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Vice-President, Int'l technical advisory board, discuss preparations for 2014 census

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received an international technical advisory board led by Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad, the resident representative of UNFPA, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here today.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on sharing international experiences on taking census and on cooperation in taking the national census in 2014 with the assistance of the government to be able to take the census accurately.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister U Khin Yi, Deputy Ministers Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, U Thant Kyaw, Dr Myo Myint and Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and departmental heads.— *MNA*

***Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad.*—MNA**

Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department, De Rui Feng sign deals

***De Rui Feng Investment Co. Ltd and Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department sign agreement.* MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— De Rui Feng Investment Co. Ltd of the People's Republic of China and Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department of the Ministry of Mines signed an agreement on conducting survey feasibility study on amount of tin and tungsten deposit in the sea bed of Dawei River to dredge sit along its course to ensure smooth river transportation in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region at Amara Hotel here yesterday, with an address by Union Mines Minister Dr Myint Aung.

The director-general of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department and the chairperson of De Rui Feng Investment Co. Ltd signed the agreements.

The Union minister handed the permits of Myanmar Investment Commission and his ministry to the chairperson of De Rui Feng Co Ltd.

MNA

Spitfire excavation goes on

YANGON, 17 Jan— Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe visited the excavation site of British Spitfire fighters buried in the World War II, near Mingaladon International Airport's fire station yesterday to oversee if the excavation works affect the normal functioning of the airport.

According to experts, the works would not have impact on landing and taking off of the planes at the airport. The excavation started on 8 January. It is estimated to dig out 36 Spitfire fighters near the airport.

The region chief minister held talks with Bussan Mayor Mr Hur Nam Sik of the Republic of Korea and party at Yangon City Hall on 15 January on matters of mutual interests between Yangon and Bussan.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and the Bussan mayor signed an MoU on designation of two cities as sister cities in the presence of Yangon Region Chief Minister.

Bussan has become the fifth city to establish sister city relationship with Myanmar's commercial hub Yangon after Hangzhou, Kunming, and Nanning of the People's Republic of China and Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw makes request to Union Peace-making Central Committee, KIO/KIA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Pyithu Hluttaw made a request to Union Peace-making Central Committee and KIO/KIA at the second day sixth regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw on 11 January, 2013.

The following is the translation of the request made by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Request made by Pyithu Hluttaw to Union Peace-making Central Committee and KIO/KIA

1. Every second touches us with sadness for local people of Kachin state who have to suffer the byproducts of war daily and loss of both sides due to ongoing armed conflicts there.
2. Myanmar has been moving towards a goal of democracy that places the aspiration of the people at fore. Today is not the time to claim at gunpoint and neither to reject with the power of gun. Without a negotiation process, armed conflicts in Kachin State will never come to an end. It is learnt that there have been difficulties to hold talks between the members of peace-making group of the government and representatives of KIO/KIA national race armed group as military action intensifies in the region at present. So peace and stability is more and more out of reach and local people have to live amidst great fear and suffer untold miseries being stuck in the military preparations of the two forces.
3. So Pyithu Hluttaw would like to urge Union Peace-making Central Committee and KIO/KIA to publicize the electronic online negotiation, making their discussions transparent, while responsible persons of both sides find it difficult to enter to the negotiation table during the period of tension in Kachin State and to build trust through the negotiation paying heed to the voices of the people to be able to ease the military tensions and to pave the way for the lasting peace.

***Sd*/ Thura Shwe Mann**
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

LOCAL NEWS

2nd Workshop on Participatory Training Design and Techniques for Community Forestry

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Jointly conducted by Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Thailand-based Asia-Pacific Regional Community Forestry Training Center – RECOFTC, the opening of 2nd Workshop on participatory training design and techniques for community forestry took place at Forestry Research Department in Yezin here this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung.

At the workshop, the deputy minister said that 47 percent of the country was covered with forests thanks to systematic management, Myanmar got experiences and provisions by participating in ASEAN Social Forestry Network-ASFN to carry out reforms with added momentum in forestry sector for economic development. He continued to say that the department had adopted future plans for better socioeconomic development through forestry sector. Ecology, social, culture and economic conditions of each region determined the better outcomes of the establishment of regional community forestry, he added. Next, Senior Programme Manager Mr Ronnakorn Triraganon of Asia-Pacific Regional Community Forestry Training Center extended greetings.

The workshop will last till 18 January.—*MNA*

Actions under way to provide rural folk with sufficient working capital

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan and Vice-Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China Mr Chen Jian discussed measures for disbursing of loans at low interest rate as part of provision of sufficient working capital to rural people, at the ministry here this morning. The Union Minister also explained progress in formation of microfinance bank and establishment of at least a microcredit union in every village to provide enough working capital to rural folks for their socio-economic improvement.—*MNA*

Short circuit sparks a house fire in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 17 Jan — A short circuit sparked a fire at a house in Mawragiwah ward of Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay at about 3.30 am on 14 January.

The fire started from a shower of sparks produced from the wire shock of a water pump at home. The fire swept through the whole house and the house was reduced to ashes. Firefighters and local people managed to bring the fire under control at about 3.45 am.

While the house was on fire, 35 fire engines accompanied by more than 200 fire crews rushed there and struggled to control the fire under the supervision of Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung, Director-General U Aung Kyaw Myint of Fire Service Department (Upper Myanmar) and Head of Mandalay Region FSD U Kyi Toe.

No (8) Police Station filed a lawsuit against the house owner for fire negligence.

Kyemon

New school building for Natyaykan village BEHS (Branch) in Thanatpin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — An opening of new school building for Basic Education High School (Branch) was held Natyaykan Village in Thanatpin Township of Bago Region on 15 January. The 130-foot and 30-foot RC type one-storey new school building was donated by U Htet Nyi (Myanmar Bestin Co., Ltd) and Daw Yin Yin Myint and family of Yangon under the aegis of Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Saykeinna. Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win and wife attended the ceremony.

Firstly, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Kyaw Oo and officials formally opened the new school building. Next, the Region Chief Minister delivered an address at the handing-over of the new school building.

Then wellwisher U Htet Nyi handed over documents related to the new school building to the Thanatbin Township education officer. The region social affairs minister presented a certificate of honour to the wellwisher.

MNA

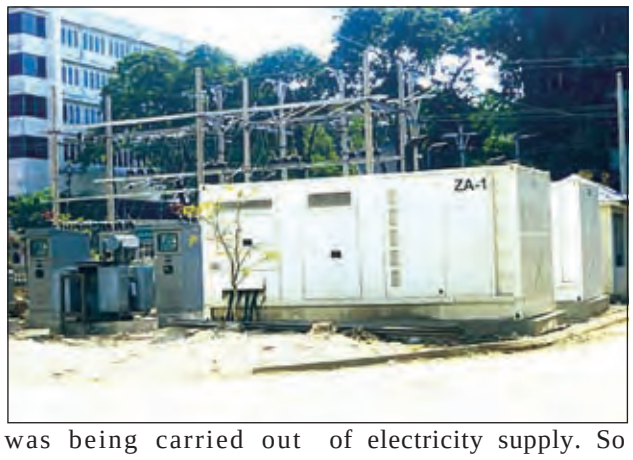
AGM of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association on 25-26 January

YANGON, 17 Jan — An annual general meeting of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association will be held at the University of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Lanmadaw Township, here, on 25 and 26 January. Former President of the association Winner of Princess Srinagarindra Award presented by Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Siridon Daw E Barbaro will be honoured at the meeting.

Chairpersons and representatives to the meeting from region/state/district MNMAs are invited to attend the meeting without fail and they are to register at the office on 24 and 25 January.— *MNA*

Generators installed for electricity supply in Mandalay District

MANDALAY, 17 Jan — Aimed at ensuring adequate supply of electricity in Mandalay District when the demand of electricity exceeds the electricity supply from the national power grid, installation of two 1000 KVA generators was being carried out at Mandalay Region Electrical Engineer's Office in Haymarzala ward in Chanayethazan Township, on 1 January. Likewise, one 1000 KVA generator was installed near Taiktaw sub-power station on 66th street in Aungmyaythazan Township and a test running was made. Up to the early January in 2013, wards in Mandalay enjoyed electricity regularly but about one-hour blackouts were frequent in some wards at night. As electricity consumption in summer of 2013 may be 2060 megawatts, this volume will exceed 1551 megawatts of electricity supply. So arrangements are being made to reduce supply of electricity in industrial zones, to cut off electricity supply to state-owned industries and river water pumping projects from 5 to 11 pm and small towns in daytime and to supply electricity to major towns through generators.



Kyemon

Seizures of illegal teak, hardwood in regions, states

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — A combined force including staff of Gwa Township Forest Department in Rakhine State seized 13.54 tons of ownerless hardwood while conducting a search and seizure of illegal timber extraction at Gwa creek protected forest area on 27 December 2012.

Forest Staff in Hlegu and Htantabin Townships launched an operation to crack down and arrest illegal timber production during the period from 3 to 6 January. They seized 4.2825 tons of hardwood and arrested three suspects while making a search of a vehicle on Yangon-Pathein road in Htantabin Township and also seized 7.012 tons of hardwood and arrested three suspects on the same road. They arrested two suspects together with a trailer carrying 3.2076 tons of hardwood on Taikkyi-Phaunggyi motorway in Hlegu Township. They also seized 42.66 tons of charcoal and arrested two suspects at Inndaing checkpoint.

On 3 January, a team led by the Assistant Director of Toungoo District Forest Department seized 5.448 tons of hardwood and one suspect at a reserve forest in Kyaukdaga Township.

From 1 to 4 January, a team comprising 15 members of forest departments in Tatkon, Pyinmana and Lewe Township seized 21.484 ton of ownerless teak at the six places in Minpyin reserve forest in Lewe Township.

From 2 to 6 January, forest staff of Wuntho, Minkin and Butalin Townships seized 38.474 tons of teak in the forest in Wuntho Township, 9.8 tons of hardwood near Zayat creek in Minkin Township and 5.896 tons of hardwood in Chindwin river in Butalin Township. Investigation into the seizures of ownerless teak and hardwood are ongoing.

MNA

Obama fires opening shot in US gun control battle

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—President Barack Obama on Wednesday opened a new front in the battle against gun violence in the United States with the announcement of a package of reforms and legislative recommendations targeted at reducing shootings and the availability of the types of semiautomatic weapons often used in mass killings.

The package included measures — some Obama can take unilaterally with executive actions and some that require action from the US Congress — to strengthen background checks necessary for purchasing weapons, work with schools on emergency planning and research the causes of what Obama termed "an epidemic of violence."

The announcement came in the wake of the December Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.—*Kyodo News*

US President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden attend an event on gun violence reduction proposals at the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 16 Jan, 2013.
XINHUA

Colombian president says peace talks won't yield new constitution

BOGOTA, 17 Jan—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Wednesday denied that the ongoing peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) could end with a constitution-drafting assembly.

"It's very possible that we could find a formula to popularly endorse any agreement... But I want to make it very clear that we are not going to conclude these accords with a constituent assembly, as several people requested yesterday," Santos said in the city of Ocala in Norte de Santander state.

He noted that in any case, a constituent assembly is not the equivalent of a popular referendum. He also asked the FARC to refrain from publicly discussing the details of the peace talks, saying when the two sides make progress, it will be made known to the public.

"This dialogue has to be a serious dialogue, a discreet dialogue," the president said, stressing that the negotiations have to be confidential and cannot take place in the media spotlight, which he blamed to be one of the causes of earlier failures.

Also on Wednesday, the Colombian government announced that according to a recent census, the five-decade conflict between the FARC and government forces had victimized over 5 million people, including those who have been killed, wounded or disappeared.

Reuters

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos gives a speech during a promotion ceremony at a police school in Bogota on 7 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

BiH president vows to fight corruption, organized crime

SARAJEVO, 17 Jan—President Nebojsa Radmanovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) said on Wedensday all segments of the society must fight against terrorism and crime.

Radmanovic made the remarks during his visit to the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) of BiH and holding talk with SIPA Director Goran Zubac.

"All segments of society must take part in fight against terrorism and crime, not only one Segment," said Radmanovic.

"This should be an appeal to BiH institutions — Presidency and Council of Ministers that have special jurisdictions, institutions that deal with investigations to judicial organs for complete coordination in the fight because if one segment is not working, big actions fall through," said Radmanovic.

Radmanovic noted he will support all institutions in BiH in fight against corruption and organized crime at all levels, adding that future plans will focus on strengthening of institutions like SIPA.

Zubac confirmed that SIPA and Intelligence Security Agency (OSA) were involved in the investigation of the explosion at the site of a monument in Mostar.

A monument for members of the Army of Bosina and Herzegovina was damaged by an explosion in Mostar on Monday, no one was injured.—*Xinhua*

President Nebojsa Radmanovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ecuador's acting president swears in new officials

QUITO, 17 Jan—Ecuadorian Vice President Lenin Moreno, who serves as acting president on the absence of President Rafael Correa for his reelection campaigns, Wednesday presided over the swearing-in of six new officials. "The government's work does not stop," Moreno said during the swearing-in ceremonies at the presidential headquarters.

"We are allocating responsibilities and now fulfilling the appointments of new officials," Moreno said of his first public act as acting president.

Moreno took over the nation's top job on Tuesday after Correa was given a 30-day leave of absence by the National Assembly to hit the campaign trail for the elections on 17 February.

Maria Moncayo was sworn in as coordinating minister of National Heritage, Javier Ponce as president of the National Development Bank and Arturo Mejia as head of the public sector real estate management secretariat. Katia Torres was appointed president of the Public Law Management and Execution Unit and Paola Carvajal as executive director of the National Transit Committee.

Diego Martines took the oath of office as president of the Central Bank to replace Pedro Delgado, who resigned in December after admitting he had obtained a fake university degree to secure a post at Costa Rica's Central American Business Institute. Delgado, cousin of Correa, is currently in Miami and wanted for questioning by Ecuadorian authorities.

Xinhua

Senior UN officials condemn deadly attack on Syrian university

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan—Senior UN officials on Wednesday voiced condemnation and shock over the deadly on Tuesday attack on the University of Aleppo in Syria's largest city, which left more than 80 people dead, most of them students.

"The Secretary-General strongly condemns the appalling attack," the deputy UN spokesman, Eduardo del Buey, said in a statement.

"It is truly shocking and distressing to see so many young people dedicated to pursuing their education in the midst of strife lose their life to senseless violence," Irina Bokova, the director-general of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said in a news release.

Two explosions ripped through the university, Syria's oldest institution of science and technology, on Tuesday, reportedly killing at least 82 people and wounding more than 160 others. According to reports, the bombs went off as students were taking exams, and it remains unclear who was responsible for the attacks.

"Deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian targets constitutes a war crime. Such heinous attacks are unacceptable and must stop immediately," del Buey said. "All combating parties in Syria must abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law."

Both Bokova and Ban expressed their condolences over the attack, with the UNESCO chief calling on "all those involved in the fighting to respect the right to education" and the secretary-general believing that "this latest atrocity should be promptly and fully investigated."

"He also calls for a reflection by all Syrians about the degradation of a conflict that is tearing their nation apart, and stresses the urgent need for a peaceful political solution that ends the violence and meets the democratic aspirations of the Syrian people," del Buey said.

More than 60,000 people, mostly civilians, have been reportedly killed in Syria and hundreds of thousands more have been displaced since the Syrian crisis began in March 2011. Recent months have witnessed an escalation in the conflict, which is now in its 23rd month.

Also on Wednesday, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) called on all sides in the conflict in Syria to refrain from taking up positions in or conducting the conflict in civilian areas.

Reuters

France launches ground campaign against Mali rebels

BAMAKO/PARIS, 17 Jan — French troops launched their first ground assault against Islamist rebels in Mali on Wednesday in a broadening of their operation against battle-hardened al-Qaeda-linked fighters who have resisted six days of air strikes.

France has called for international support against the Islamist insurgents it says pose a threat to Africa and the West, acknowledging it faces a long fight against the well-equipped fighters who seized Mali's vast desert north last year.

After Islamist pledges to exact revenge for France's intervention, militants claimed responsibility for a raid on a gas field in Mali's neighbour Algeria.

Mauritanian media said an al-Qaeda-linked group claimed to have seized as many as 41 hostages, including seven Americans, in the attack, carried out in retaliation for Algeria allowing France to use its air space. Three people, among them one British and one French citizen, were reported killed.

French army chief Edouard Guillaud said his ground forces were stepping up their operation to engage directly "within hours" with the alliance of Islamist fighters in Mali that groups al-Qaeda's North African wing AQIM with the country's home-grown Ansar Dine and MUJWA militant movements.—*Reuters*

A French Rafale fighter jet lands in Ndjamena, Chad, before being deployed in Mali, in this picture provided by the French Military Communications Audiovisual office (ECPAD) and taken on 13 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russia plans to send probe to moon in 2015

The Luna-Glob in an undated illustration.—Reuters

Moscow, 17 Jan—Russia will resume a long-dormant quest to explore the moon by sending an unmanned probe there in 2015, the head of the space agency was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

The craft, called Luna-Glob, or Moon-Globe, will be carried by the first rocket to blast off from a new facility that Russia is building in its far eastern Amur region, Roskosmos director Vladimir Popovkin said, according to the *Interfax* news agency.

"We will begin our exploration of the moon from there," he said of the new space centre that will decrease Russia's reliance of the Baikonur Cosmodrome in the ex-Soviet nation Kazakhstan, which it leases.

Russian space officials have said Luna-Glob would consist of an orbital module and a probe that would land on the moon and beam back information about samples it takes from the surface.

The Soviet Union got a jump on the United States in the Cold War space race, sending a probe to the moon in 1959 and putting the first person into space in 1961. But the United States first put a man on the moon in 1969 and Russia has not done so.

The last successful Soviet launch of a unmanned probe to the moon was in the 1970s, and Russia has suffered setbacks in its space programme in recent years, including bungled satellite launches and the failure of a Mars probe in 2011.

A successful rocket launch on Tuesday put three military satellites in orbit, the Defence Ministry said.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev approved a plan last month to spend 2.1 trillion roubles ($70 billion) on space industry development in 2013-2020, to pursue projects to explore the moon and Mars, among other things.—*Reuters*

LG to launch its full-HD smartphone in Q1 2013

New Delhi, 17 Jan—The Korean smartphone maker LG seems to be the latest to join the full-HD bandwagon. Smartphone makers HTC, Huawei, Sony and ZTE have already announced their full-HD smartphones. LG was expected to announce its new flagship full-HD smartphone Optimus G2 at the recently concluded CES 2013 but that did not happen.

However, the latest report by AndroidHeadline.com suggests that LG is planning to launch a full-HD smartphone in the first quarter of 2013. This smartphone carries the codename 'GK' and will have a 5.5-inch screen and will run on a quad-core processor.

Furthermore, reports by ET News suggests that LG will be launching a full-HD, 5.5-inch handset at Mobile World Congress (MWC 2013) in Barcelona, which will be held in the last week of February, and the smartphone will start retailing just days after the event. This report also mentions that the 1080p screen is being made by Pantech.

LG logo

As per South Korean news agency, *Yonhap*, LG's main objective behind launching the full-HD smartphone in first quarter is to be able to garner greater market share than its rivals. The company feels that having its product in the market before Samsung Galaxy S IV or the next generation iPhone will give it a slight edge in terms of sales.

The agency further claims that HTC too might follow a similar strategy with its forthcoming flagship HTC M7 and we might see this smartphone too retailing by first quarter of 2013. AndroidHeadlines.com also contemplates that LG will have to actually announce its next flagship before MWC 2013 to be able to stick to its target of shipping this smartphone in the first quarter of 2013.—*PTI*

Facebook rolls out friends-based search product

Menlo Park, 17 Jan—Facebook Inc took the wraps off a new search tool on Tuesday that lets people trawl their network of friends to find everything from restaurants to movie recommendations, an improvement that's likely to increase competition with review websites like Yelp and potentially even Google Inc. The so-called graph search marks the company's biggest foray into online search to date, though it displays only information within the walls of the social network rather than links to sites available across the Internet.

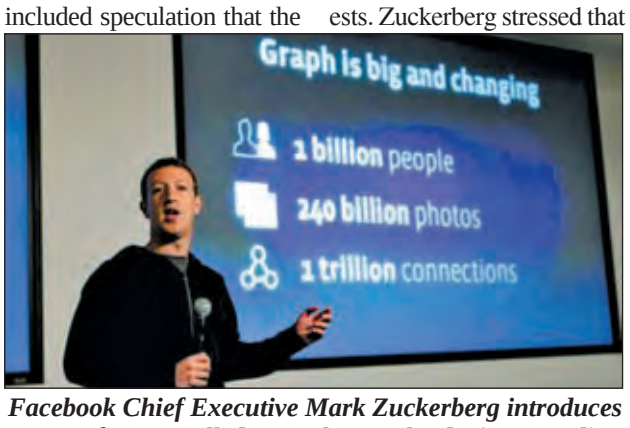
Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's 28-year-old founder and chief executive, introduced the new product at the company's first major product launch since a rocky initial public offering in May.

"Graph search is designed to take a precise query and return to you the answer, not links to other places where you might get the answer," Zuckerberg told reporters at its Menlo Park, California, headquarters. "What you've seen today is a really different product from anything else that's out there."

Facebook shares, which have climbed 15 percent since the start of the year, slid 3 percent on Tuesday to just above $30. The product news fell short of some of the most optimistic predictions, which included speculation that the social network would introduce its own smartphone or an Internet search engine.

Dubbed "graph search" because Facebook refers to its growing content, data and membership as the "social graph," the function will be available at first only as a "beta," or trial, for just hundreds of thousands of its billion-plus users.

It will let users browse mainly photographs, people, places and members' interests. Zuckerberg stressed that people can sort through only content that has been shared with them, addressing potential privacy concerns.



Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg introduces a new feature called "Graph Search" during a media event at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California on 15 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Shares in Yelp dived more than 6 percent on fears that Facebook's new friends-based search concept will begin to draw users away from the popular reviews site, which also lets people maintain a circle of trusted friends. Google stock held steady. Some analysts said Facebook may be taking a tiny step toward eventually challenging Google on its home turf, but said that was a much more challenging undertaking and a long-term possibility at best.

Zuckerberg stressed that the new graph search did not encompass Internet searches, Google's specialty. Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia said the product was inevitable. "We think this will enable them to expand beyond display ads and ultimately compete with Google," he said.—*Reuters*

Toys and video games hook up on new Disney game platform

San Francisco, 17 Jan—Children will be able to move plastic toys that look like pirate Captain Jack Sparrow and other movie characters into a virtual world on a computer or TV screen in a game platform Walt Disney Co unveiled on Wednesday in hopes of boosting revenue at a loss-making division.

Disney's new "Infinity" concept, to be released in June, comes with games inspired by "Monsters University," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Incredibles" franchises. The toys will come to life onscreen after being placed on a small electronic portal, similar to Activision Blizzard's "Skylanders," one of 2012's top-selling games.

In Disney's "Infinity," users will transport Disney and Pixar characters into on-screen adventures by placing their toys on a flat hexagonal board. A starter pack with software, the board and three plastic figurines is priced at $75.

Other Disney and Pixar characters will also be incorporated into the platform as the platform evolves, John Lasseter, Chief Creative Officer of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios said at a launch event in Hollywood, California.

The company's Disney Interactive division, which makes video games and interactive content, has been reporting losses over the last year, and analysts say it badly needs a hit. "We've put a big bet on this," said John Blackburn, vice president and general manager of Disney's Avalanche Software studio that developed the platform.

Reuters

10-inch Sony Xperia Tablet Z specs leaked with full-HD display, quad-core CPU

Tokyo, 17 Jan—Sony introduced the Xperia Z smartphone as the company's latest flagship device at CES earlier this month. Now, it seems that the company is also investing its efforts to concentrate on the tablet domain.

A fresh set of leaks have emerged on the Xperia Tablet Z detailing specifications of the Android-powered tablet. The tablet not just looks similar to its younger Xperia Z sibling but has more or less the same specifications as well. The specs that came via two separate tweets from @Xperia_info indicate that it will be just 6.9mm thin and also be waterproof and dust-proof adhering to the IP55. IP57 standard just like the Xperia Z smartphone.

The tablet is expected to feature a 10.1-inch full-HD (1920x1080) display running on Android 4.1.2 Jelly Bean. It is likely to come with an 8.1-megapixel rear and 2.2-megapixel front cameras.

Underneath its shell, the Xperia Tablet Z is likely to be powered by a 1.5 GHz quad-core APQ8064 Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 Pro processor with 2GB RAM and 32GB of internal storage. The device is rumoured to come with a 6,000mAh battery and support Wi-Fi a/b/g/n/, Bluetooth 4.0, NF and LTE as well.

Though Sony has yet to make any official announcement about the Xperia Tablet Z, but if these specs eventually do feature on the Xperia Tablet Z, then consumers are looking at a powerful machine. We hope to get a glimpse of the device at next month's MWC.

The Xperia Tablet Z features a worthy upgrade in comparison to its predecessor, the Xperia Tablet S, which had a previous-gen NVIDIA Tegra 3 quad-core processor, 1280×800 resolution and was launched running Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich at the time.—*PTI*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Singapore, Hong Kong look to cool not kill property markets

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan — Singapore and Hong Kong now have identical 15 percent levies to slow the foreign money that has added fuel to their overheated property markets — measures that will help first-time buyers but throw the spotlight on investors' next targets.

The curbs on residential real estate purchases could shift demand to retail and industrial spaces, diverting billions of dollars to those sectors as well as to housing markets in the United States, Canada, Australia and Malaysia.

Even if the pace of buying slows, analysts said, the appetite for homes in Hong Kong and Singapore is so strong that prices are expected to stay firm or ease only marginally.

"Singapore is like the London of Asia. Many people are not here to flip their properties or sell out in two to three years," said Knight Frank's head of consultancy and research Png Poh Soon. "There are lots of non-monetary reasons for buying Singapore and also Hong Kong property."

A man looks at a model of a new public housing estate to be launched at the Housing Development Board (HDB) gallery in Singapore on 15 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

The two Asian cities are fierce rivals as financial and wealth centres but share the issues of strong demand, limited space and low mortgage rates that have driven housing prices beyond the reach of many locals.

Shallow capital markets, a cultural tendency towards property as an investment and concerns among mainland Chinese buyers about their home market have also played their parts.

After targeting speculators with previous steps, Singapore moved last week to discourage investors by slapping a stamp duty on locals buying a second home, an attempt to keep prices affordable for most first-time buyers.

In Singapore and Hong Kong, which brought in similar measures in October, both governments want to cool but not collapse the market and avoid driving investment elsewhere.

Hong Kong's embattled leader Leung Chun-ying announced in his maiden policy address on Wednesday a series of measures to increase land supply, as expected, though analysts said the moves would have little immediate price impact.

In power for less than a year, the former property surveyor is under mounting pressure to step down over an illegal construction scandal and is grappling to salvage his reputation and shore up his political future.

Leung shied away from further tightening while he gauges the impact of previous steps to rein in prices in one of the world's costliest property markets. Those moves, including a 15 percent tax on foreign buyers, had a big impact on sales in November and December, when some agents reported a drop of more than 40 percent in transactions.

As Hong Kong felt the squeeze, private home sales in Singapore jumped nearly 30 percent in December from November.—*Reuters*

Caffeine linked to leaky bladder in men

NEW YORK, 17 Jan— The amount of caffeine that's typically found in two cups of coffee may contribute to a man's incontinence, according to a new study.

"It's something to consider... People who are having problems with urinary incontinence should modify their caffeine intake and I think that's part of clinical practice," said Dr Alayne Markland, the study's senior author, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Though the report doesn't prove that caffeine causes bladder leakage, the men in the study who consumed the most caffeine were more likely to have the problem than those who took in the least.

Plenty of research has linked caffeine to incontinence among women. But little is known about whether there is a similar connection for men.

"We wanted to see if caffeine had an impact on them as well," said Markland. It's estimated that 85 percent of Americans consume caffeine regularly, both in beverages like coffee, tea and soft drinks, and in foods like candy, pastries and ice cream containing chocolate.

Estimates of urinary incontinence among US adult men range from 5 percent to 21 percent.

For the new study, published in *The Journal of Urology*, Markland's team used responses from about 4,000 men to a national health survey between 2005 and 2008. The researchers looked at how many had urinary incontinence and how much caffeine they ate or drank, as well as how much water they took in from both foods and beverages.

Overall, the men consumed an average of 169 milligrams of caffeine every day. That's a little more than the typical 125 milligrams found in a cup of coffee.

Reuters

Japan's growth hurt by row with China: World Bank

*A man fishes near a container area at a port in Tokyo on 19 Dec, 2012.—*REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan —Japan's economy contracted in the second half of 2012 and is on track for lackluster growth of 0.8 percent this year, hurt in part by a territorial row with China, the World Bank said in a report on Tuesday.

Relations between China and Japan, the world's biggest economies after the United States, have deteriorated sharply since September, when the Japanese government purchased islands that China claims in the East China Sea.

The value of Japanese exports to China fell by 17 percent between June and November of last year, contributing to a 3.5 percent annualized drop in Japan's growth in the third quarter.

The World Bank said the end of government tax incentives to purchase fuel-efficient automobiles also hurt the economy, as well as the fading boost to growth from reconstruction spending in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and nuclear disaster.

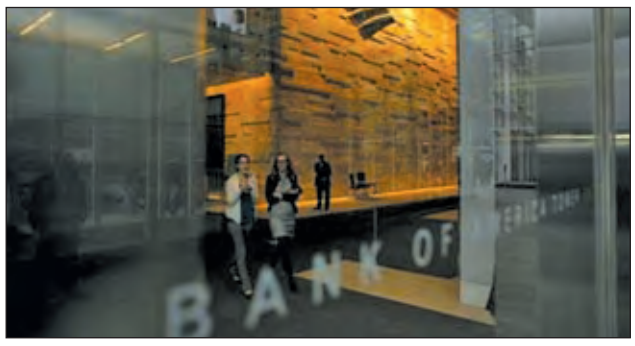
"In Japan, the economy appears to be contracting —in part because of political tension with China over the sovereignty of islands in the region," it said in its twice-yearly Global Economic Prospects report. Revised GDP figures released by Japan in December showed the Japanese economy contracted in both the second and third quarters, and analysts expect it shrank further in the final three months of the year, as does the World Bank.

The Washington-based global development lender said its forecast for 2013 assumed an improvement in Tokyo's relations with China. Assuming that, Japan would be on track to achieve growth rates of 1.2 percent in 2014 and 1.5 percent in 2015.

While it warned that weakness in Japan could pinch global trade, given that Japan is the world's fourth-largest importer, it said a resolution of Sino-Japanese tensions could help speed a return to growth in Japan and boost the global recovery.

Reuters

Bank of America capital markets co-head to lead commercial banking



*People walk at a Bank of America's Tower in New York on 24 Oct, 2012.—*REUTERS

NEW YORK, 17 Jan— Bank of America Corp has named capital markets co-head Alastair Borthwick as its head of commercial banking, in a shuffling of veteran executives.

Borthwick, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc executive who joined the bank in 2005, replaces Laura Whitley, who will take a position in consumer banking, according to a memo sent to employees. Commercial banking has been a bright spot for Bank of America, whose profits have been dragged down by mortgage-related losses since the financial crisis.

Borthwick will report to Tom Montag, the co-chief operating officer who runs global banking and markets operations. Lisa Carnoy remains the head of global capital markets.

Whitley, who has been with the bank more than 25 years, will become head of consumer services, operations and unsecured credit, reporting to David Darnell, the bank's co-chief operating officer who focuses on consumer and wealth management businesses. She will preside over call centers, consumer product operations, unsecured credit and collections, according to the memo.

Reuters

Tata Motors falls on 'muted' December sales

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan— Shares in Tata Motors Ltd (TAMO.NS) fall 2 percent after posting lower-than-expected global vehicle sales in December, dealers say.

Tata Motors on Tuesday said global vehicle sales in December fell 13.9 percent to 98,968 vehicles, although sales at its key Jaguar Land Rover unit rose 4.2 percent to 32,282 vehicles. Tata Motors' global sales last month were "muted" after being dragged by a "poor" performance in the domestic market, said IndiaNivesh Securities in a report on Wednesday.

Reuters

*Men walk inside a Tata Motors showroom on the outskirts of Agartala, on 7 Nov, 2012.—*REUTERS

WORLD

Russia to use European experience in fighting match fixing

Moscow, 17 Jan—Russian Football Union (RFS) will use the experience of English and Italian football associations in combating game fixing, the head of Russian Audit Chamber Sergei Stepashin said on Tuesday.

For that, the RFS plans to incorporate police representatives into its investigative committee, Stepashin said.

In December, the RFS chief Nikolai Tolstykh vowed to uproot corruption in the Russian soccer. As a first step, he dissolved the existing committee headed by Anzor Kavazashvili.

"Tolstykh is creating a special group to replace Kavazashvili's committee that will include high-ranking officials and law-enforcement representatives, as is done in Italy, Turkey and England at the moment," Stepashin told reporters.

Tolstykh, who was elected for his post last September, complained the anti-match-fixing committee has few powers and failed to identify any fixed results since it was founded in October 2011.

Head of RFS disbanded the committee following allegations of result fixing in a November game between Anzhi Makhachkala and Amkar Perm where over 13 million US dollars were reportedly at stake.

The suspicions arose after reports that an Amkar's former player has placed unusually high bets on Anzhi.

Earlier this month, Russian lawmakers decided to toughen criminal punishment for match-fixing with amendments to the law submitted by President Vladimir Putin.

The amendments envisage up to seven-year imprisonment for match-fixing. Police will be given a right to tap the phone calls while investigating such cases. The athletes, coaches, sports officials found guilty by court of result fixing or concealing such cases will be disqualified, while teams and sports associations will be dissolved.—*Xinhua*

Senate committee to hold 7 February hearing for Brennan as CIA nominee

US President Barack Obama (L) stands next to John Brennan, (R), during the announcement for his nominations for a new Secretary of Defence and new CIA Director at the White House in Washington on 7 Jan, 2013. **Reuters**

Washington, 17 Jan—The Senate Intelligence Committee will hold a confirmation hearing on 7 February for John Brennan, who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to be the next CIA Director.

Brennan, currently Obama's counterterrorism adviser, is expected to face some tough questions at the hearing over the expanded use of armed drone aircraft to kill terrorism suspects overseas. He will also have to answer questions on the deadly attacks last year on the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya.

Brennan is a 25-year CIA veteran who withdrew his name from consideration for the top CIA post in 2008 after criticism from liberals that he had not done enough to condemn harsh interrogation techniques like waterboarding used during the Bush administration.

This time, questions over the drone programme may provide additional fodder for critics, although barring new revelations, Brennan appears likely to be confirmed, even though some liberal groups have begun to plan protests against him.

Reuters

Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (4th R) and Bangkok Governor Candidate Pol Gen Pongsapat Pongcharoen (3rd R) hold hands at the Pheu Thai party headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 Jan, 2013. The Pheu Thai Party unveiled Bangkok Governor Candidate on Tuesday. **—Xinhua**

France pledges high vigilance on terror threats

Paris, 17 Jan—French Interior Minister Manuel Valls on Tuesday pledged to strengthen security measures and to be vigilant to secure French citizens from potential terrorists' menaces trigged by Paris' intervention in Mali.

"Caution should be exercised. But what I can assure to the French is that the utmost vigilance will be used to prevent acts on our soil," the minister told news channel BFMTV.

"Our intelligence services both inside and outside the country, are particularly vigilant... and we also monitor individuals who want to go to Syria, Afghanistan, and of course the Sahel," he said. French President Francois Hollande on Saturday evoked Vigipirate, France's national security alert system, following the country's military commitment to help Malian authorities stop the offensive by the rebels. The Vigipirate plan has four alert levels: yellow, orange, red and scarlet, from the lowest to the highest.—*Xinhua*

French president urges mobilization of global capital for green energy

Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan—French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday warned here in his inauguration speech of the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2013 that the conventional energy resources are "unsupportable" for many countries, urging all states to work together to make the energy change happen.

Hollande said at the summit which was held in Abu Dhabi that the current price developments for "fossil" energy resources like oil, gas and coal were "unsupportable" for many countries in the world, urging individual countries to mobilize their own financial resources to reach the UN's goal of "Sustainable energy for all" until 2030.

He introduced that his country has launched a programme to transform common buildings into low energy consuming buildings in line with the LEEDS, a global standard which defines how a house can be operated efficiently in relation to energy usage.

Meanwhile, he said a plan of the European Union (EU) worth of 300 billion euros to enhance renewable energy sources, like solar energy, wind power, geothermal and water energy had to slow down due to the financial crisis.

Earlier, the French president said while visiting French troops stationed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that multi-African forces would join French troops within a week in Mali to fight Islamist rebels there.—*Xinhua*

Japanese women in kimonos walk on a snow covered field to attend a ceremony celebrating Coming of Age Day in heavy snowfall at Toshimaen amusement park in Tokyo on 14 Jan, 2013. Youths across Japan are honoured with special coming-of-age ceremonies when they reach the age of 20. Tokyo saw its first snowfall this season on Monday. **—Xinhua**

Dagong maintains sovereign credit ratings for Italy, ROK

Beijing, 17 Jan—Dagong Global Credit Rating Co, Ltd, a Chinese credit rating agency, on Tuesday announced that it will maintain its local and foreign currency sovereign credit ratings for Italy at BBB and those for the Republic of Korea (ROK) at AA.

Facing fiscal tightening and an adverse external environment, economic recession will continue in Italy, which is likely to see its economy contract by 2.6 percent in 2012 and 1.6 percent in 2013, said Dagong.

Dagong said it has maintained a negative outlook for Italy's local and foreign currency sovereign credit ratings in the next one to two years based on its ongoing economic recession, fragile market condition and large government debt.

Dagong said it sees a downward trend in the ROK's economic development in the short-term due to sluggish external demand, although the country still enjoys sufficient growth potential in the medium- and long-term for its strong competitiveness in the global market.—*Xinhua*

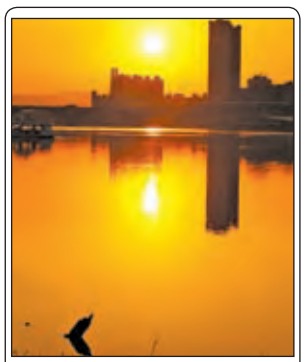


Photo taken on 15 Jan, 2013 shows sunset scenery in Dadaocheng in Taipei, southeast China. Dadaocheng, an area in the Datong District of Taipei, was an important trading port in the 19th century and is still a major historical tourist attraction and shopping area. **—Xinhua**

China calls for political, economic and diplomatic means to counter terrorism

United Nations, 17 Jan—Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai on Tuesday called for the international community to adopt a comprehensive approach with political, economic and diplomatic means involved in combating terrorism, which is a threat to global peace and security.

Addressing a Security Council open debate on comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism, Cui said terrorism is the result of a complex array of political, economic and social factors which cannot be resolved by military means alone

"We need to adopt a comprehensive approach to address the root cause as well as the symptoms of this scourge," he said, " terrorism Counter-terrorism efforts must be combined with economic growth and proper settlement of regional conflict. There should also be more dialogues and exchanges between different civilizations, religions and ethnic groups so as to promote mutual understanding, tolerance and harmonious coexistence."

"We need to leverage the role of the UN and its Security Council as the main channel of cooperation," Cui said, "China supports the important role of the UN and its Security Council in coordinating national efforts and shaping a global response. It is important for countries to strictly abide by the relevant Security Council resolutions and fully implement the UN Global Counter—Terrorism Strategy."—*Xinhua*

Mechanized farming gaining momentum in Yangon, Bago

YANGON, 17 Jan—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited 2000-acre Nyaung-bintha mechanized farmland at mile post No. 102 on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in Pyu Township, Bago Region, on 15 January.

He called for breeding cows at the farm, listing their interrelated benefit. He then visited 10000-acre model mechanized farmland in Dagon Myothit, Yangon Region and viewed farming equipment, silos, paddy dryers, and storage of seeds.

The government is encouraging and assisting in transformation to mechanized farming and establishment of seed production farms across the nation like the two model farms in Yangon and Bago regions, the Union Minister said.—*MNA*

Babies awarded in Gangaw

GANGAW, 17 Jan—The baby show and contest was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Gangaw on 4 January.

Chairperson of Gangaw District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw San San Oo, Acting Chairperson of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Nan Cherry Win and responsible persons pre-sented prizes to the respective winning babies.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar cane ball players to demonstrate abroad for SEA Games

YANGON, 17 Jan—Selected Myanmar traditional cane ball players will demonstrate cane ball playing and explain the rules of the game in Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia from 16 to 23 January. Myanmar has been trying to introduce cane ball sports in coming XXVII SEA Games with participation of seven foreign countries.

A 12-member cane ball demonstration team led by Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw Zin Moe and Secretary of Myanmar Cane Ball Federation U Ye Aung left here this afternoon. Myanmar also demonstrated cane ball playing in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam to mobilize them participate in cane ball sports events. The mobilization was a success and it has planned to open international traditional cane ball umpire course, said Myanmar Cane Ball Federation.

MNA

Professionals, amateur golfers invited to Myanmar Golf Tour-2013 on 29 Jan

YANGON, 17 Jan—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Professional Golfers Assocaition, the Myanmar Golf Tour-2013 IBTC Open Golf Championship, mainly sponsored by IBTC Group of Companies, will be held at Royal Mingalardon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon of Yangon Region from 29 January to 1 February.

Professionals and handicap 0-12 level golfers will be allowed to take part in the Championship under the St. Andrew Golf rules and regional regulations.

Those wishing to take part in the championship are to contact the Myanmar Golf Training Range of the federation at the corner of Okkala Road and Airport Road, Mayangon Township, Ph: 09-49102009, 09-73130474 and 09-420017835 with an entrance fee of K 20,000, not later than 2 pm on 26 January.

Professionals and those from amateur levels up to 20th positions will have the opportunities to participate in the Myanmar Golf Tour-20th Elite Tech Golf Championship to be held from 4 to 7 February.

Ten professionals from the second championship will have the opportunities to take part in the Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 which is an international invitational competition to be sponsored by Alpine at Royal Mingaladon Golf Course from 21 to 24 February.

MNA

Literary talks given in Dawei Township

DAWEI, 17 Jan—With the sponsorship of Dawei Development Public Company (CCPC) of Taninthayi Region, Dawei Township Writers Association and Township Information and Public Relations Department jointly organized the literary talks to mark the Sarsodaw Day at the city hall in Dawei on 13 January, at Dawei Basic Education High School No. 1 and Dawei Education College on 14 January, Dawei BEHS No. 3 on 15 January and Pyinnya Alin Library in Sawwa Village of Shin Mokhti Village on 16 January. Ledwinthar Saw Chit (U Tin Hlaing), Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association, and Myinmu Maung Naing Moe gave lectures on literary affairs.—*Myanma Alinn*

Eight streets in Pyinmana illuminated with lamp-posts

PYINMANA, 17 Jan—A ceremony to launch installation of lamp-posts on eight streets in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held at the junction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Komin Kochin Street in Pyinmana on 12 January.

Members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Kyaw Nyein and U Kyaw Myint and Pyinmana Township Administrator Assistant Director U Kyaw Tint formally opened the ceremony.

Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Tin Cho unveiled the signboard to mark completion of lighting installation.

At present, a total of 120 sodium lamps, 65 fluorescence and 30 bulbs were installed along Bogyoke, Bo Tauk Htein, Bo Tayar, Maung Khin, Sibinyon, Tabaung Pagoda, Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Bo Letya streets in downtown Pyinmana with K 23.3 million contributions by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

A plan is underway to install more lamp-posts at the needy places in Pyinmana.

An official of Pyinmana Township General Administration Department said that the installation of lamp-post lights was carried out by the Ministry of Electric Power and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee as of first week of December.

Myanma Alinn

Pylon of MRTV-3 repaired in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 17 Jan—At 1.30 pm on 18 December 2012, an ice tanker hit the post of 66 KV Sinmalaik MRTV-3 pylon on Bayintnaung Road in Ward 4 of Kamayut Township. In the incident, concrete of the post were crushed down and iron rods in the post bent.

The Kamayut Township Electrical Engineer and workers of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board repaired the post and built the concrete footing. The repairing work was completed on 28 December 2012.

In the incident, the supply of electricity did not cut out.

Myanma Alinn

Friendly match of Brazilian giants cancelled

YANGON, 17 Jan—The programme of friendly matches of Brazilian football giants was cancelled, said Myanmar Football Federation recently.

Due to difficulties to pick up the Brazilian giants, not only the friendly match with Myanmar but also their Asian tour was cancelled. The giants planed to play friendly matches with Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Brazilian giants had planned to play against Myanmar on 23 January in the recent plan.

Myanma Alinn

Action speaks louder than words.

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 January, 2013

Mobile and GDP growth

The capability of the mobile phone to act as a tool to educate and gain knowledge as well as spreading opinion and communicate with the rest of the world, support but do of course not directly solve all the issues. Health initiatives, agricultural solutions, banking networks, and education are being conducted over mobile networks every day. The reach of the mobile phone by far outnumbers any other communication devices. Even in places that lack electricity, they are often plentiful.

The key benefits of owning mobiles are: communication with family members and relatives at affordable prices. The cost of travel, especially the time taken to reach these places, has largely reduced due to this easy communication. Coordination with family members when somebody is out on work becomes easier. Smooth running of business operations in terms of ordering supplies, taking orders or bookings from clients, etc, have greatly reduced time for operational aspects, especially for logistics.

Over the last few decades, the Indian economy has witnessed a significant transformation. From being primarily an agricultural economy, the services sector has overtaken and has become the leading contributor to growth. Within the services sector, the communication sector has grown. While other sectors slowed down, the communication sector continued its forward march.

According to the researches, there is a relationship between higher mobile teledensity and higher economic growth. In India, findings reveal that every 10% increase in mobile penetration rate leads to a 1.2% increase in GDP. The assessment showed that mobile telephony contributes to promoting economic growth. Myanmar should have higher mobile penetration.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, India discuss running bus-line between Inphal, Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — An Indian railway delegation held talks with Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung over bilateral cooperation in rail transportation, proposals for locomotives and coaches loans from India and running a bus-line between Inphal, India, and Mandalay yesterday.

The delegation led by Mr. Niraj Kumar from the India Railways is currently here to attend the first meeting of the work group for cooperation in rail transportation between India and Myanmar today and tomorrow at the head office of Myanma Railways under the India-Myanmar friendship programme.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri was also present at the meeting.—*MNA*

Graduation parade of junior naval officer courses held

YANGON, 17 Jan— Graduation parade of junior naval officer management course (Intake-73) and engineer officer course (Intake-47), was held at the Naval Training Depot in Thanlyin this morning, with an address by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe.

It was attended by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, senior military officers, their parents and relatives.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) took the salute of the officers companies and presented awards to the outstanding officers. After that, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, he delivered an address.

After the ceremony, he posed for documentary photo with senior military officers and the graduate officers.—*MNA*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General U Than Htay of Myanmar Correctional Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar, China to make technical cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw received a delegation led by Vice Minister for Commerce Mr Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China, at the ministry, here, on 15 January.

They exchanged views on investment and economic cooperation between two countries, development and assistance and ongoing technical cooperation and exchanges.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi, the Directors-General of Central Statistical Organization and Foreign Economic Relations Department.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe awards best trainee Sd-Lt Chan Myae Aung of Naval Junior Engineer Officer Course No 47.

MNA

Skating becomes popular in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 17 Jan— Skating gains in popularity among youths in Mohnyin of Kachin State. There is at least one skate ground in every ward and two in Ywathitgon where Degree College is situated. More skate grounds are being built there as skate ground owners get benefits. Some businessmen rent theatres on one-year contract so as to use them as skate grounds. Skating fee per hour is one thousand kyat. Due to the security of the region, authority concerned allows opening of skate grounds till 8 pm, according to a skate ground owner.—*NLM-001*

Vice Chinese Commerce minister meets Myanmar media

YANGON, 17 Jan—Vice Minister for Commerce Mr Chen Jiang of the People's Republic of China met Myanmar media, at the residence of the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

At the press meet, he explained the matters related to microfinance programme for Myanmar farmers, export of Myanma agriculture produce to China, construction of infrastructures including hospitals in Yangon, preparation for the 27th SEA Games and comprehensive cooperation in economic sectors between the two countries.—*MNA*

Home Affairs Dy Minister, UN officials hold talks

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun held talks with representatives of UNHCR Dr Laura McGrew and Mr Stephen Gray and Mr Jason Eligh from UNODC over activities of the Myanmar Police Force yesterday separately.

During the meeting at the MPF here, they discussed requirements for MPF to meet the international standard.

MNA

Ayeyawady Region Government coord meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung delivered an opening speech at coordination meeting of the region government and region level departments, industries and local authorities at Ayeya Shwewah Hall in Pathein on 15 January.

Region level departmental officials discussed plans to realize targets of respective projects and future programs.

MNA

Cartoon **Bahan Aye Min**

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Singaporean PM, Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces, Malaysian Defence Minister, visits Sapura Secured Technologies Company in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at Istana of the Republic of Singapore on 15 January evening.

Also present were Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin, the chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces and officials.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed thanks for the support of Singapore to Myanmar's bid for ASEAN Chairmanship. He said that he believed Myanmar would be able to make a success in 2013 SEA Games and ASEAN Military Shooting Contest thanks to experiences shared by ASEAN countries including Singapore.

The Singaporean Prime Minister vowed to provide necessary assistance in Myanmar's 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship and 2013 SEA Games and ASEAN Military Shooting Contest. The PM expressed his belief that Myanmar would be able to tackle problems in northern and western part of the country, saying that it was required to take enough time to realize the reform process as the world was full of challenges.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services expressed his belief that the government would be able translate its great strides in political, administrative and economic reforms into a success.

The Singaporean PM replied that security was a vital component in a certain country and he understood that the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services had a lot of duties and responsibilities. Singapore wanted to have a cordial relationship with all countries, he added.

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services left for Singapore on 16 January morning and arrived at Kuala Lumpur Airport of Malaysia at 11. 10 am.

In the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services held talks on further cooperation between the two armed forces, training matters and sending of representatives from Tatmadaw (Navy/ Air) to *Langkawi International* Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition with Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces General Tan Sri Sato Sri Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin at the Ministry of Defence of Malaysia.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met the Defence Minister of Malaysia at the latter's office. They held discussions on boosting bilateral cooperation between the two armed forces and training on medicine and attendance of Myanmar Tatmadaw at Langkawi *International* Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation together with the Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces visited Sapura Secured Technologies Company where they observed, communications devices produced by the company Network Operation Centre Room and Network Centric Operation Room.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services heard presentation of officials of DEFTECH and IMAXUS company branches at the briefing hall and viewed round military and civilian vehicles.

Then he held talks with the Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces and officials at the hall of Sapura Company.—*MNA*

***Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party pose for documentary photo with Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces General Tan Sri Sato Sri Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin and party.*—MNA**

***Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Malaysian Defence Minister.*—MNA**

***Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Sapura Secured Technologies Company in Malaysia.*—MNA**

Transportation industry…

(from page 16)

The Hluttaw decided that the fifth five-year national plan should be redrafted by taking account of the remarks of the report of the Joint Bill Committee and recommendations of the MPs and put the original draft on record.

It is leant that mining industry has developed by 11.6 per cent and transportation industry by 15.2 per cent annually in the fourth five-year plan.

U Samai Mongkwan (a) U Samai Tang of Sumprabun Constituency stressed that the government needs to manage properly to ensure local businessmen can run mineral mining.

The Hluttaw recorded **the bill revoking the law which prevents threat against systematic transfer of power in peaceful and stable manner and successful implementation of National Convention's functions and the bill amending Traditional Medicine Council.**—*MNA*

***Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong at Istana of Singapore.*—MNA**

WORLD

UN chief welcomes Madagascar president's decision to quit running for presidency

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan —UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday welcomed Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina's decision not to run in the upcoming presidential elections.

"The secretary-general welcomes the decision by Mr. Andry Rajoelina, president of the Transition in Madagascar, not to run in the forthcoming presidential elections planned for May 2013," said a statement issued here by Ban's spokesperson.

"President Rajoelina's decision, as well as the earlier pledge by former President Marc Ravalomanana, should help facilitate the conduct of free and credible elections to bring an end to the transition," said the statement.

In the statement, the UN chief stressed the importance of upholding the electoral calendar adopted by the country's National Independent Electoral Commission of the Transition (CENIT).

"It is also critical that the 2011 roadmap to end the crisis, particularly provisions related to confidence-building measures, is fully implemented," said the statement.

In addition, Ban reiterated that the United Nations stands ready to continue supporting the government and the Malagasy people.

The presidential elections of Madagascar will be held on 8 May, 2013, with the legislative elections scheduled for 3 July.

President Rajoelina said on Tuesday night that he won't be a candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. Rajoelina said in a televised address that he will help prepare the elections and be ready to transfer power to the winner of the elections.

He also said he prefers to make concessions rather than bring the country to the brink of collapse.—*Xinhua*

Rescue teams work at a building collapse site in Alexandria, Egypt, on 16 Jan, 2013. The death toll of the building collapse on early Wednesday in Egypt's northern seaside city of Alexandria rose to 16, and 10 injured people have been rescued under the rubble, Health Ministry's spokesman, Ahmed Omar, told Xinhua.
XINHUA

Venezuela's Chavez thanks Armed Forces for loyalty

CARACAS, 17 Jan— Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, who is recovering in Havana due to cancer surgery, thanked the country's National Armed Forces for their loyalty, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on Wednesday.

During an event with the military, Maduro said that last Monday Chavez told Jorge Arreaza, Minister of Science and Technology and his son-in-law, that he was very glad and thankful for the military's "loyalty", as well as for the performance of all his cabinet, congressmen and elected governors.

Maduro said Chavez "feels a great happiness and told us to pass on to the armed forces, from the bottom of his heart, all his gratitude for so much loyalty from you toward him, a humble soldier of the country."

Chavez, who was reelected in last October, was unable to attend his inauguration on 10 January.

The postponement of Chavez's inauguration was upheld last week by the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) and now has the blessing of the military, Defence Minister Diego Molero said.—*Xinhua*

Haitian president calls for earthquake preparedness

SANTO DOMINGO, 17 Jan—The Haitians should be prepared for possible earthquakes and follow the safety measures proposed by the government, President Michel Martelly said at an exhibition on seismic risks in Port-au-Prince on Wednesday.

After the massive earthquake in 2010, there is increasing awareness in Haiti that the traditional way to build structures should be improved so as to make the Caribbean country stronger in the face of possible quakes, said Martelly.

"The wind of change is blowing all over the country now. Through this exhibition, the wind blows stronger to spread more advice and information about how to stay safe," added Martelly.

The exhibition, titled "Long-lasting Commitment in the Path to Seismic Security", opened on Wednesday at the largest public square in the capital, where some 60,000 people were affected by the 2010 earthquake.

"It's true that reducing seismic risks can't be achieved overnight, so that is why I invite all the institutions, including the local authorities and international partners, to make efforts," said Martelly.

Xinhua

Windmills are seen after snowfall in Kinderdijk, west of the Netherlands, on 16 Jan, 2013. The small town of Kinderdijk is known for its 19 well-preserved windmills which were built around 1740. Every year about 500,000 tourists visit Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997.
XINHUA

Azerbaijan, Slovenia pledge closer cooperation

BAKU, 17 Jan—Azerbaijan and Slovenia signed here a series of documents on Wednesday at a business forum to expand bilateral cooperation in economic and other fields. "Azerbaijan attaches great importance to cooperation with European countries, including Slovenia," Azerbaijani Minister of Economic Development Shahin Mustafayev said at the opening of an Azerbaijan-Slovenia business forum.

"Currently the political relationship between the two countries is at a high level and based on the principles of friendship and mutual interests," Mustafayev added. Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa told the forum that bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade areas has great potential. "Effective use of existing facilities and expansion of ties between entrepreneurs of the two countries will play an important role in development of trade and economic relations between Azerbaijan and Slovenia," Jansa said.—*Xinhua*

China media train fire on US food giants over chicken scare

SHANGHAI, 17 Jan— Just weeks after Chinese authorities cleared Yum Brands Inc and McDonald's Corp of charges they had served chicken laced with excessive chemicals, local media are again attacking the iconic American firms, while barely reporting on the chances of Chinese restaurants selling similar meat.

The official *Shanghai Daily*, citing a report from the central government's news portal china.com.cn, said on Thursday one of China's largest suppliers to McDonald's and Yum's KFC and had bought sick chicken from farms and sold them to the food outlets — a claim a local government in the central province of Henan said was untrue after a preliminary investigation.

Chinese newspapers and websites have also criticized some domestic firms, but industry experts say multinationals are hotter targets given the high profile of their brands.

A woman walks past electric bikes sitting outside a McDonalds fast-food outlet in central Beijing on 20 March, 2012.
REUTERS

"KFC and McDonald's get media attention because they're the biggest fast-food chains in China. Everyone knows them and everyone talks about them," said Tan Xiaoxue, a reporter at Sohu.com Inc's news portal.

"There are some local chains such as Country Style Cooking, but they cannot be compared with international brands, which have much bigger brand recognition and consumer impact." In the latest chicken scare case, china.com.cn quoted an unidentified official at Doyoo Group — which sells chicken to KFC and McDonald's — plus employees at Doyoo's suppliers as saying chicken that fell ill were slaughtered and shipped to fast food restaurants including the two American giants.—*Reuters*

Mexican generals linked to drug gangs lose appeal

MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan— A Mexican court said on Wednesday that two army generals, one retired and one still serving, should remain in jail and face trial in one of the highest-profile cases linking the military to organized crime.

Retired General Tomas Angeles and General Roberto Dawe were arrested in May of last year and turned over to the country's organized crime unit for investigation. The court rejected an appeal by the generals, who were senior figures in the government's crackdown against drug cartels under former Mexican President Felipe Calderon, whose term in office ended at the start of December. Angeles was No 2 in the armed forces when Calderon, a conservative, sent in the army against the cartels shortly after taking office in late 2006. Angeles retired in 2008. Dawe, still an active general, led an elite army unit in the western state of Colima.—*Reuters*

Striking bus drivers and supporters gather in front of a bus stop in New York, the United States, on 16 Jan, 2013. More than 8,000 school bus drivers on Wednesday began their strike to demand job protection, leaving some 152,000 students trying to find other ways to get to school.
XINHUA

REGIONAL

Japan, Vietnam agree to solve disputes by law

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung pose for photographers at the Government Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 16 Jan, 2013.—NHK

HANOI, 17 Jan—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has told his Vietnamese counterpart that he opposes any use of force to change the status quo in maritime disagreements.

Abe is in Vietnam on his first tour abroad since taking office last month. He and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung discussed territorial disputes in the region. The two countries have separate disputes with China.

Abe said the peace and stability of the South China Sea is of global concern. He added that rule of law is essential. Dung said he understands and supports Japan's stance.

The leaders also discussed North Korea. Abe said the North's rocket launch last month violated UN Security Council resolutions. He said the international community should take firm action.

He also explained Japan's efforts to solve the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea in the 1970s and 80s.

Abe pledged about 500 million dollars of new yen loans to Vietnam. The money will be used to develop infrastructure such as roads and thermal power generation plants.—*NHK*

Probe into Boeing 787 focused on battery

TOKYO, 17 Jan—Japan's transport authorities are probing the emergency landing of a *Boeing 787 Dreamliner* jet, with a focus on a battery system in the plane.

The All Nippon Airways airplane made an emergency landing en route from Yamaguchi Ube Airport to Tokyo on Wednesday. It evacuated passengers at Takamatsu Airport. The pilot's decision came after displays in the cockpit indicated various irregularities including smoke and battery problems.

Five inspectors from the government's Transport Safety Board checked the plane at Takamatsu Airport on Thursday morning. They are examining the battery in an electrical room below the cockpit.

An earlier check on Wednesday found bulges in the battery container, with dark traces of liquid that had leaked onto the floor.

The inspectors suspect overheating caused electrolyte to leak from the battery.

They plan to examine the battery more closely in the afternoon in the presence of staff from its Japanese manufacturer.

The Transport Ministry has ordered the aircraft to be grounded until their safety is confirmed. US aviation authorities on Wednesday ordered the suspension of all *787s* operated in the country.

All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines grounded their *787s* on Wednesday. The suspensions are causing flight cancelations and other service disruptions.—*NHK*

Japanese aviation experts examine a Boeing 787 Dreamliner jet operated by All Nippon Airways Co at Takamatsu Airport in western Japan on 17 Jan, 2013, following its emergency landing after the appearance of smoke inside the aircraft the previous day.—KYODO NEWS

Akutagawa, Naoki literary awards won by oldest, youngest novelists

TOKYO, 17 Jan—Natsuko Kuroda won the Akutagawa literary award on Wednesday for her work "ab Sango," becoming the oldest winner at age 75 in the almost 80-year history of the award, while the Naoki prize for popular literature went to Ryo Asai and Ryutaro Abe, the selection committees for the prestigious awards for Japanese literature said.

Asai became the youngest winner of the Naoki award in postwar history for his work "Nanimono," while Abe won the award for "Tohaku."

Kuroda, a native of Tokyo, graduated from Waseda University and worked as a teacher and proofreader before winning the Waseda Bungaku rookie award last year for the same work.

Without using individual names or pronouns, "ab Sango" depicts the memories of a child whose life with a parent gradually crumbles. The work is written horizontally instead of vertically as Japanese is conventionally written.

(From L) Ryutaro Abe, Ryo Asai and Natsuko Kuroda hold their works in Tokyo on 16 Jan, 2013, after Kuroda was awarded the Akutagawa award for up-and-coming authors of serious fiction and Abe and Asai received the Naoki award for popular literature.—KYODO NEWS

"Thank you for discovering me while I am still alive," Kuroda said following the award announcement.

Toshiyuki Horie, a renowned novelist and a member of the selection committee for the Akutagawa award, said Kuroda's work is "very sophisticated in technique... and, as a whole, beautifully finished." Asai, a native of Gifu, debuted in 2009 as a Waseda University student and was nominated for the Naoki award in 2012.His latest work is about university students' struggles during job hunting. The story advances with the students' posts on Twitter as they go about seeking jobs and depicts their frustrations in being unable to become "Nanimono" (somebody).

Abe, 57, a native of Fukuoka Prefecture, was nominated for the award in 1994 and is known for his historic novels. "Tohaku" explores the life of Japanese painter Hasegawa Tohaku (1539-1610), who founded the Hasegawa school of Japanese painting in the 16th century.—*Kyodo News*

Floods paralyze Indonesian capital, heavy rains continue

JAKARTA, 17 Jan—Heavy monsoonal rains triggered severe flooding in large swathes of the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Thursday, with many government offices and businesses forced to closed because staff could not get to work.

Weather officials warned the rains could get worse over the next few days and media reports said that thousands of people in Jakarta and its satellite cities had been forced to leave their homes because of the torrential downpours this week.

A woman sits on a makeshift raft as she crosses a flooded road in Jakarta on 16 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

"For the next two or three days it is estimated that there may be increasing activity of the Asian Monsoon which could increase weather activity in southern Sumatra and Java," said Soepriyo, an official at the Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency.

An estimated more than 100 mm (12 inches) of rain had fallen overnight in the capital. This year's rainy season has brought some of the heaviest downpours for five years.

In the centre of Jakarta, whose streets overflow with vehicles at the best of times, traffic was brought to a near standstill by waist high flood waters.

The city's main airport remained open but many roads leading there were reportedly blocked. Most commuter train services and the bus system were closed.

The Jakarta Stock Exchange did open but trading was light.—*Reuters*

Kobe marks 18th anniversary of Great Hanshin Earthquake

KOBE, 17 Jan—On Thursday, the western Japanese city of Kobe marked the 18th anniversary of the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake with a series of memorial ceremonies that attracted more than 5,000 people who prayed for the 6,434 victims killed by the disaster.

The annual ceremonies have started in the city and its neighboring areas in Hyogo Prefecture following a moment of silence at 5:46 am local time, the exact time when the massive earthquake struck the city.

In Higashiyuenchi Park, where thousands of lit bamboo lanterns were arranged to form the date, "1.17," Keiko Fujimoto, who lost her 10-year-old daughter in the earthquake, made a speech on behalf of the bereaved families. She stressed that 18 years after the tragedy, she believes she is encouraged to go on with her life by her lost daughter's friends and teachers, many of whom have visited her annually at this time of the year.

"The basic feeling shared by the victims' families is always the same," Fujimoto said. "We absolutely cannot let memories of the earthquake fade away with time."

Also in the park was Kobe Mayor Tatsuo Yada, who told the attendees that Kobe's difficult experience and the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin Earthquake must somehow be passed on to future generations to persuade the world's people to respect human life, be considerate of others and adopt a spirit of cooperation as our common duty.

"Kobe is ready to make full use of its lessons from the earthquake by offering our recovery know-how to any disaster-affected place in the world," the mayor added. After the speeches in the early morning sessions, Akihiro Mishima, an 18-year-old university student who has lived in Kobe his whole life, told *Xinhua* in the park that he decided to come to the annual memorial event for the first time after performing some volunteer work in the area devastated by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

Xinhua

A man and his children light candles at a park in Kobe, western Japan, in the early morning on 17 Jan, 2013, on the 18th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Earthquake that claimed the lives of more than 6,400 people.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (065)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (065) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2013 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 ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (027)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (027) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2013 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ER TURKU VOY NO (009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (009N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

***Former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama lowers his head at a Nanjing Massacre memorial hall in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, on 17 Jan, 2013. At left is his wife Miyuki.—*KYODO NEWS**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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U Than Maung, *Advocate*
For Lioele Cosmetic Co., Ltd.
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
#1508-1509, 15th Floor
Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 18 January 2013

Corrigendum

Please read TENDER No. (10) instead of TENDER NO (9) in INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER of Agricultural Mechanization Department appeared in this newspaper on 16-1-2013.

London station briefly evacuated after train catches fire

LONDON, 17 Jan—London's Victoria Station was briefly evacuated during the Thursday rush hour after a fire under a train that was pulling up to a platform, British transport police said.

There were no casualties, a spokesman said, adding that the station was evacuated because of smoke from the fire but was being re-opened. A London fire brigade spokeswoman said power to the platform had been switched off.

The train was a Gatwick Express service arriving from the international airport at Gatwick, south of the capital.—*Reuters*

Anniversary Golf Tournament of City Golf Resort Member

In Commemoration of the 18th anniversary of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, a golf tournament for professional golfers is scheduled to be held at the Pondy Courses on 24-1-2013 and 25-1-2013, and the members' golf tournament at the Silvery and Pondy Course on 9-2-2013. The members' golf tournament shall be played on the basis of Callway 1.2 System and a Light Truck (Nano) is going to be presented to the golfer who scores Hole-in-one first and foremost in the tournament. (In case nobody scores Hole-in-one, this prize shell go to member competitors who attend the prize- giving ceremony in the evening by Lucky Draw.)

Therefore our members who wish to participate in the annual members' golftournament are to enroll their names at the Reception Counter, City Golf Resort, not later than (18:00)hours of 7-2-2013, Thursday. It is hereby brought to the attention of our golfers that no entires shall be accepted after 7-2-2013, and that no personal invitation cards be sent to the golfers.

GENERAL MANAGER
CITY GOLF RESORT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV APISARA NAREE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV APISARA NAREE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA NET SHIPPING CO. LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Ministry of Information Myanma Radio and Television

Invitation for Open Tender

1. Open Tenders are ivited to purchase motor vehicle for 2012-13 fiscal year at Myanma Radio and Televison of Ministry of Information.
2. The application forms for the open tender are available at the Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) in office hours (9.30 to 16.30) daily from 17-1-2013 to 18-1-2013.
3. The forms are to be submitted in the presence of the tender board at the Myanma Radio and Television Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) between 9.30 and 16.30 on 19-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.
4. The open tender forms and detailed information are available at the following adress:-

Motor Vehicle Purchasing Committee
Myanma Radio and Televison
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ph: 067-79079, 79135

Donate Blood

At least seven killed, 25 wounded in twin car bombs in Iraq

TIKRIT, 17 Jna—At least seven people were killed and more than 25 wounded in two car bomb explosions in a town in Salahudin Province north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Thursday, a provincial police source told *Xinhua*.

The first attack occurred in the morning when a car bomb detonated in the center of al-Dujail town, some 60 km north of Baghdad. Minutes later, another car bombing followed targeting security forces and civilians who gathered at the site of the first blast, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The attackers apparently followed old tactic which depends on creating an initial explosion to attract security forces and people, and then setting off another blast to get heavier casualties, the source said. The toll could rise as many of the victims were evacuated by ambulances and civilian cars to several hospitals and medical centers in the city, the source added.

Salahudin province is a Sunni-dominated province. Its capital city of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, is the hometown of former president Saddam Hussein.

The attack came a day after a series of massive bombings and shootings in northern and central the country which killed a total of 31 people and wounded more than 250.—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT

Justin Timberlake brings sexy back with new song

Justin Timberlake

LOS ANGELES, 17 Jan—Pop star Justin Timberlake has brought his trademark sexy crooner voice back with his first new song in five years, receiving a warm welcome from fans and critics on Monday on his long-awaited return to music.

The singer released "Suit & Tie" featuring Jay-Z on Sunday night, and within hours, the song had topped the US iTunes chart. The new single also came with the announcement of a new album, "The 20/20 Experience," to be released later this year. The new song, produced by Timberlake's long-time collaborator Timbaland, features the singer's falsetto voice over a laid-back, hip-hop beat, fusing R&B and pop sounds.

Critics drew on Timberlake's newly married status—the singer wed actress Jessica Biel last October—as a possible inspiration for the track.

Rolling Stone Magazine reviewer Jody Rosen called the single "a gift to the world's wedding DJs ... an ode to dressing to the nines and going dancing."

Pitchfork music website reviewer Stephen Deusner said the track was "one hell of a wedding reception jam, as bubbly as champagne," while Billboard's Jason Lipschultz called the song a "sleek, wholly assured dance number." Timberlake, 31, who teased fans with cryptic Twitter messages last week, quickly became a trending topic on social media, along with the song. MTV Buzzworthy's editor, Tamar Anitai, said the avid online response was no surprise, given Timberlake's vast fan base and the long wait for new music.

Reuters

Poet Sharon Olds wins TS Eliot award

LONDON, 17 Jan—American poet Sharon Olds won the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry on Monday for "Stag's Leap", a critically acclaimed collection that traces the end of her marriage 15 years ago.

The annual award, celebrating its 20th anniversary, goes to what a panel of poets decides is the best collection of verse published in the United Kingdom and Ireland each year, and is considered to be one of the world's top poetry prizes.

Stag's Leap, published in Britain by Jonathan Cape, was chosen from a record 131 submissions and a shortlist of 10.

"From over 130 collections, we were particularly impressed by the strong presence of women on the list and were unanimous in awarding the 2012 TS Eliot Prize to Sharon Olds' Stag's Leap," said Carol Ann Duffy, chair of the judges.

American poet Sharon Olds

Duffy, also Britain's poet laureate since 2009, called the work "a tremendous book of grace and gallantry which crowns the career of a world-class poet."

Olds wins a cheque for 15,000 pounds ($24,000) for the prize, which is administered by the Poetry Book Society and supported by the estate of leading 20th century poet TS Eliot whose works include "The Waste Land".

When her marriage ended, Olds, now 70, promised her children she would not write about the divorce for 10 years. In fact, it took her 15 years to get around to publishing a collection which some critics said was her best yet.

"Olds, who has always had a gift for describing intimacy, has, in a sense, had these poems thrown at her by life and allowed them to take root: they are stunning—the best of a formidable career," wrote Kate Kellaway in The Observer.

The critic added that the collection was surprisingly kind considering its subject matter.

In "Unspeakable", from Stag's Leap, Olds writes:

"He shows no anger,/I show no anger but in flashes of humor/all is courtesy and horror. And after/the first minute, when I say, Is this about/her, and he says, No, it's about/you, we do not speak of her."

Reuters

Why Russell Crowe's looking forward to Les Miserables' India release

Russell Crowe

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan—Russell Crowe hopes Les Miserables will be released in India—because he wants to visit the country.

The actor has always wanted to take a trip to the Asian country and if the acclaimed musical movie gets a release there it will provide him with the perfect excuse.

Russell Crowe, 48, wrote on Twitter: "Will #LesMis be released in India? On what date? ... Never been to India. Despite the odd Press I get there, fictional "e-mail interviews" etc, it is a place that holds a great fascination for me. (sic)"

Russell, who appears as vindictive policeman Javert in the musical, took to the social networking site to show his excitement for future international appearances. He added: "Random thought ... I am looking forward to #Les Mis opening in Italy and France. Two countries with a deep love of cinema. (sic)" Les Miserables has already enjoyed huge success, picking up several awards at the Golden Globes ceremony and the Gladiator star showed support for his fellow cast members. He wrote: "So Cool Golden Globe love for #LesMis Congrats @RealHughJackman and the amazing Anne Hathaway, 22.25km bike ride,now taking the kids for a pizza. (sic)"

The film won Best Motion Picture, whilst Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman saw individual success in the Best Supporting Actress and Best Actor categories respectively.—*PTI*

Don't mess with Meryl, Lindsay Lohan tells Jennifer Lawrence

Jennifer Lawrence

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan— The first thing Golden Globe winner Jennifer Lawrence said in her thank you speech was "What does it say? I beat Meryl." Jennifer, who won Best Actress —Comedy/Musical for Silver Linings Playbook, was joking, of course, or referring to Goldie Hawn movie The First Wives Club in which a character says exactly the same line after looking at an Oscar statuette.

The audience in the Beverly Hills Hotel duly laughed. Not so actress Lindsay Lohan, watching the show at home. Lindsay, who may or may not have seen The First Wives Club, tweeted indignantly: Words cannot express how much I LOVE Kristen Wiig. And no1 should ever mess with a legend, such as Meryl Streep.

Jennifer was the only star who peeved Lindsay off, it seems. She had only the nicest things to say about: Actress Kate Hudson —Kate Hudson looks GORGEOUS!!

The hosts: I am grateful to of had the opportunity to work with 2 amazing women who are people i admire, such as Amy Poehler & Tina Fey. Xo

Girls star Lena Dunham—I am grateful to of had the opportunity to work with 2 amazing women who are people i admire, such as Amy Poehler & Tina Fey.

PTI

Amitabh Bachchan excited about working with Anurag Kashyap

MUMBAI, 17 Jan—Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who says he is looking forward to working with filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, regrets that he's not young enough to be a part of "this most interesting period in the life of our film world", which is riding high on the "drive" and "confidence" of the young generation. "I work with Anurag Kashyap tomorrow for a short film that he makes, as part of a compilation of short stories being put together as an experiment," the 70-year-old posted on his blog srbachchan.tumblr.com. However, he didn't reveal the title of the project. "And later in the year to start a complete film, which he has narrated to me, and which sounds innovative and exciting. The young generation that has found its place in the industry is most commendable.

The superstar will be acting in a short film directed by the 'Gangs of Wasseypur' director.—**PTI**

I just love their enthusiasm and drive, their thought process, the confidence that they exude and their absolute faith in the medium which they are associated with," he posted.—*PTI*

SPORTS

Manchester United's Javier Hernandez jumps over West Ham United's Jussi Jaaskelainen during their FA Cup third round replay soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 16 Jan, 2013. Man. United won 1-0. Manchester United and Arsenal are both through to the fourth round of the FA Cup following victories against West Ham and Swansea.—XINHUA

Rays' Price sees scramble for AL East title

NEW YORK, 17 Jan — American League Cy Young winner David Price expects the AL East race to be a mad scramble in 2013 with all five teams posing a legitimate chance at capturing the division title.

"It's going to be very exciting. Every AL East game is going to be like potentially a postseason game for us." Price told *Reuters* in a recent interview while shooting a commercial for MLB 2K13 after supplanting Justin Verlander as both Cy Young winner and cover boy for the video game. "The AL East is kind of shaken up right now, with everybody making additions and some people losing guys. It's kind of up in the air."

David Price

Price, 27, was named the league's top pitcher after going 20-5 last year with a league-leading 2.56 earned run average for the Tampa Bay Rays, who finished third behind the division-winning New York Yankees and wildcard Baltimore Orioles. He would now like to again follow in the footsteps of Detroit Tigers starter Verlander by getting into the World Series in 2013 but the tall left-hander knows the competition could be fierce.

"Everybody's got their special strength. Ours is definitely pitching and defence and it's still going to be that way even after losing James Shields and Wade Davis," said Price, who said he feels good heading into spring training. Tampa Bay, challenged to stay competitive despite a modest budget, traded two-fifths of their starting rotation to the Kansas City Royals for top outfield prospect Wil Myers and some young minor league pitchers.

Reuters

Indian women to play exhibition football games against Netherlands

MUMBAI, 17 Jan —Indian women's football team will take on an assorted outfit from the Netherlands in two international exhibition matches at Kolhapur and Navi Mumbai. The match in Kolhapur is to be held on Thursday at the Chhatrapati Shahu Stadium and the game at the Father Agnel's Sports Complex at Vashi, Navi Mumbai will be held on 20 January, a release from the Western India Football Association (WIFA) said on Wednesday.

The All India Football Federation has organised the two matches with its affiliate WIFA, Kolhapur Sports Association and the Fr Agnel Group of Institutions. A week-long camp was held from 9 January in Kolhapur to prepare the home country's women team for these games. "We are very excited and happy to host both these games in our state of Maharashtra for the first time ever. Kolhapur and Navi Mumbai (Thane) are sports mad districts and we are expecting a good crowd for the game," said WIFA Secretary Souter Vaz.—*PTI*

Azarenka continues dominant dance in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan— Victoria Azarenka again highlighted the gap between the top tier of women's tennis and the rest of the field by demolishing Eleni Daniilidou of Greece in the second round of the Australian Open on Thursday.

A day after Maria Sharapova dished out a second successive 'double bagel' to an overmatched opponent at Melbourne Park, Azarenka was just as ruthless in dispatching Daniilidou 6-1, 6-0 in 55 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus

Azarenka, last year's champion, was only pushed in one game against the world number 94 when Daniilidou held three break points in the fourth game of the second set.

The Belarusian will now meet either Jamie Hampton of the United States or Thailand's Luksika Kumkhum in the third round.—*Reuters*

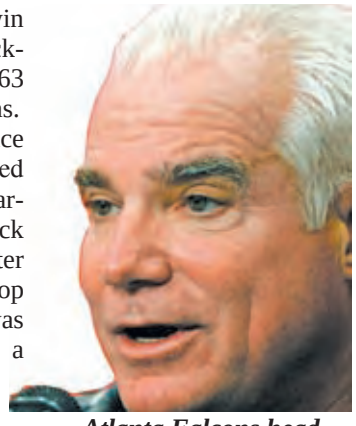
49ers QB Kaepernick poses a running problem for Falcons

MIAMI, 17 Jan—Atlanta Falcons head coach Mike Smith says his team's experience against running quarterbacks this season will prepare them for the threat posed by San Francisco 49ers' Colin Kaepernick in Sunday's NFC Championship game.

But Atlanta's performance this season in games against fast, mobile, quarterbacks indicates their defense could be in for a testing time in Sunday's battle for a Super Bowl berth. Kaepernick set a record for the most rushing yards by a quarterback in any game with 181 yards on 16 carries with two touchdowns in Saturday's 45-31 win over the Green Bay Packers. He also threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns.

It was a performance which amply justified 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh's decision to stick with Kaepernick even after incumbent and former top draft pick Alex Smith was cleared to return from a concussion last November. It was also a display which will have been painstakingly examined by the Falcons defensive coaching staff this week.

"He is very impressive, he is long and he can take up a lot of ground when he is in the open, running. It is going to be important to be disciplined in our defensive assignments when you are facing that type of offense," said Smith.



Atlanta Falcons head coach Mike Smith

Reuters

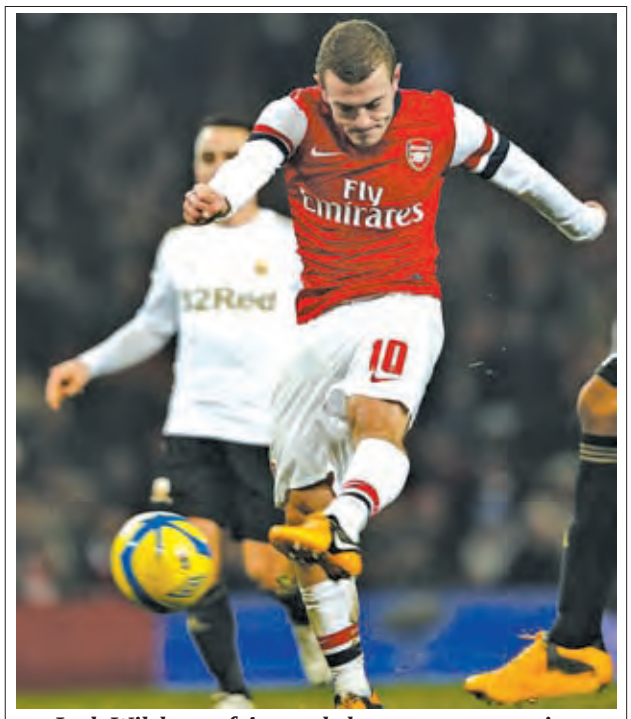
Mexican Olympic medalist dies of heart attack

MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan — Mexican Olympic race walker Noe Hernandez died of a heart attack on Wednesday after being shot in the head.

The 34-year-old, 2000 Sydney Olympics runner-up, died on his way to the hospital following two heart attacks in his home.

He was shot and lost an eye in a shooting at a bar called "Queen of Kings" on 30 December .

Xinhua



Jack Wilshere of Arsenal shoots to score against Swansea City during the England FA Cup Third Round Replay match between Arsenal and Swansea City at the Emirates Stadium on on 16 Jan, 2013. Arsenal won 1-0 and advanced to the next round.
XINHUA

Devils sign centre Zajac to long-term deal

TORONTO, 17 Jan— The New Jersey Devils re-signed centre Travis Zajac to a long-term deal after he helped the team reach the Stanley Cup Finals last season, the National Hockey League team said on Wednesday.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed by the Devils but media reported it was an eight-year, $46 million contract.

Zajac missed all but 15 games of the 2011-12 regular season but returned in time to play a key role in the Devils' playoff run, scoring 14 points in the team's 24 postseason games. "During his time in New Jersey, Travis Zajac has become a solid, all-situation player and one of the core leaders of our hockey club," Devils General Manager Lou Lamoriello said in a statement.

Zajac, who was selected by the Devils in the first round of the 2004 NHL Draft, missed most of last season with an Achilles injury but was in stellar form for the postseason.

Reuters

GENERAL

Kayin New Year Day celebrated in Myawady

MYAWADY, 16 Jan—Kayin New Year Day was celebrated in Myawady, Myawady District, Kayin State, on 12 January.

Myawady District Administrator U Than Swe read out the message for the new year day sent from the Kayin State Chief Minister, and Chairman of the ceremony U Phone Kywe delivered an opening address in Poe and Sakaw Kayin languages.

On the new year day, sports competitions including soccers, boxing, sepak tatkaraw took place, and Kayin traditional dancing competitions and Kayin pageant contests were held at night.

Myanma Alinn

Pound expects no apologies from Armstrong

TORONTO, 17 Jan — Lance Armstrong may be ready to admit to doping and say sorry for his actions but his old nemesis, former-World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) chief Dick Pound, does not expect any apologies coming his way. "I doubt it very much," Pound told *Reuters*. "But if he did I guess if I thought he meant it, I might (accept it), I mean what's done is done."

Armstrong has already begun issuing some apologies, stopping by the offices of Livestrong, the cancer charity he founded, to tell staff he was sorry of the damage he has done to the foundation. Armstrong is expected to offer a more public apology on Thursday when he appears in a television interview with Oprah Winfrey, who has already revealed he admitted using performance-enhancing drugs during a cycling career that saw him win seven consecutive Tour de France titles.

***Seven-time Tour de France winner Team Radioshack rider Lance Armstrong waits at the starting line in Visalia, California of stage five of the Amgen Tour of California in a 20 May, 2010 file photo.*—REUTERS**

For Pound, Armstrong's admission would be the ultimate vindication for the long feud he had with a man he never actually met face-to-face.

Their battles became legendary, the confrontational Canadian tax lawyer and the prickly rider both refusing to concede an inch of ground. Armstrong even campaigned to have him removed as the head of WADA and tossed out of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

While Pound challenged the cancer survivor to disprove the mounting evidence of widespread drug use in sport, a defiant Armstrong demanded the WADA chief produce proof he doped — something the former-Olympic swimmer was unable to do in the absence of a positive test. "His efforts to get me kicked out of the IOC and get kicked out of WADA were spectacularly unsuccessful," said Pound.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-1-13 09:30 am ~ 19-1-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Glimpse at the Architecture (The Dhammayangyi)
* Myanmar Womwn's Art Exhibition
* Talk A Lot
* Myanmar DVD Impact "Wilesof Mind"
* Myanma Traditional Gold Lesf Works
* News
* Irrawaddy Literary Festival Press Conference
* Deserved Inheritance
* Let's take part in Good Deed
* Youthful Sensation Grape Wine
* News
* Sweet Memories in PyinOoLwin
* Only when the Forestry Development sustains, Willthe Good Natural Environment and Ecosystem last long
* News
* "SAHAJA YOGA" Experience the Joy and Peace of Self-realization
* Myanmar Movies "The True Love"

MYANMAR TV

(18-1-2013, Friday)

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

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
6. Health Programme

8:15 am
7. The Mirrror Images of The Musical Oldies

8:30 am
8. Towards (27th) Sea Games (Billiard & Snooker)

8:45 am
9. Musical Programme

4:00 pm
10. Martial Song

4:15 pm
11. Dance of National Races

4:25 pm
12. Songs Of Yeater Years

4:35 pm
13. 2013 University Entrace Examination (English)

5:05 pm
14. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:10 pm
15. Myanmar Language

5:30 pm
16. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
17. Evening News

6:00 pm
18. Weather Report

6:20 pm
19. Amazing World

6:45 pm
20. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
21. News

7:15 pm
22. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
23. News
24. Musical Programme

10:00 pm
25. News
26. Teleplay

Brady prepping for match of wits with Ravens

NEW YORK, 17 Jan — Tom Brady has been sharpening up for another test against the Baltimore Ravens, knowing that finding the right answers to their defensive schemes on Sunday will be key to the New England Patriots reaching another Super Bowl. "I think it's important to put stress on their whole defence," the New England quarterback told a Foxborough news conference on Wednesday. "I think whatever they're not covering, that's what we have to be able to focus our play calling on and certainly our execution.

"If they're covering us deep, we'll throw it short. If they cover us short, we'll throw it deep. If they're playing the pass, we'll run it. "I think that's part of the chess game." Brady, who last week against the Houston Texans passed his boyhood idol Joe Montana into the top spot for NFL playoff wins by a quarterback at 17, runs the league's top-ranked offense for both yards gained and points scored.

But Brady, who has played in five of the last 11 Super Bowls and won three rings, figures it will not come easily against the Ravens, who have reached the playoffs the last five seasons.

Last year the Patriots were fortunate to claim a 23-20 AFC title victory over the visiting Ravens, who squandered a chance to win or tie the game in the final seconds. In Week Three of the regular season, Baltimore hung on for a 31-30 victory over the Patriots in Foxborough, where the teams will clash once again for the conference championship and a berth in the Super Bowl on 3 February in New Orleans. Brady said the Ravens' defensive statistics this season did not reflect the talent on the team, which was hit by a rash of injuries to important players but has gotten healthy in the post season.

"They have a lot of playmakers at each level of the defence," said Brady about a defence that features safety Ed Reed and Ray Lewis, the inspirational leader of the Ravens who has announced he will end his 17-year career after these playoffs. "It's always a tough read because schematically they do quite a few things.

It's never easy. "They're great in the red area, they're great on third down, they really make you earn it. That's what we have to have as our mindset and that's what we're going to need to be able to do."

Reuters

***New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady celebrates after the Patriots scored a touchdown in the third quarter of their NFL AFC Divisional playoff football game against the Houston Texans in Foxborough, Massachusetts on 13 Jan, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Argentina to upgrade railway system with domestic components

BUENOS AIRES, 17 Jan —Argentina on Wednesday unveiled a nationwide programme to upgrade its railway network using locally manufactured components for the rolling stock and signage system.

The Railway Network Industrial Development Plan will renovate the metropolitan rail system and the national long-distance and cargo railroads by modernizing some 6,900 km of tracks.

The first phase of the program will target the Sarmiento and Mitre tracks that link the capital Buenos Aires with the western and northern suburbs.

At the unveiling ceremony, Argentine Industry Minister Debora Giorgi said the government aimed to make the railway industry a "competitive industry that will replace imports with the latest technology and provide safety for Argentineans."

The minister said the authorities would first examine the needs of the network, then crosscheck the information against a database of national industrial suppliers and set up meetings with industry chambers and potential suppliers. Argentina also plans to produce cargo and passenger cars and signage systems, and is studying the possibility of producing rails and laminated wheels, Giorgi said. Argentina's railway system was among the most advanced in South America in the first half of the 20th century, but went into decline later.

On 22 Feb, 2012, it saw its worst accident in decades when a commuter train crashed into the terminal in Buenos Aires's Once Station, resulting in 51 deaths.—*Xinhua*

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Friday, 18 January, 2013

Transportation industry develops by 15.2 per cent in fourth five-year national plan

Nationalities from Kayin State arrive at the Hluttaw to observe meeting of the 6th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Dr Soe Yin of Kamayut Constituency submitted an urgent proposal urging the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to investigate into the identity of a person who commented online about the vote on the laws amending the Attorney-General of the Union Law and Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 14 January, using the name of Dr Seik Phwar. His comment, said Dr Soe Yin, was a slap to the face of parliamentarians and the functions of the Parliament, urging to form a commission for investigation into identity of Dr Seik Phwar who commented "Is parliament above the law" about the vote on above-mentioned laws. His proposal was put to the vote and the Hluttaw approved it as the majority voted in favour.

Hluttaw representatives discussed fifth short-term five-year national plan (draft). U Samai Mongkwan (a) U Samai Tang of Sumprabun Constituency regarding foreign direct investment urged the Union government to pave way to enable foreign companies and citizens and national companies and businessmen run joint ventures.

U Ohn Kyaing of Maha-aungmyay Constituency urged the Union government to provide inputs like quality strains and fertilizers sufficiently in time ahead of cultivation season, effectively protect the threat of insects after cultivation and purchase the output at world's market price after harvest like Vietnam and Thailand to help improve socio-economic status of farmers. Japan and South Korea had once practiced such approach, he added.

U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency said that plans of respective ministries whose scheduled implementation period is set at two years and above should not be put under the title of annual work plan budget of a particular fiscal year and they should be drawn as projects.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw responded to remarks and discussions of the Joint Bill Committee and MPs on fifth five-year national plan (draft). He said while 20-year National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP) from 2011 to 2031 is being formulated in cooperation with experts from ERIA and advisors form UNDP, ESCAP, ADB and World Bank who run their full-time office at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development , Myanmar Comprehensive Development Vision (MCDV) was being also outlined by international academicians from Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) with the fund of over 3 million USD from JAIF. MCDV is planned to put forward to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in September and October, 2013.

He concluded that it will need time to assess the discussions of MPs in detail and inter-coordinate among focal ministries, and region/state governments on sector-focused and local projects, asking the Hluttaw to grant a considerable amount of time.

(See page 9)

Kayin State USDP officials visit Hluttaw session

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Joint secretary, executives and organizers of Kayin State Union Solidarity and Development Party visited sixth regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Hluttaw buildings, here, this morning.

MNA

BCIM Rally in February

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Rally will be held to honour the 11th BCIM Forum to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 23 February with a view to fostering friendship and improving economic performance.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint called for departments concerned to ensure meaningfulness, and security of the rally in Myanmar at coordination meeting for successful holding of BCIM Rally, at the ministry here today.

In line with the theme of the rally "Building Bonds, Fostering Friendship", it means more than an ordinary rally but the one aiming to deepen amity, increase interactions, exchange different cultures, and boost border trade added the deputy minister.

The total length of the rally route through the four countries is about 2820 kilometers and the length in Myanmar is around 964 kilometers, nearly one third of the total length. Myanmar artistes are reported to take part in the rally.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (17-1-2013)

Pinlaung	**0°C**
Loilem	**1°C**
Heho	**1°C**
Putao	**4°C**
Namhsam	**4°C**
Haka	**4°C**

Farmers income increase from sugarcane harvest

Sugarcane farmers in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have earned high income as sugarcane price has gone up this harvest which starts in January.

As the price of sugarcane was set to push up to over K30,000 per ton during the planting season last year, sugarcane farmers has earned high income this harvest.

Sugarcane farmers have benefited from the high price pushed up by the mills and from the loan reaching K120,000 per acre and two bags of fertilizer per acre by sugar mills in the planting season last year. The price for sugarcane was only K13,000 per ton previous years.

Farmers grow sugarcane in their farm in Pobbathiri Township.
PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

High price of sugarcane has attracted farmers to grow the crop and the sugarcane fever has spread to other areas this harvest.

"We are worried that sugar mills can not buy our crops in time in the upcoming harvest season due to the increase in number of sugarcane acres. In the upcoming year's harvest season, the sugar mills should first buy the old crops which regrow from the old plants remained in the soil after harvest and should buy the new crop later. If the harvest is late, the weight of the crops decreases," said a sugarcane farmer from the village of Waegyi in Pobbathiri Township.

Farmers can also benefit from peanut farming as its price reaches around K8000 per basket, and besides, they should also grow green grams because growing crops alternatively can prevent soil degradation, said a farmer from the village.

(By *Aye Min Soe*)