES electronics trade show in Las Vegas, a startup launched a smart watch, the Cookoo, that runs for a year on a standard button cell.

What it is

The Cookoo is a somewhat beefy watch, most suited for the male wrist. It has analog hands to show the time, but the watch face can also display several digital indicators, prompted by Bluetooth signals from your smartphone. Aided by beeps and a vibration motor, it can tell you that someone is calling or that you missed a call. It can also alert you about new email or an appointment. The watch can

also talk back to the phone, so you can use it as a remote release for the camera.

How it works

A free app on your iPhone prompts it to send signals via the Bluetooth wireless technology to the watch. The reason the Cookoo can run for a year on a button cell is that it uses a new, low-energy flavor of Bluetooth, known as 4.0.

The caveats

Only a few devices have the chips necessary for low-energy Bluetooth connections. The app is for Apple devices only, so the watch is limited to talking to the iPhone 4S, the iPhone 5, the full-size iPad models released last year, the iPad Mini and the latest iPod Touch. Early reviewers on iTunes complain of the watch dropping the connection to the phone and running down the phone battery — problems that might be fixed with a software update.

Price and availability

ConnecteDevice Ltd., which makes the Cookoo, sells it on its website for $130. AT&T's flagship store, in Chicago, is also carrying it for the same price.

The competition

CES also saw the launch of the Pebble, a programmable smart watch with a fully digital display. Users can send different "watch faces" to it and make it perform a wider range of tricks than the Cookoo can, but it needs to be recharged every week.

PTI

Pedestrian safety programme prevents student injuries

NEW YORK, 15 Jan— Fewer kids were injured during early morning and after school hours once new traffic lights, pedestrian signals and speed bumps were put around New York City schools, according to a new study. Those fixtures were added through the Safe Routes to School programme, which received over $600 million from the US Congress in 2005 to improve kids' ability to walk and bike to schools across the country.

"Pedestrian injuries for children, while the numbers have gotten better over the past decade or so, they're still pretty dismal," said Charles DiMaggio, who worked on the new study at Columbia University in New York.

As a result of Safe Routes to School, the city's Department of Transportation undertook safety improvements at the 124 New York City schools (out of a total of 1,471) with the highest injury rates in the city. For the new study, DiMaggio and his colleague Guohua Li tracked injury rates around 30 schools that had finished safety projects by early 2009.

Between 2001 and 2010, they saw a 44-percent drop in the number of school-aged pedestrians who were injured in the hours just before or just after the school day from 8 injuries per 10,000 kids each year to 4.4 per 10,000.

In comparison, there was no drop in injury rates in areas without pedestrian safety projects they held steady over the decade at 3.1 annual injuries per 10,000 students. The researchers noted in the journal *Pediatrics* that if the programme was expanded, it could prevent 210 pedestrian injuries per year among New York City students. The deputy director of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership said the same infrastructure changes can positively affect kids' general health, as well. "We're reducing injuries to kids and when you reduce injuries, parents get more comfortable with their kids walking and biking," said Margo Pedroso, who wasn't involved in the new research.

Physically active kids are healthier, she told *Reuters Health*, and "one of the easiest ways to do that is to build it into a kid's daily life. Taking that trip to school by foot or on a bike instead of the back of the car, we really urge parents to do it."—*Reuters*

US stake sale of GM to revive image

General Motors Corp President of North America Mark Reuss introduces the Chevrolet 2014 Corvette vehicle during a Press event in an old industrial centre in advance of Press preview days of the North American International Auto show in Detroit, Michigan on 13 Jan, 2013.— REUTERS

DETROIT, 15 Jan—The sale of the US Treasury's stake in General Motors and a possible credit rating upgrade of the US automaker in 2013 will help distance the company from the stigma of its 2009 bankruptcy restructuring.

"We lose the stigma of 'Government Motors'," GM Treasurer James Davlin said on Sunday during a speech at a conference of automotive analysts. "People will be more focused on the things that they should, which is our underlying operations."

The US Treasury outlined plans last month to sell its GM stake over the next 12 to 15 months. Last week, Chief Executive Dan Akerson said he expects GM to earn an investment-grade credit rating in 2013.

GM is already "trending toward investment grade," Davlin said. He pointed to GM's eleven-quarter streak of profits, its large financial cushion and its strong position in the world's two largest automotive markets, the United States and China.

"We want to ensure we have the liquidity to make it through the cyclicality of the industry," Davlin said, speaking to reporters and analysts a day before the Detroit auto show.

Until recently, uncertainty over when and how the US Treasury would sell its 26-percent stake hurt GM's overall market value, Davlin said. But GM shares have risen nearly 20 percent since the US government announced its exit strategy.

Reuters

Financial experts focus on Asia growth at forum in HK

HONG KONG, 15 Jan— The sixth Asian Financial Forum (AFF) kicked off here on Monday, attracting some 2,000 business and government leaders from around the world, spotlighting Asia's fast-expanding role in the global economy.

Under the theme "Asia: Shaping the Next Global Landscape", the two-day forum tackles several key issues on China's opportunities, such as China's agenda for reforming its financial system, trends and opportunities in the global use of renminbi and the China- ASEAN business partnership.

The forum also discusses the future of the eurozone, global investment opportunities and challenges and risks in the world's food and agriculture sector.

Chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region C Y Leung said despite the global financial crisis, Asia has achieved stable employment conditions, maintained prudent fiscal policies and continued to focus on fostering economic development. Leung said Asia is no longer simply a "factory of the world", but a facilitator of inclusive

Asian Financial Forum is held in Hong Kong, south China, on 14 Jan 2013. —XINHUA

growth and prosperity on the back of rising consumption and wealth creation. He said Asia's growing middle class, including those on the Chinese mainland, is helping to support domestic demand which is essential for sustainable growth.

He said the forum is an important platform, not only for nations in this region, but also for countries around the world to get more involved in the growth of Asia, and Hong Kong will continue to invest heavily in fostering human capital and infrastructure development to raise its competitiveness and promote high value-added and knowledge-based activities. "I am confident that Hong Kong will continue to play an important role in the Asian Century."— *Xinhua*

Tata's JLR to add 800 new UK jobs on China demand

LONDON, 15 Jan — Jaguar Land Rover plans to create 800 new jobs at its Solihull factory in central England as demand for its premium cars rockets in China and elsewhere.

For the first time, demand from China outstripped that of British carmaker JLR's home market, with sales in China in 2012 rising more than 70 percent to 71,940 cars.

JLR, owned by Tata Motors, said on Sunday that total global sales rose 30 percent to over 350,000 vehicles.

JLR said earlier this month that its outlook for 2013 was positive after UK vehicle sales rose almost 20 percent in 2012.

Its next biggest markets are the US, Russia and Germany. The expansion at the Solihull plant would support the introduction of new models in 2013, the company said.

Last week, Japanese carmaker Honda cut around 800 jobs at its plant near Swindon due to falling demand for its vehicles across mainland Europe.

Reuters

Inflation slows to three-year low in December

NEW DELHI, 15 Jan— India's headline inflation slowed down to its lowest level in three years, hardening expectations for an interest rate cut by the RBI later this month to boost an economy that is set to post its slowest growth in a decade.

The wholesale price index (WPI), India's main inflation indicator, rose an annual 7.18 percent in December, the slowest since December 2009 and lower than 7.4 percent rise estimated by analysts. Wholesale prices rose 7.24 percent in November.

The slowdown in the headline number was led by a moderation in the prices of fuel and manufactured goods. The annual reading for October was revised down to 7.32 percent from 7.45 percent, the government said in a release on Monday.

"Based on this data, we expect the RBI (Reserve bank of India) to cut rates by 25 basis points," said A Prasanna, economist at ICICI Securities, Primary Dealership, in Mumbai.

The RBI's next policy review is on 29 January when it is widely expected to cut the policy repo rate, which has remained unchanged at 8.0 percent since April 2011, by at least 25 basis points.

In an anticipation of an interest rate cut, financial markets rallied after the data. India's 10-year bond yield fell to its lowest in 29 months, while the rupee strengthened against the dollar. The rupee strengthened to as much as 54.61 per dollar from around 54.70 and was trading at 54.63/64. The 1-year overnight index swap rate fell around 2 bps to 7.51 percent, while the 5-year swap rate fell around 2 bps to 7.17 percent, according to traders.

A labourer carries a packed basket of vegetables as a vendor waits for customers at his vegetables stall at a market in Kolkata on 14 May 2012.— REUTERS

Economic growth that once looked poised to hit double-digits has been stuck below 6 percent for the past three quarters, hurt by a combination of weak investments and consumer demand. The slowdown has constrained job opportunities for a bulging young population, a worry for the Congress-led ruling alliance as it prepares for a series of state elections and a general election due in 2014. It has also buffeted government revenues, swollen the fiscal deficit and put the country's investment-grade sovereign credit rating on the line.

This has bolstered calls for a cut in interest rates that are among the highest of the major economies. The RBI has, thus far, refused to budge on the interest rates citing high inflation. But, in December, it signalled a possible reduction in the rates in the January-March quarter.

Reuters

WORLD

Senate Republican leader wants 10,000 troops in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on Monday he thinks that 10,000 US troops should remain in Afghanistan after 2014, when President Barack Obama wants to withdraw most combat troops.

McConnell has just finished a visit to Afghanistan with a small group of his fellow Republican senators, his seventh trip there in the past decade.

"I think we're going to need a minimum of about 10,000 troops here to provide adequate training and counterterrorism in the post-2014 period. And we anticipate there'll be forces from other countries who will remain here beyond 2014 as well," McConnell told reporters on a conference call during a stop in Italy after leaving Afghanistan. McConnell said he met with military officials including General John Allen, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, during his trip and that the officials felt the Afghans would be able to handle their own security after 2014 if there was a "residual" force that could be involved in training and counterterrorism.

*Afghan President Hamid Karzai (L) meets with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) (R) at the US Capitol in Washington on 9 Jan, 2013.—*REUTERS

"This is the first time I've come back from Afghanistan with a feeling of genuine optimism," McConnell said.

Obama and visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed on Friday to speed up the handover of combat operations in Afghanistan to Afghan forces, raising the prospect of an accelerated US withdrawal from the country and underscoring Obama's determination to wind down a long, unpopular war.

The Obama administration has been considering a residual force of between 3,000 and 9,000 troops—far fewer than some US commanders propose. Republicans had cautioned the administration against allowing anything other than conditions on the ground and security concerns to dictate the pace of the US withdrawal.—*Reuters*

Clinton to testify on Benghazi attack on 23 January

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—After a month's delay for health reasons, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will testify before a congressional committee on 23 January to answer questions about the deadly attack on the US diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya.

Clinton was originally due to appear before the committee on 20 December but had to cancel after she suffered a concussion when she fainted due to dehydration. Doctors later found she had a blood clot in her head and hospitalized her for several days.

Lawmakers want to question Clinton about the attack that killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans on 11 September last year, and ask about the adequacy of security in foreign posts.

"It is important to learn all we can about what happened in Benghazi because at the end of the day, it could happen again. After all, al-Qaeda plans attacks over and over again," Royce said in a statement.

The attack in Benghazi, the first to kill a US ambassador in the line of duty since 1979, resulted in sharp criticism of the State Department.

An independent inquiry last month found widespread failures in both security planning and internal management in the department. The State Department's top security officer resigned from his post and three other employees were relieved of their duties.

The controversy also cost Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the United Nations, her chance to succeed Clinton as Secretary of State.

*US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.—*REUTERS

Republican Representative Ed Royce, chair of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said he wants Clinton to explain why the attack was not better anticipated and what failures or deficiencies need to be corrected to properly protect US diplomats and diplomatic facilities.

Republicans in Congress harshly criticized Rice for her comments on several television talk shows in which she said the attack on the US compound in Benghazi appeared to be the result of a spontaneous demonstration rather than a planned assault.

Reuters

UN: Syria crisis should be sent to Intl Court

TOKYO, 15 Jan—A group of more than 50 countries, including Japan and France, has called on the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

The court handles war crimes and genocide.

Switzerland sent the letter on the other countries behalf to Pakistani Ambassador to the UN, Masood Khan on Monday. Pakistan currently chairs the Security Council.

It cites a UN panel that documented summary executions, torture and sexual violence committed by the government of President Bashar al-Assad since the start of the anti-government uprising in March 2011.

It urges the Security Council to refer the situation to the court so that it can launch an investigation.

Syria has not ratified the convention that established the International Criminal Court, so the council is the only body that can refer Syria to the tribunal. But such a referral seems unlikely.

Russia and China oppose sending the case to the court. The 2 permanent council members have close ties with President Assad's regime.The letter notes that the council should send a strong message to all the warring parties in Syria and call on them to observe international law.—*NHK*

Estimated 30,000 displaced in Mali fighting, UN says

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Jan—An estimated 30,000 people may have been displaced due to the eruption of fighting between the Mali government and the rebel group, Ansar Dine, in central and northern parts of the country last week, the United Nations said here on Monday.

"It is feared that the number of people affected may be greater as it has been reported that some Islamist groups have prevented people from moving South," the deputy UN spokesman, Eduardo del Buey, said at a daily news briefing here.

Del Buey made the statement just hours before the UN Security Council met behind closed doors to discuss the situation in Mali. The UN under-Secretary-General for political affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, briefed the 15-nation Security Council.

The Security Council meeting was called by France, which on Monday called for international support for its operation to help Mali quash Islamist rebels.

Fighting erupted over the past days after the Mali government and the rebel group, Ansar Dine, failed to reach any deal in talks on a solution to the Mali crisis.

The Malian government forces have been fighting against the rebels who occupied the northern part of the country since a military coup in March 2012, when the democratically elected president was overthrown by mutinous soldiers.

In December, the Security Council authorized an African-led force to support Malian forces in recovering the north, but set no timeline for military action.

Xinhua

China, India agree to strengthen military ties

BEIJING, 15 Jan—Chinese and Indian senior military officials met in Beijing on Monday and agreed to strengthen ties.

Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, met with Indian Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma.

Xu said China and India, being the biggest developing countries in the world, are important neighbors for each other.

He noted that the two countries have extensive common interests and developing friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation is in line with the common aspiration of the two peoples as well as global development.

He said that he believes that the two countries have enough wisdom and ability to handle their relationship and are able to pave a healthy and stable development path for it.

Xu said China attaches great importance in developing military ties with India and hopes to increase mutual strategic trust, enhance friendly communication and deepen pragmatic cooperation in order to promote the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity and make a positive contribution to world and regional peace and stability.

Sharma said India attaches great importance to developing its relationship with China and he is confident in the future progress of military relations between the two countries.

Xinhua

*Xu Qiliang (R), vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, shakes hands with Indian Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma during a meeting in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Jan, 2013.—*XINHUA

Japanese Embassy in Beijing issues advisory

TOKYO, 15 Jan—The Japanese Embassy in Beijing has issued an advisory about the high levels of air pollution in the city. It urges Japanese nationals to stay indoors as much as possible, and to wear masks when going outside.

The embassy says the average level of PM2.5 airborne particles in Beijing is about 6 times higher than in Tokyo. But some monitoring stations recorded almost 50 times that figure over the weekend.

Japanese schools in Beijing say they cancel outdoor activities when pollution levels measured by the US Embassy exceed certain standards.

Japan and the United States control the level of PM2.5 particles through strict environmental regulations. The Chinese government set its own standards in February of last year after a wave of criticism both at home and abroad.

But public discontent continues to grow mainly in urban areas, as the government struggles to improve the situation.—*NHK*

LOCAL NEWS

Buildings at Sagaing University under construction

SAGAING, 15 Jan—Under the permission of the Union government, Building Construction Special Group 6 of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction has completed construction of two-storey lecture halls, practical rooms, management buildings, faculty offices and staff quarters of Sagaing Uni-versity.

At present, first year students are admitted and given lectures.

Now, more staff quarters, university walls, archway and other buildings are under construction. In addition, the 30 feet wide road linking the chancellor road and lecture halls are being built by Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Maintenance Group and the works have been completed by 80 per cent.

Moreover, plans are underway to grow flowery plants at the traffic islands and landscapes beside the pavements.

Myanma Alinn

KIA plants mine, arrests and opens fire at local people in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—A motorcycle rolled on the mine near Zarnan Bridge in Sumprabum Township at 2.30 pm on 10 January. Driver of the motorcycle U Khin Maung Hsan of Phankhaing-1 Village of Putao Township died on the spot. U Mee Kaw Khin on the back seat of the motorcycle from Namshekaw Village of Myitkyina Township was injured at his left thigh with particle of mine. He is not in critical condition of injury and is under the treatment at Sumprabum People's Hospital.

At 1.30 pm on 12 January, about 30 members of KIA entered Shangaw Village of Waingmaw Township with arms and took about 30 villagers to the northeast of the village.

Starting from 5 am on 13 January, KIA opened fire at the military column that was discharging security duty at the hill near Kahtayang Village of Phakant Township. Thus, Maung Karein Nor Naw of Kahtayang Village was injured at left thigh and right arm. At present, he is under medical treatment at Phakant Township Hospital. At 12 noon on 13 January, U Paran Tang (a) La Shein of Myothit Village in Momauk Township, while working at lemon grass farm, five miles from the village, died in the gun fire by KIA group.

His son and other farmer managed escape from the fire, according to the Kachin State government.

MNA

Cash assistance to WVO members

GANGAW, 15 Jan—A ceremony to provide cash assistance to older members of Gangaw Township War Veterans Organizations and disabled members was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 30 December morning. Chairman of the township WVO Major Paw Tin (Rtd) and officials presented cash assistance to 12 older members of above 75 years and 16 disabled members.—*Myanma Alinn*

142-down train derails on Aungpan-Kalaw section

KALAW, 15 Jan—No. 2 upper class coach of Shwenyaung-Yangon 142-down train with locomotive GF 210 driven by U Htay Win and guard U Aung Soe derailed at mile post 375/56 on Aungpan-Kalaw railroad section in Lwe-an Village-tract of Kalaw Township at 12.30 pm on 7 January.

In the incident, there was no injury of passengers.

Six workers led by Supervisor U Khaing Win Maung, Assistant Supervisor U Tun Aung and Overseer U Than Maw of Myanma Railways made vigorous efforts to repair No. 2 upper class coach to be moved on the rail tracks.

Thanks to their concerted efforts, at 4.15 pm, the repairing works were completed and the train continued its route to Yangon.

Myanma Alinn

5% tax handed over to township DAC fund

MOGAUNG, 15 Jan—A ceremony to hand over cash obtained from the tax to Development Affairs Committee was held at the hall of Mogaung Township General Adminstration Department on 6 January.

At first, Township Administrator U Tin Swe Myint made a speech. Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Kyaw Thet Naing handed over five per cent from the tax for third quarter to the fund of the township to Executive Officer U Win Naing of Township DAC.

Myanma Alinn

Police inspector refresher course commences

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—The police inspector refresher course of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force was opened at No. 1 Police Station of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force on 7 January morning, with an address by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Police Col Aung Aung. Altogether 25 SIPs from police stations in Nay Pyi Taw are attending the two-week course.

Myanma Alinn

Winners awarded in Mandalay Mayor's Mini-Marathon Championship

MANDALAY, 15 Jan—The Mandalay Mayor's Mini-marathon Championship was held on 7 January, starting from Mandalay City Development Committee office.

It was attended by Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung and region ministers. Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moung launched the race.

The athletes parti-cipated in the 13-mile race.

At Bahtoo Stadium, Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Aung Htay Kyaw, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Chief Justice of the region High Court U Soe Thein, Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moung, Region Auditor-General U Kyaw Win and officials presented prizes to the winners. Altogether 70 athletes took part in the open race and 1818 in the novice men's and women's race.

Myanma Alinn

Singaing Township observes School Family Day

SINGAING, 15 Jan—The School Family Day was observed at the schools in Singaing Township of Mandalay Region on 7 January.

The ceremonies were attended by school heads, teachers, members of the school boards of trustees and townselders, students and parents.

Officials presented prizes to out-standing teachers and students. Afterwards, students performed songs and dances to the guests.

Myanma Alinn

Over 3 million pseudo-ephedrine tablets seized in Lashio

HSIPAW, 15 Jan—Lashio Special Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State North, acting on tip-off, seized 10 bags containing 330,000 white pseudo-ephedrine tablets weighing 330 kilos, one bag of 480,000 tablets weighing 48 kilos totalling 3,780,000 tablets weighing 378 kilos worth K 75.6 million from the warehouse of feedstuff for poultry farm in Kaungtat Village of Hopeik Village-tract at 10 am on 2 January.

Lashio Police Station No. 2 opened a file of lawsuit against Khan Chin Chan (a) Myo Aung, 27, of Padamya Street in No. 5 region of Lashio who was in possession of drugs for using pseudo-ephedrine in stimulant tablets under the law.—*Myanma Alinn*

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 January, 2013

Another major political achievement

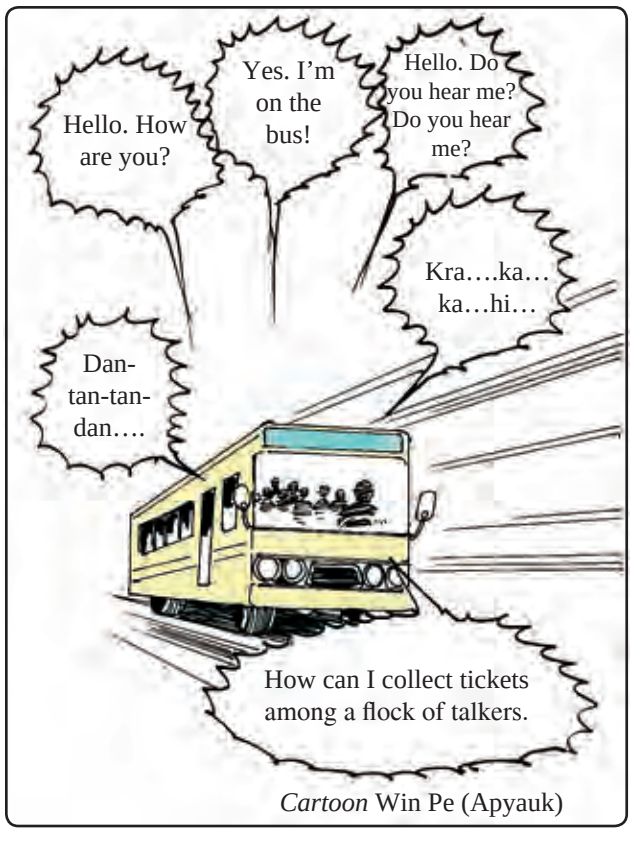
Myanmar has undergone a remarkable democratic transition over the past year that has captured the world's attention. As the new government ushered in a period of prosperity, there are many positive developments which took place in the country over 2012, including the release of prisoners of conscience, the April 1 by-elections and the signing of ceasefires with several ethnic armed groups.

Meanwhile, most of economic sanctions that had been a severe impediment to economic growth have also been lifted. In the light of these achievements, the country will continue to show ongoing commitment to strengthening democracy, transparency, economic reform and the rule of law in 2013 and beyond. But such achievements do not mean making people's democracy more extensive, fuller in scope and sounder in practice.

The government has signed a ceasefire agreement with KNU, in what appeared to be a major breakthrough in efforts to end a 63-year insurgency. This was a bolt from the blue in the time of the new administration. Hostilities ended with the successful conclusion of the peace agreement. Progress in the peace process is another major political achievement.

The President said the government is determined to proceed with ceasefire agreements to enter into political dialogues and is currently working on the formulation of a framework for it. With able stewardship of the President we have many reasons to celebrate as we look ahead to the future with great optimism and anticipation.

Building trust is difficult. Rebuilding trust is even harder when mistrust and anxieties are deeply entrenched. Even though we have to enter the lion's den to end the fight with KIA, we will cooperate with anyone when we believe their ideas are beneficial to Kachin State, as well as the Union as a whole. And there will be room for everyone and leadership opportunity for anyone who demonstrate caliber.



Cartoon Win Pe (Apyauk)

NATIONAL

Shwe Than Lwin Media donates fire engines

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and officials with Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd pose for a documentary photo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—A ceremony to donate four fire engines to Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs by Sky Net TV channel of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd, was held at Fire Services Department, here, this morning, with an address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was also attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi, deputy ministers, departmental heads, donor families and guests.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that the donation had materialized thanks to his visit to Shan State (North) previous year. More than 1200 outbreaks of fire occurred across the country last year, causing a loss of over K 10.7 billion. The aim of Fire Brigade was to carry out fire preventive measures and rescue and social works in case of natural disasters. Fire stations were being supplied with fire engines through five means. He expressed special thank to the donor and called for maintenance of fire engines.

After that, Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd U Kyaw Win explained the purpose of donation and handed over the documents related to the fire engines through Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko. Next, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyu spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, the Vice-President posed for a documentary photo along with those present. And he inspected fire engines and enjoyed demonstration of fire engines' capacity.

The Japan-made fire engines will be allocated to Kyaukme, Tanyant and Nagmon village-tract of Lashio township one each and Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Yangon Region. Fire outbreaks account for seventy percent of disasters that occurred in the country. There are average fire outbreaks of 884.5 times per annum, which have caused a loss of K 5090 million.—*MNA*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives ICRC President

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by President of International Committee of the Red Cross Mr Peter Maurer at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall here this evening.

Also present at the call were Chairs of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Dr Khin Shwe, Col Maung Maung Htoo, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, Daw Khin Waing Kyi, U Win Naung and officials of Hluttaw office.

Humanitarian affairs, providing aids in accord with international laws, and cooperation for stability and peace in Rakhine and Kachin States were discussed at the meeting.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint welcomes President of ICRC Mr Peter Maurer at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall.—MNA

Union Health Minister holds talks with health care organizations in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — In his address at the coordination meeting between the Ministry of Health and social organizations which are providing health care services to locals in Rakhine State held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, yesterday, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin called for collaborative efforts to draw a plan for regular and special health care services to the victims of natural disasters and recent conflicts that make up the 20 per cent of the total population of Rakhine State.

The coordination meeting was held to get the information on progress of current health care services and to fulfill the needs, he added.

Next, officials concerned reported to the Union minister on health care services, disaster response and disease control tasks which are ongoing in Rakhine State.

Then those from UN agencies and local and foreign social organizations explained progress in health care services. —*MNA*

NATIONAL

Myanmar's culture to be learnt through traditional arts at Shwedagon replica in Luoyang, China

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called for showing Myanmar's culture based on Buddhism and its traditional arts to the world through artistic works which are to be put to a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda at Luoyang, Henan Province, in China.

In his address at the coordination meeting on construction of a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda at Ministry of Religious Affairs here today, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stressed the need for building the pagoda meeting international standards so that it can have strength and durability and can withstand the elements.

The meeting was also participated by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Chairman of leading committee for building the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, Vice-Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Chairman of the working committee Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay and chairmen of the respective sub-committees.

As Chinese Buddhist monks requested the President during his visit to China in May last year to build a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda in China, arrangements were made to build the pagoda in Luoyang and the construction started in April, 2012.

The building would be completed in two years and it would be 108 ft in height.

The pagoda is being built with the donations collected during last three days of the 48-day tour of a sacred tooth relic of Buddha for public obeisance in Myanmar last year.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers a speech at coordination meeting on construction of a replica of Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Diamond orb, umbrella and other religious objects which would be fixed atop the replication of Shwedagon Pagoda and teak, jade, bronze Buddha images, great bronze bell have been completed by Myanmar artistes.

Relics and religious objects which would be showcased in the cave of the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda in China would be displayed at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw for public obeisance before they are conveyed to China.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives ICRC President and party

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives a delegation led by President Mr. Peter Maurer of International Committee of the Red Cross.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by President Mr. Peter Maurer of International Committee of the Red Cross at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Building here this morning.

Present at the meeting together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo, U T Khun Myat, Secretary Dr Nay Lin and Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Hluttaw office.

At the meeting, ICRC side stressed the importance of parliaments to practice democracy and expressed their wish to cooperate in legislation and respective sectors. They also disclosed to promote Myanmar-ICRC cooperation.

MNA

C-in-C visits 2nd People's Defence Force, AFTC

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Myanmar's Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited 2nd People's Defence Force of Singapore yesterday evening.

Major General Ravinder Singh, the Singapore Army Chief, extended a warm welcome to the delegation.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing signed the visitors' book and heard presentations of officials on the 2nd People's Defence Force.

The delegation then viewed military capabilities. Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Singapore Army chief exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.

On arrival at Air Force Technical College, Singapore Air Force Chief Major General Ng Chee Meng and officials welcomed the delegation. After signing the visitors' book, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services heard presentations on the college.

They also viewed Virtual Hanger Trainer Room and Radar and Tower Simulator Room. Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Singapore Air Force Chief exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.

Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces Lieutenant General Neo Kian Hong hosted a dinner to the delegation at Shangrila Hotel in the evening.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits 2nd Defence Force of Singapore.

MNA

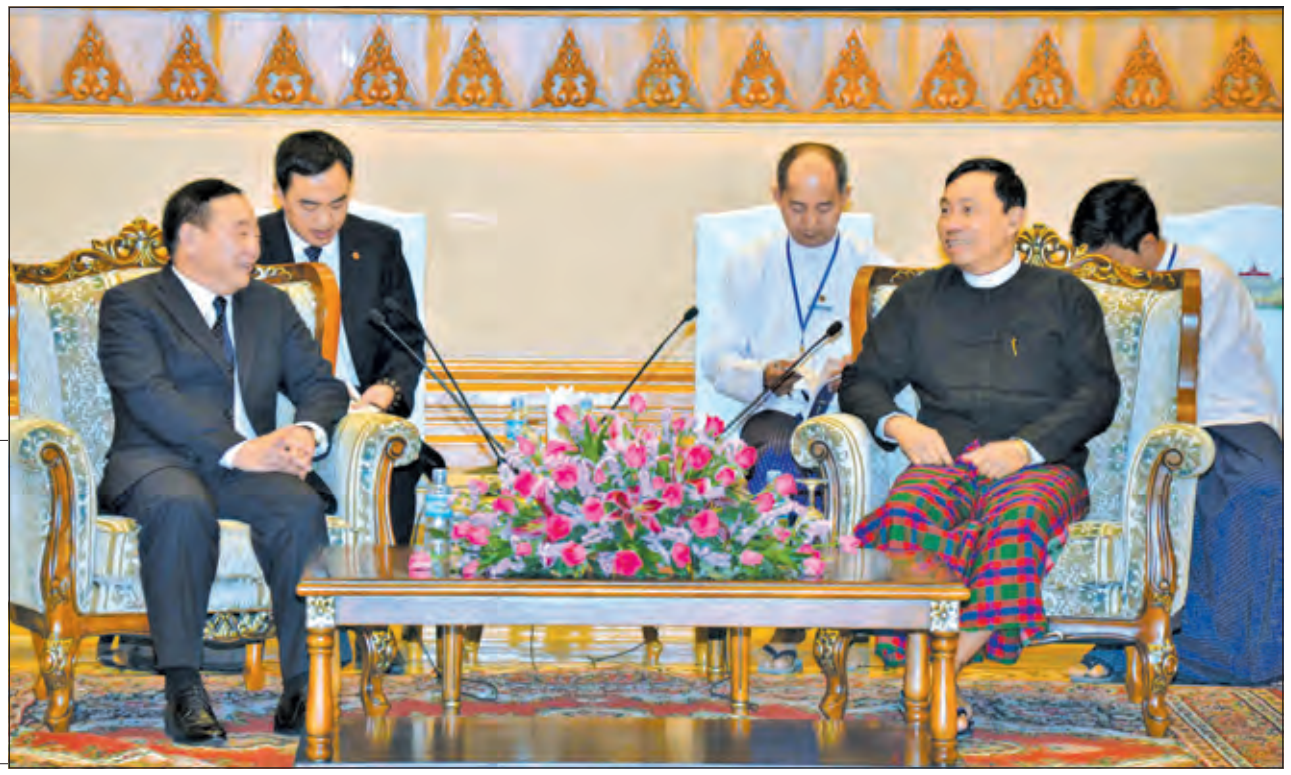
NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese Vice-Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China and party at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex, here, this evening.

Also present together with the Speaker were Hluttaw committee chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, U Maung Oo, U Soe Naing, U Hla Myint Oo and U Htay Myint and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The visiting Chinese Vice-Minister and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and senior officials.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds discussion with Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr. Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China.

MNA

Union FM receives Special Advisor to UNSG

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— Mr. Vijay Nambia, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at 11am today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed developments in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the future cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

MNA

***Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Mr. Vijay Nambia, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General exchange gifts.—*MNA**

Paper-reading session on cooperative network and role of banks held

YANGON, 15 Jan— Agricultural development must be given priority in pursuing rural development and poverty alleviation, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan said at the paper-reading session on cooperative network and the role of banks in Cooperative Economic Centre here yesterday morning.

The Union Minister said assistance would be provided to families who owned less land to help them earn secondary income. He said loans would be disbursed constantly to rural population.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the papers at the session would contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation efforts.

Chairman of National Economic Public Corporation U Khin Maung Aye made discussions and resource personnel read out papers.

MNA

Union Cooperatives Minister U Kyaw Hsan speaking at paper-reading session on cooperative network and the role of banks.

MNA

US authors give lecture on literature

YANGON, 15 Jan— Award-winning poets and writers from the United States of America gave lecture on literature to faculty members and students at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages here today. Divided into four groups, the delegation led by Mr Christopher Merrill from University of Iowa and Director of International Writing Programme, gave talks on poetry, fiction, non-fiction and teaching English through literature.

MNA

Rail sections partially damaged by KIA mines

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Two mines went off simultaneously on the bridge No. 436 at Milepost No. 589 between Naba and Indaw Railway Stations on Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad section and the bridge No. 1 BK on Naba-Katha railroad section yesterday night.

The blasts partially destroyed the floor of Pier No.2 of Bridge No. 436 and 15 sleepers and Pier No.2 of the bridge No. 1 BK and 60 sleepers but there were no causalities. The damaged parts were already repaired this afternoon. As a result, the operation of Mandalay-Myitkyina has come to normalcy.

KIO/KIA has been blowing up the railroads. The latest blast has added the number to 59—56 on Myitkyina-Mandalay section, two on Mandalay-Lashio and one on Naba-Katha section.—*MNA*

17th ACCSM Chairmanship Training Course opened

YANGON, 15 Jan—The Training Course on 17th ACCSM Chairmanship in Myanmar 2013 organized by the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) in collaboration with Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs-DVIFA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand was opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning.

The Acting Rector delivered an opening address and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Isorn Pocmontri extended greetings.

A total of 50 participants from Union Civil Service Board are attending the two-week training course where four modules focusing on International Meeting Management, ASEAN Meeting and Summit, Effective Communication Skills and Business Method will be presented.—*MNA*

Mr and Miss Contest chosen from university/college

MANDALAY, 15 Jan—The Inter-University/College Mr and Miss Contest (Upper Myanmar) was opened by Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing on 9 January.

A total of 24 body-builders participated in the men's senior and junior classes and 28 in the women's physical culture contest.

Myanma Alinn

Kayin New Year celebrated

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— Kayin New Year Day was celebrated on the lawns of the Kayin state government office on 12 January morning, with an address by State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Aung Kyaw Min.

On the occasion, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min presented gifts to the respectable elderly, and awarded outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam with flying colours. The Chief Minister attended the Kayin New Year celebration held at Pyidaungsu Thiri Stadium organized by the state government.

The Chief Minister at 2 pm held a meeting with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and party at the state government office in the afternoon. During the meeting, the Chief Minister notified that they had planned programmes for regional development tasks thanks to fruitful results of peace making process in the region, and assured that the migrant Kayin workers would be enjoying comfort and convenience when they came back home. The US Ambassador assured that US would cooperate in the tasks.

In the evening, the Chief Minister, state ministers, departmental personnel, KNU Chairman General Mutu Sae Phoe and party enjoyed the Kayin New Year dinner.

MNA

REGIONAL

Vietnam, S Korea boost legislative ties

HANOI, 15 Jan—Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly (NA) Nguyen Sinh Hung held talks with visiting Speaker of the Republic of Korea's National Assembly Kang Chang Hee here on Monday to boost bilateral legislative ties.

Hung affirmed that Vietnam always attaches great importance to further develop the cooperative relationship with South Korea, proposing the two sides to continue maintaining leaders'visits to promote mutual trust and understanding.

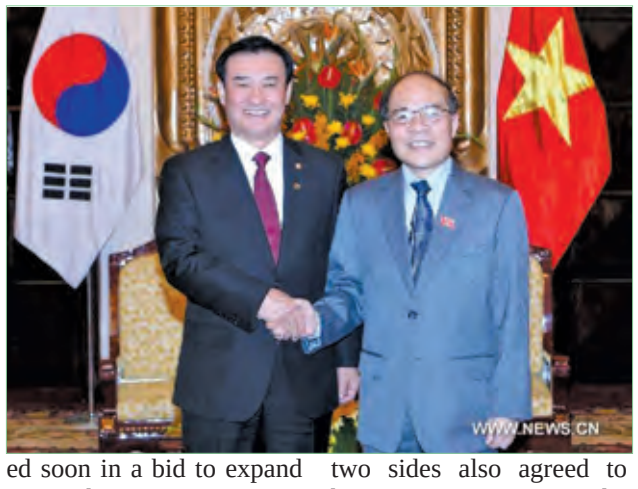
Hung expressed his hope to receive supports from the South Korean NA to expand the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Vietnam, especially in the areas of infrastructure construction.

Hung believed that with joint efforts, the Vietnam-South Korea Strategic Cooperative Partnership will develop well in the future to contribute to peace and stability in the region and the world at large.

Kang Chang Hee, for his part, said that Vietnam's advantages in geographical, natural and human resources serve as a good foundation for promoting cooperation between the two countries, adding that South Korea is willing to share its experiences in economic and industrial development.

Kang said that South Korea expects the signing of the South Korea-Vietnam bilateral Free Trade Agreement to be conducted soon in a bid to expand comprehensive cooperation between the two countries.

During their talks, the two sides also agreed to boost cooperation in the field of information technology.



Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly Nguyen Sinh Hung (R) shakes hands with visiting Speaker of the Republic of Korea's National Assembly Kang Chang Hee in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 14 Jan, 2013. Nguyen Sinh Hung held talks with Kang Chang Hee Monday to boost bilateral legislative ties.
XINHUA

Vietnam and South Korea established diplomatic ties in 1992.

Xinhua

Indonesian parties pick poll numbers for 2014 elections

JAKARTA, 15 Jan—Ten political parties qualified to run in Indonesia's 2014 parliamentary and presidential elections picked their poll numbers on Monday as early conduct of the democratic election in southeast Asia's most populous country.

The poll numbers were drawn by representatives of political parties at the General Elections Commission (KPU) office, a statement released by the KPU said.

The numbers will help voters remember the parties during the campaign and ballot casting.

A total of 560 parliamentary seats will be contested by those parties in 2014, followed by an election of a new president to replace Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono whose two five-year terms will expire that year.—*Xinhua*

The two-day annual Nuclear Power Asia Conference of the World Nuclear Association begins in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 15 Jan, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Philippine gov't mulls options to protect websites

MANILA, 15 Jan—The Philippine government said on Monday that it is considering options to protect the websites of government agencies.

Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the government is keen on moving government websites using private web hosting service to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

A web hosting service is a type of internet hosting service that allows individuals and organizations to make their website accessible via the world wide web, provide data centrespace and internet connectivity.

Lacierda noted that government websites hosted by the DOST like those of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO) and Official Gazette (OG) were spared during the hacking spree last year.

Malacanang, the presidential palace, made the statement following the hacking of the National Food Authority's (NFA) website on Monday by a group called Anonymous who was campaigning against the Cybercrime Law.

Oral arguments on the constitutionality of Republic Act 10175 or the anti-cybercrime law at the Supreme Court are scheduled for 15 January.—*Xinhua*

Eight killed as truck turns turtle in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 15 Jan—A fertilizer-laden truck turned turtle after colliding on a road divider in Bangladesh's central Gazipur District, killing at least 8 people and injuring 3 others early on Monday, local police said.

Enayet Uddin, officer-in-charge in Kaliganj Police Station in Gazipur, told *Xinhua* over mobile phone that the passengers, mostly labourers, were buried under the fertilizer sacks as the body of the truck overturned after colliding on the road divider at around 3:30 am local time.

On receipt of information, he said, police rushed to the spot and recovered eight bodies.

All the three injured in the crash were rushed to a local hospital, he said, adding the accident occurred most likely due to poor visibility cause by thick fog. Gazipur is 30 kilometres north of capital Dhaka.

The South Asian nation has one of the highest fatality rates for road accidents in the world due mainly to shoddy highways, poorly maintained vehicles, violation of traffic rules by inept drivers and lack of monitoring of the traffic department.

According to police and various data, the number of daily fatality varies from 15 to 50, about 75 percent of which occur in rural areas.—*Xinhua*

A boy shovels the pavement in Tokyo, capital of Japan, on 14 Jan, 2013. A storm system hit eastern Japan on Monday resulting in heavy snow fall that had impacted on traffic in many prefectures, including the capital city of Tokyo.—XINHUA

Photo taken on 14 Jan, 2013 shows the winter scenery of "Qiyi" Glacier, or "July 1st" Glacier, some 130 kilometres southwest of Jiayuguan City, northwest China's Gansu Province.
XINHUA

S Korean Coast Guard rescues 14 Chinese sailors

SEOUL, 15 Jan—The South Korean Coast Guard rescued 14 Chinese sailors from their fishing boat that sank in South Korean waters early on Monday, local media reported.

The Coast Guard dispatched two patrol boats after it received a rescue request at around 2 am local time from the 150-ton fishing ship that was sailing about 22 kilometres west of the island of Gageo, off the country's southwestern coast, according to *Yonhap* news agency. The Coast Guard was able to move the ship to safety three hours after the accident occurred.

The boat is scheduled to leave for China when repairs are finished.—*Xinhua*

Two killed, three missing in landslides in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 15 Jan—Landslides hit Bogor District of West Java on Tuesday morning, killing two people and leaving three others missing, an official said here.

Heavy downpours had the lands at higher grounds fallen and buried five houses at Cipyung Village, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the disaster management and mitigation agency.

"Five people were burried, two of them were found dead and three others remained under the debris," he told *Xinhua* by phone.

Indonesia has frequently hit by landslide and floods during rainy season.

Xinhua

Indonesia not to aggressively cut crude palm oil export tax

JAKATRA, 15 Jan—Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirtjawan said on Monday that Indonesia will not aggressively slash its crude palm oil (CPO) export tax as an effort to boost competition with Malaysia which plans to cut its export tax for CPO to zero this month.

Minister Wirjawan said that Indonesia, the world's largest palm oil producer, did not need to aggressively respond on the Malaysia's plan as the number of raw palm oil exported by the country to overseas was small.

"So we fell that we do not need to take a stand as aggressive as Malaysia," said Wirtjawan at the State Palace. The Minister Hinted that Malaysia may take benefit if Indonesia reduce its CPO export tax. "Malaysia has an interest to process raw palm oil from Indonesia, but the raw palm oil exported by Malaysia to overseas is not much," said Wirjawan. Indonesia trimmed export tax for CPO to 7.5 percent in January from 9 percent in December, according to the trade ministry.—*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 BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1301)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1301) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

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

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

LOT: No	Description	Quantity
1/2.	KOMATSU EXCAVATOR PC-100/120 Spare Parts	28 Items
3/4.	KOMATSU D 53 A-17/17 DOZER Spare Parts	7 Items
5.	CAT D 5B DOZER Spore Parts	2 Items

2. Tender Closing date:25-1-2013, 16:00 hrs
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (16-1-2013). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact; 067-431243

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

Photo taken on 10 Jan, 2013 shows rime scenery in Chonghu'er Township of Burqin County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.—XINHUA

ECOWAS to hold extraordinary summit in Abidjan on Mali situation

ABIDJAN, 15 Jan—The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is to hold an extraordinary summit in Abidjan, capital of Cote d'Ivoir, on Wednesday to discuss the security situation in Mali, a minister of Cote d'Ivoir announced on Sunday.

"The presidents will meet to discuss and evaluate the situation" in Mali, said Ali Coulibaly, African Integration Minister of Cote d'Ivoir. Cote d'Ivoir holds the rotating chairmanship of the ECOWAS.

Coulibaly also said that an emergency contingent of ECOWAS troops would start arriving in Bamako, capital of Mali, on Sunday.

Cote d'Ivoir President Alassane Ouattara, chairman of ECOWAS, on Friday declared the start of a UN-mandated operation to deploy some 3,000 African soldiers to Mali. As part of support to the Malian army against rebel forces, groups of French and Nigerian soldiers landed Bamako on Saturday afternoon, Malian military sources said.

Military sources said the French soldiers came from Chad and Cote d'Ivoire, where they were based. They came with their materials and food.—*Xinhua*

Israel wiring Jerusalem schools with earthquake sensors

JERUSALEM, 15 Jan—In a project begun two weeks ago, the Jerusalem municipality is installing sensors in 130 schools to warn of potential earthquakes originating in the Jordan Rift Valley, an active fault zone, the project manager told *Xinhua* on Sunday.

"An unprecedented 50,000 students all over the city will benefit from the system, already used in Japan," the city said in a statement sent to *Xinhua*, noting that the system is based on wireless IP technology, monitoring specific frequencies common to earthquake microtremors.

The system, which will be installed throughout the city's older schools, has already been introduced in 21 schools in both eastern and western parts of the city, Shmulik Mahalla, project manager and municipal engineer in charge of public structures told *Xinhua*.

In addition to local structural sensors, others are arrayed along 100 kilometers of the Syrian-African Rift to the north and south of the city, from Tiberias to Ein Yahav, the likelist source of such an earthquake, according to Mahalla. At least two sensors have to go off concurrently for the system to register a tremblor, in order to avoid false positives, Mahalla said.

In 2009, the Israeli Ministry of Education recommended installing the system, which is synchronized with the army's national Home Front Command (HFC).

Local geologists have warned that the region is due for a major earthquake, and the HFC said smaller fault lines in Israel could also cause quakes.

During a visit to a school in Jerusalem during the readiness drill, Dichter said that teachers and students "were little bit nervous and didn't know exactly what to do. But the second one was totally different," he noted. "So I believe that practicing it the first time and the second time and the third time will make it a little more sure and secure for us to be prepared."—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT

Katie Holmes in court to watch murder trial

Actress Katie Holmes

London, 15 Jan—Actress Katie Holmes reportedly caused a stir by making a surprise appearance at a grisly murder trial.

The 34-year-old was watching her friend, prosecutor Leigh Bishop, in a case against a father accused of shaking to death his baby daughter.

Li Hangbin, 28, allegedly killed two-month-old Annie in 2007 and has been in custody for five years awaiting trial, reported Sun Online.

Holmes, 34, sat in the audience to watch the opening statement but reportedly left after a brief time.

The actress is said to have a lot of time on hands right now after producers pulled the plug on her Broadway play after just six weeks.

Terrible ticket sales meant Dead Accounts was axed after weeks of playing to tiny audiences.

Holmes, whose appearance in the play was meant to be her big acting comeback following her split from Tom Cruise, failed to draw in big audiences and the final curtain fell on 6 January.—*PTI*

Are Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart falling apart again?

New Delhi, 15 Jan—Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart's relationship is under strain.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 stars reportedly can't stop fighting and friends fear they could be heading for a break-up.

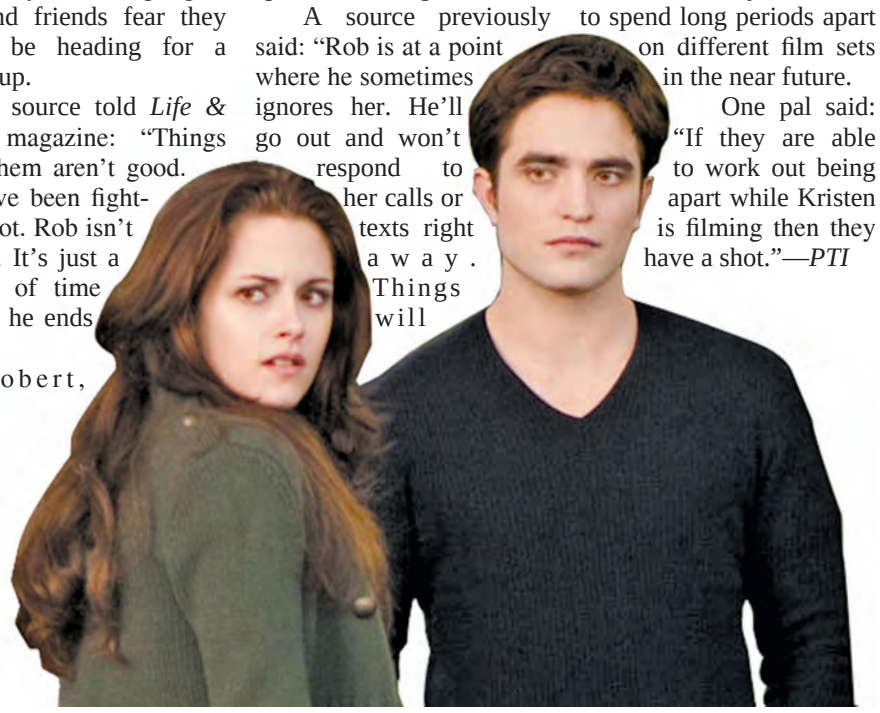
A source told *Life & Style* magazine: "Things with them aren't good. They've been fighting a lot. Rob isn't happy. It's just a matter of time before he ends this."

Robert, 26 and 22-year-old Kristen briefly split up last year when she cheated on him with married director Rupert Sanders and Robert has struggled to forgive her despite reconciling.

A source previously said: "Rob is at a point where he sometimes ignores her. He'll go out and won't respond to her calls or texts right away. Things will be strained for a while. She knows she has to go along with it. She is working hard at the relationship."

Friends believe their relationship will be truly tested when they are forced to spend long periods apart on different film sets in the near future.

One pal said: "If they are able to work out being apart while Kristen is filming then they have a shot."—*PTI*


***Friends believe their relationship will be truly tested when they are forced to spend long periods apart on different film sets in the near future.*—PTI**

Jodie Foster comes out as gay at Golden Globes

Beverly Hills, 15 Jan—Hollywood actress Jodie Foster confirmed long-running speculation that she is gay by coming out at the Golden Globes awards on Sunday, but joked she wouldn't be holding a News Conference to discuss her private life.

The notoriously private Foster stunned the audience of stars and Hollywood powerbrokers as she accepted a life-time achievement awarded by announcing she was now single.

"Seriously, I hope that you're not disappointed that there won't be a big-coming-out speech tonight," she said, "because I already did my coming out about a thousand years ago back in the Stone Age."

Foster said she had always been up front with trusted friends and family about her sexual orientation."But now apparently, I'm told that every celebrity is expected to honour the details of their private life with a Press Conference ... that's just not me," she said. Foster, 50, then talked to her "ex-partner in love" Cydney Bernard, from whom she recently split, and their two sons in the audience. "Thank you Cyd, I am so proud of our modern family, our amazing sons," Foster said.

Over the years, Foster had come under withering criticism from the gay community for not publicly recognizing she was gay.

The two-time best actress Oscar winner for "The Silence of the Lambs" and "The Accused" said she had valued her privacy because of her early acting career, which started at the age of three.

—"If you had been a public figure from the time that you were a toddler, if you'd had to fight for a life that felt real and honest and normal against all odds, then maybe you, too, might value privacy above all else," she said.—*Reuters*

Actress Jodie Foster (L) accepts the Cecil B. Demille Award, on stage on at the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 13 Jan, 2013, in this picture provided by NBC. **Reuters**

"Argo'' scores sweet Golden Globe victory with two top awards

***"Argo" Producer Grant Heslov, with trophy, and cast and crew accept the award for Best Motion Picture, Drama, for "Argo" at the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 13 Jan, 2013, in this picture provided by NBC.*—Reuters**

Beverly Hills, 15 Jan—Iran hostage drama "Argo" scored a sweet double victory at the Golden Globe awards on Sunday, winning best movie drama—the night's top prize—and best director for Ben Affleck on a night that left front-runner "Lincoln" with just one trophy. Musical "Les Miserables" won the contest for best comedy or musical, as well as acting awards for stars Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway.

But elsewhere, it was a night of surprises at Hollywood's second biggest awards show after the Oscars in February. Actress Jodie Foster publicly acknowledged for the first time that she is gay, and former US President Bill Clinton appeared at the glitzy ceremony.

Yet the big story was the defeat of Steven Spielberg's drama about USPresident Abraham Lincoln's battle to end slavery —which went into Sunday's ceremony with a leading seven nominations—and the triumph of Affleck in the director's race. Affleck was overlooked in the directing category when Oscar nominations were announced last Thursday, although "Argo" was shortlisted for best film at the Oscar ceremony to be held on 24 February.—*Reuters*

Jennifer Aniston defends Kim Kardashian

New Delhi, 15 Jan—Jennifer Aniston has defended Kim Kardashian. While the pregnant reality TV star has been blasted by celebrities including Jon Hamm and Daniel Craig for being too open about her private life, Jennifer is a fan of Kim, although she insisted they have nothing in common. Speaking in new documentary $ellebrity, she said: "There's nothing wrong with Kim Kardashian and all those people.

"If that's how they choose to make a living, more power to them. My line of work is different. I want to entertain people."

Last year Skyfall actor Daniel branded Kim and her family "idiots" while 'Mad Men' actor Jon blasted the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star for being famous for being stupid.

He said: "Whether it's Paris Hilton or Kim Kardashian or whoever, stupidity is certainly celebrated. Being a f***ing idiot is a valuable commodity in this culture because you're rewarded significantly."

He later added that he didn't want to be known simply as a sex symbol because then he "might as well be a Kardashian and have a sex tape", a reference to Kim's leaked erotic video with former boyfriend Ray J. Jon said: "The sexy thing is so ephemeral and meaningless other than in the world of selling magazines. Who cares, when it's reduced to just that? You might as well be a Kardashian and have a sex tape.—*PTI*

***Speaking in new documentary $ellebrity, she said: "There's nothing wrong with Kim Kardashian and all those people.*—PTI**

SPORTS

Murray and Federer fire up at Melbourne Park

Roger Federer

Melbourne, 15 Jan—Andy Murray's campaign for a second straight grand slam title gets underway on Tuesday when he takes centre stage against Robin Haase in the first round of the Australian Open. Big things are expected of the 25-year-old Briton in 2013 after he finally shook the grand slam monkey from his back with his US Open triumph in his fifth major final.

The 53rd-ranked Haase is unlikely to be a pushover, however, having taken Murray to five sets at the 2011 US Open and beaten the Scot in their only other match at Rotterdam in 2008. "He likes playing on big courts," third seed Murray told reporters of the 25-year-old Dutchman, who he will play in the opening match at Rod Laver Arena. "He tends to come out firing and going for big shots, playing extremely aggressive. So, I'll need to be prepared for that."

Roger Federer also faces a tricky start against world number 46 Benoit Paire of France later in Rod Laver Arena where the second-seeded Swiss's lack of match practice will come under scrutiny. The Swiss maestro eschewed all warmup tournaments in favour of working on the practice court, but has assured his legion of tennis fans he remains as motivated as ever in his bid for a fifth title at Melbourne Park.

Reuters

Andy Murray of Britain hits a return to Robin Haase of Netherlands.— Reuters

Djokovic delivers, Sharapova ruthless on opening day

Melbourne, 15 Jan —Novak Djokovic served up only flashes of his best tennis on the opening day of the Australian Open but took a comfortable first step on the path he hopes will lead to an unprecedented hat-trick of titles at Melbourne Park in two weeks' time.

Perhaps keeping energy in reserve for the battles that lie ahead, the world number one's workmanlike 6-2 , 6-4 , 7-5 victory over Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu on Monday summed up a day where the year's first grand slam failed to really fire.

"It was a good performance for a first round," said the top seed, who will play American Ryan Harrison in the second round. "There are some few adjustments that I need to make and get a little bit sharper on the court. But it's expected in the first match you're still not a 100 percent on the court." While Djokovic only roused himself when necessary, Maria Sharapova was ruthless as she swept aside any fears about her fitness with a thumping 6-0 , 6-0 win over compatriot Olga Puchkova on Rod Laver Arena.

American Venus Williams and China's Li Na, both former losing finalists, also enjoyed emphatic wins to breeze into the second round, while in-form fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska extended her perfect start to the year to 10 matches.

Upsets are often the catalyst that jolt a tournament into life but Argentina's Juan Monaco was the first seed to fall in the early evening and his 7-6, 6-1, 6-1 defeat was as much down to hand and leg injuries as Russian Andrey Kuznetsov.

Lleyton Hewitt did his best to produce another shock in front of a partisan night crowd but eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic brought a rapid end to the Australian's 17th appearance at his home open with a 7-6 , 7-5 , 6-3 victory.

Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Paul-Henri Mathieu of France during their men's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 14 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

Maria Sharapova

Sevilla sack Michel, replacing him with former Valencia coach Unai Emery

Madrid, 15 Jan —Sevilla Football Club confirmed on Monday the decision to sack coach Michel Gonzalez following a poor first half of the season, replacing him with Unai Emery. Michel, who has previously coached Getafe, Real Madrid's B-team and Rayo Vallecano, has paid the price for a poor opening 19 matches in which his side take just 22 points. Sevilla are currently just six points above the relegation zone, when the club's ambition this season was to be challenging for a place in the top four or at least the top six.

Unai Emery

This season has seen Michel's side win just six games while losing nine, scoring just 23 goals in the process. Michel joined the club midway through last season, replacing Marcelino Garcia and sparked a reaction in performances, all be it not enough to take the club into Europe and hopes were high this season would see the improvement continue. However, this has not been the case and after a poor display in a 2-0 defeat in Valencia on Saturday, Michel and his players were booed by fans during Monday's training session.

Xinhua

Patriots use element of surprise in Super Bowl pursuit

New York, 15 Jan —"Just win, baby" was the famed motto of late Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis during his team's heyday, but Baltimore Ravens linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo thinks Tom Brady and the New England Patriots have gone too far. Ayanbadejo believes the Patriots, one win away from a second consecutive Super Bowl berth, are hitting below the belt with the way they run their hurry-up offense. "New England does some suspect stuff on offense. Can't really respect it. Comparable to a cheap shot b4 a fight," he tweeted during New England's 41-28 win over the Houston Texans on Sunday that sets up an AFC title rematch with the Ravens. The hurry-up, or no-huddle offense, has been around for a while, but Ayanbadejo emphasized with a Houston defence caught out of position and in confusion when Brady quickly ran a play. "Are you watching the game pats vs Texans?" Ayanbadejo tweeted. "If so you see the hurry snap offense catch em b4 they set up. It's a gimmick."

New England Patriots running back Shane Vareen (34) runs away from Houston Texans' Bradie James (53) for a first down during the first quarter of their NFL AFC Divisional playoff football game in Foxborough, Massachusetts on 13 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

But all is fair within the rules of the gridiron, however, and Ayanbadejo's complaint is akin to a tight end moaning about a disguised defense showing a blitz formation before dropping back into zone pass coverage. Shame on Houston for not being ready and credit the Pats, who have cleverly retooled and thrived over a remarkable run that could bring them a sixth trip to the Super Bowl in the 12 years since the partnership of coach Belichick and Brady. The big surprise of Sunday's contest was how the Patriots made up for injuries during the game to key offensive players Rob Gronkowski and Danny Woodhead as third-string running back Shane Vereen scored three touchdowns to tame the Texans. The Patriots scraped by last year's AFC title game with a 23-20 victory over the Ravens, who had a potential game-winning touchdown pass dropped in the end zone and a 32-yard game-tying field goal missed.—*Reuters*

A's reward manager Melvin with two-year extension

New York, 15 Jan —The Oakland Athletics rewarded manager Bob Melvin with a two-year contract extension after he led the team to a division title and was voted American League Manager of the Year, the team said on Monday.

The extension will keep Melvin, who led Oakland to a 94-68 record in 2012 that was a 20-win improvement over the previous campaign, with the A's through the 2016 Major League Baseball season, the team said in a statement.

It was Melvin's first full year at the helm in Oakland. He was named interim manager in June 2011 before signing a three-year pact three months later.

Reuters

Oakland Athletics manager Bob Melvin returns to the dugout out after taking pitcher AJ Griffin out of the game for tightness in his right shoulder during the second inning of their MLB baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Oakland on 4 Aug, 2012. **Reuters**

GENERAL

Photo shows responsible persons of the library and children posing for a documentary photo at the opening ceremony of Nyaungbintha Children Library in Taungthugon ward of Insein Township on 4 January. The library is being kept open for promoting the reading habit of children. — Kyemon

McGinley should be Ryder Cup captain, says McIlroy

ABU DHABI, 15 Jan — World golf number one Rory McIlroy wants Ireland's Paul McGinley to be Europe's 2014 Ryder Cup skipper, rather than Colin Montgomerie, with a decision on the captaincy due on Tuesday. Victorious 2010 captain Montgomerie has been linked to the position a second time for next year's event in the eight-times European Tour order of merit winner's native Scotland, something McIlroy disagrees with.

"I personally don't feel like Monty has anything to gain over this," the twice major winner said at a presentation unveiling him as the new Nike ambassador on Monday. "If we go to Gleneagles and lose he's already a winning Ryder Cup captain. I'm fully behind Paul and I think Paul should get the job and hopefully he does."

World number three Luke Donald also voiced his support for McGinley when the Englishman wrote on Twitter on Monday: "I hope Paul McGinley gets his chance, he's been an amazing vice-captain and deserves an opportunity."

Golfer Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland

McIlroy played under three-times Ryder Cup winner McGinley for Britain and Ireland at the 2009 Seve Trophy against continental Europe and said his captaincy was awe-inspiring. "He did an unbelievable job. — *Reuters*

Poland strives for organizing Winter Olympics in 2022 with Slovakia

WARSAW, 15 Jan — President Bronislaw Komorowski said the organization of Winter Olympics in 2022 in Poland's Krakow and Zakopane is possible only in cooperation with Slovakia in Bialka Tatrzanska, southern Poland, on Monday.

According to local media report, Komorowski said that he would meet the presidents of the Czech Republic and Slovakia in Poland's Wisla next week to discuss the organization of 2022 Winter Olympics.

He said the presidents of the two countries will gladly support the organization of the games in the Tatra Mountains if their countries' governments embark on proper actions.

The final decision depended on consent of three countries' governments.

In October, heads of Polish and Slovak Olympic Committees and the Krakow mayor signed a letter of intent on staging Winter Olympic Games in Krakow in 2022.

Xinhua

Champion Azarenka into second round in Melbourne

MELBOURNE , 15 Jan — World number one Victoria Azarenka got her Australian Open title defence underway with an unconvincing 6-1, 6-4 victory over Romania's Monica Niculescu on Rod Laver Arena on Tuesday.

The Belarusian did well to battle back to secure victory without going to a third set after going 3-0 down in the second, but the way her first serve fell apart at times will only encourage her main rivals for the crown.

Second seed Maria Sharapova got her campaign off to a blistering start without losing a game on Monday and third seed Serena Williams followed suit with a similarly convincing win despite a tumble on Hisense Arena on Tuesday.Azarenka will perhaps reassure herself that she will be more battle-hardened after her 87-minute win over Niculescu as she prepares for a second-round tie against Eleni Daniilidou or Karolina Pliskova.—*Reuters*

Serena twists ankle, but still double bagels Gallovits-Hall

*Serena Williams of the US hits a return to Edina Gallovits-Hall of Romania during their women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 15 Jan, 2013.—*REUTERS

MELBOURNE , 15 Jan — Serena Williams recovered from a nasty fall and painful ankle injury to blast her way into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday with a 6-0 , 6-0 victory over Romania's Edina Gallovits-Hall.

The world number three, leading 4-0 in the first set, slipped on the Hisense Arena surface then turned her right ankle and lay motionless on the bright blue court before sitting up when medical attention arrived.

The reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion received treatment courtside, which included having her ankle restrapped, and returned eight minutes later.

The 31-year-old appeared to be favoring her ankle and grimaced from time to time, but had obviously decided to limit her movement and blasted winners seemingly at will in order to get off court as quickly as possible.

Reuters

World Future Energy Summit 2013 starts in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 15 Jan—The World Future Energy Summit (WFES) started in Abu Dhabi Tuesday, along with the first International Water Summit.

The three-day WFES 2013 with 20 national pavilions in the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, was attended by 30,000 delegates from areas of the conventional energy (like oil and gas) and alternative energy industries (such as solar, wind and water power) , up from 26,000 delegates last year.

French President Francois Hollande and Argentina's President Christina Fernandez delivered the key notes at the opening ceremony.

The WFES also includes for the first time a "green jobs fair," a platform for the people who aim to start a career in the solar industry, wind energy sector or biothermal energy industry.

According to global consultancy Ernst and Young , the total investment in renewable energy stood at 237 billion U.S. dollars in 2011.

In addition, the conference will introduce the Sustainable Living Area "Estidama," and showcase the "green home" of the future.

The first International Water Summit is co-located with WFES.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-1-13 09:30 am ~ 17-1-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Gems Museum Embellished with Mynama Precious Stones
* Launching of SME Myanmar Business Magazine
* News
* Songs for you
* Lush and Green Myanmar Land
* News
* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Steamed Crab's Thumb"
* News
* Anti Human Trafficking Project
* Fossilized Wood Picture
* Process of Planet correlated with Horroscope for 12 Sign Ascendants
* "Let's study the Words" The Flying Tortoies
* 100 Plus Trade Launching Ceremony
* News
* 2011 Academy Award Presentation Ceremony
* News
* Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
* Myanmar Movies "Dream Home"

News in Brief

(15 January 2013)

Martyred soldier''s family ends fast

KHAIRAIR, 15 Jan—Family of beheaded soldier Hemraj called off fast after visit by UP CM Akhilesh Yadav & top BJP leaders & assurances by Army Chief Gen Bikram Singh.

Sankranti celebrated in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 15 Jan—A youth died here after his throat slit from the string of a kite being flown on the occasion of Makar Sankranti yesterday.

NC-Cong panel condemns attack

JAMMU, 15 Jan—Condemning the recent attacks on panchayat members, the Coordination Committee of National Conference and Congress on 14 Jan, 2013 said the coalition government in the state will take all the required steps for their security.

Two artilleryshells found near Balasore

BALASORE, 15 Jan—Two artilleryshells were recovered from a pond near Balasore town and taken to a safe place for examination by a bomb disposal squad of the Odisha Police on 14 January.

Bus falls off flyover, 12 injured

SAHARANPUR, 15 Jan—At least 12 people were injured on 14 Jan, 2013 when the bus they were travelling fell down from a 30-feet high flyover in Hospital Chowk area here.

He who laughs last laughs longest.

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

5th Waxing of Pyatho 1374 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 16 January, 2013

Exploration and production of sources of electricity, a key to industrial development, underway

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Eighteen representatives held discussion on the fifth five-year short-term plan (from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 fiscal year) (draft) at the today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The plan (draft) aims to make a change in contribution ratio of agriculture sector, industrial sector and service sector between 2010-2011 fiscal year and 2015-2016 fiscal year.

It is expected to increase the exports of K 15187.7 billion for 2015-2016 fiscal year that account for 9.0 per cent annual growth rate and the imports of K 9814 billion for 2015-2016 fiscal year that account for 9 per cent annual growth rate.

During the fifth five-year short-term plan, it is expected to reach 5.8 per cent GDP growth rate in Kachin State, 4.1 per cent in Kayah State, 8.3 in Kayin State, 6 per cent in Chin State, 9.3 per cent in Sagaing Region, 8.3 per cent in Taninthayi Region, 6.4 per cent in Bago Region, 8.7 per cent in Magway Region, 8.5 per cent in Mandalay Region, 8.4 per cent in Mon State, 5.2 per cent in Rakhine State, 8.5 per cent in Yangon Region, 3. 9 per cent in Shan State, 4.4 per cent in Ayeyawady Region and 29 per cent in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency discussed that three sectors of agriculture, meat and fishery and forestry were interrelated with industrial sector, pointing out the need of technology that could bring about equitable development in each sector. She called on the government to attend to the needs of farmers in agricultural sector.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) said it was appropriate to set 95 baskets as per acre yield. He called for sooner completion of ongoing dam projects, effective maintenance of irrigation system and suspension of new projects.

Daw Khin Than Myint of Ngapudaw Constituency held discussion on high school drop rate that has reached 80 per cent and above among students in rural area and she called for more appointment of skilled and qualified health staff based on transportation and the area of the region and more opening of hospitals in the country based on the list of priority.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.—MNA

During the fourth five-year short-term plan, there was an average annual growth rate of 14.1 per cent in generating electricity which is a key to industrial development of the country and exploration and production of sources of electricity like hydropower and natural gas are being carried out.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) discussed natural gas-fired power station projects, coal-fired power station projects, national power grid projects and sub-power station project should be included in the plan.

During the fourth five-year short-term plan, there was an average annual growth rate of 6.6 per cent in social and management sector.

U Htay Maung of Saw Constituency held discussion on the social and management sector that it was required to implement the plan for ensuring better livelihood of rural people in their own region.

During the fourth five-year short-term plan, there was an average annual growth rate of 20.2 per cent in industrial sector.

U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency called for assembling of farm equipment at home to set a price which is within reach of farmers. Daw Win Maw Tun of Yenangyoung Constituency called for joint venture businesses with the enterprises under the Ministry of Industry so as to manufacture quality products.

Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No (1) called for accuracy in facts and figures while implementing the projects.

Today's session came to an end at 3.45 pm and the session will continue tomorrow. — *MNA*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book. —MNA

Self-reliant rural health care center for Yesagyo dwellers

YANGON, 15 Jan— Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung attended a ceremony to open and hand over a self-reliant rural health care center at Hsinchaung model village in Yesagyo Township of Pakokku District in Magway Region on 12 January. At the ceremony, the Union Minister said that the government is striving for development of the economy by adopting plans in economic, education, health and social sectors in cooperation with local people. The Union Minister urged those present to keep the durability of rural health care center.

Union Minister U Soe Maung presented certificate of honour to wellwishers. The Union Minister, head of the Health Department and Pakokku deputy commissioner formally launched the health care center.

The newly-opened health care center was constructed at a cost of K 35 million contributed by the wellwishers.

Then, the Union Minister met with township level departmental officials, ward/village administrators at township GAD and made a speech. He donated clothes and publications to local people through officials.—*MNA*

Kachin IDPs receives health care from Tatmadaw mobile team

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— Tatmadaw mobile medical team provided medical servies to Kachin internally displaced persons sheltering at the Catholic Church in Ward-3 and Kachin Baptist Convention in Ward-5 in Kutkai on 13 January.

The four hundred and ninety-nine Kachin people were forced to flee to Kutkai as refugees and of them, 113 who need health care received free medical check-ups and health care treatment from the mobile team led by Maj Kyaw Kyaw under the arrangement of North-East Command.

Besides, North-East Command also donated K500,000 and 20 bags of rice to Kachin internally displaced persons from six villages in the region.—*MNA*

Slight earthquake hits 25 miles east of Mawlaik

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 25 miles east of Mawlaik), about 142 miles northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 17 hrs 47 min 00 sec MST today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

MNA