

Government is seeking every possible ways to ensure energy security

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—First National Energy Management Committee meeting (1/2013) was held at the meeting hall of President Office Ministry, here, this morning, with an address by Patron of National Energy Management Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

It was attended by Chairman of National Energy Management Committee Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Mines

Dr Myint Aung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, deputy ministers, secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Amyotha Hluttaw Mines and Natural Resources Affairs Committee, departmental heads, experts and officials.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that it was the first meeting of National Energy Management Committee and Energy Development Committee. The purpose of the committee was to fulfill the people's needs and to

systematically manage the linkages of energy and electric sectors. The government was seeking every possible ways to ensure energy security. Priority was being given for increasing energy and electric power consumptions, especially rural areas as well as for ensuring overall economic growth and direct social benefit. Energy efficiency and conservations was also crucial for energy security.

Nowadays, energy sector faces the lack of infrastructures and human resources. It needs to adopt National Energy Policy so as to solve the impacts on energy sectors. The rationale of policy

called for reviews on and amendment to current policies, macro economic policy, national development plan, UN's MDGs and long-term vision. Guiding principles should include the facts such as development of energy technology and resources, develop qualified human resources for energy programme, cooperation with private sector, civil societies and social organizations, use of clean fuels and participations of citizens in every step of energy enterprises including the ownership.

Regarding the policy measures and implementation, it needed to create the conditions that can guarantee adequate



Vice-President U Nyan Tun delivers an address at First National Energy Management Committee meeting (1/2013).—MNA

extraction of energy with relatively low costs. Institutional framework and implementation should include as well. National Energy Policy must create formation and legal framework that can promote people's life and meet the government's goal. Being

a backbone that can steer overall National Energy, the Committee needed to draft necessary laws and rules by forming working committee for sustainable development and effective utilization of all energy resources. He urged experts to give suggestions.—MNA



Significant night temperatures (18-1-2013)

Pinlaung	0°C
Loilem	2°C
Heho	3°C
Mogok	3°C

Pyithu Hluttaw calls for ceasefire, resumption of peace talks

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw at its today's session urged immediately to end the fighting in Kachin State and to resume peace negotiations possibly soonest to establish internal peace.

The following is the full text of Pyithu Hluttaw's announcement.

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw
Nay Pyi Taw**

Date: 18 January 2013

Pyithu Hluttaw calls for immediately stopping exchange of fire between KIO/KIA and the government troops in Kachin State and to go back to negotiation table as soon as possible to establish internal peace

1. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Dwe Bu from M'Jangyang Constituency of Kachin State submitted an urgent proposal to

discuss an urgent issue under Section 133 of Pyithu Hluttaw Bylaw at the third day sixth regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw (18-1-2013).

2. It was an urgent proposal **urging Pyithu Hluttaw to approve the proposal urging responsible organizations and the Union government to immediately stop exchange of fire between KIO/KIA and the government troops in Kachin State and to go back to negotiation table as soon as possible to establish internal peace** and all Pyithu Hluttaw representatives approved it without objection.
3. The Pyithu Hluttaw, therefore, urges responsible organizations and the Union government to immediately stop exchange of fire between KIO/KIA and the government troops in Kachin State and to go back to negotiation table as soon as possible to establish internal peace.

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

LOCAL NEWS



Kyondoe holds annual alm-offering ceremony

KYONDOE, 18 Jan — A ceremony to offer alms to Ashin Uppagotta Image was held in Kyondoe of Kawkaik district in Kayin State on 5 January. The ceremony is held annually.

On 11 January, the congregation received the nine precepts from the Sayadaw of Kayin State

Sangha Nayaka Committee and shared the merits gained at the pavilion where Ashin Uppagotta Image was being kept temporarily.

Next, those present set Ashin Uppagotta Image adrift on a raft into the Haungtharaw river at 7 pm on that day.

Kyemon

A truck overturns in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 18 Jan — A truck skidded and turned over in front of 360-ton rice processing mill on Strand Road in Kyimyindine Township, here, on 15 January.

The truck of Than Myan Thu (86) bus line driven by U Khin Maung Htwe from Sanpya Fish Market to Thakhin Mya Park skidded out of control and overturned while making a turn at



Traffic Police Corps reconstitute itself as special squad

MANDALAY, 18 Jan — Traffic Police Corps of Myanmar Police Force reconstituted itself as a special squad. Graduates and

matriculation level police members who are five feet and six inches tall were assigned duties in Traffic Police Corps. Moreover,

traffic police members were allowed to wear caps in order to be on a par with those of ASEAN countries.

Kyemon

National development calls for development in ICT sector

YANGON, 18 Jan — In his talks entitled “Myanmar ICT Strategy and Development” at Myanmar Engineering Society on 11 January, President of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association U Ye Yint Win said ICT development was a key to development

Farmland registration process in Pyapon Township

PYAPON, 18 Jan — In accord with the farmland laws that guarantees the farmer to own their farmlands till posterity, the issuance of farmland

of the country. ICT was widely used in international community to be able to facilitate the transaction of businesses and development of the nation rested on ICT sector development, he added. — *Kyemon*

ownership forms by Staff Officer U Win Kyaw Phyto of Pyapon Township Land Records Department was in progress in villages in Pyapon Township starting from 1 January.

Pyapon Township Land Records Department will carry out farmland registration process for 26755 farmlands in 54 wards and villages in the township in accord with the farmland laws. — *Kyemon*

Social welfare works in Taninthayi Region gaining momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presented cash assistance to nationalities youth

development centre and nurseries at the cash donation ceremony held at Taungthaya Home for the Aged on 10 January.

On 12 January morning, the Union Minister inspected

Vehicles and motorized boats carrying illegal teak, hardwood and wood product seized in Sagaing, Bago Regions

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — While combing the area to crack down on illegal timber extraction in the townships of Sagaing Region from 8 to 10 January, forest staff of Bamauk, Phaungpyin, Kyunhla and Mawlaik Township seized 2.6320 tons of teak in Bamauk Township, 3.7820 tons of hardwood in Phaungpyin Township, 2.15 tons sawn wood in Kyunhla Township, 7.844 tons of teak in Mawlaik Township, 3.792 tons of teak and hardwood, 4.5 tons of

breakneck speed into the opposite lane.

Kyemon

hardwood and arrested a suspect with a light truck carrying 0.288 ton of sawn wood in Kani Township. Likewise, they arrested suspects together with motorized boats carrying illegal teak and hardwood in the Ayeyawady River in Katha Township.

Similarly, two suspects were arrested together with a vehicle carrying illegal wood product at a tollgate on Yangon-Pyay road in Thayawady district of Bago Region.

MNA

chosen site for construction of Myeik Nursery and office of Myeik District Relief and Resettlement Department and Kawthoung District relief warehouse and office of Kawthoung District Relief and Resettlement De-partment which are under construction.

On 13 January, the Union Minister presented cash and kind to the Home for the Aged and Youth Centre in Dawei.

The Union Minister

together with Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko attended the opening of Risk Management Capacity Building Course and a ceremony to donate cash and kind to the nursery, centre and home for the aged.

Next, the Union Minister visited Taninthayi Region Relief and Resettlement Office and a nursery and inspected warehouse. — *MNA*



Shan State sees a flock of globetrotters

TAUNGGYI, 18 Jan — Manager U Thaung Shwe of Innlay Khaungdine hotel said tourists who visited Innlay, Pindaya, Kalaw and Taunggyi in Shan State via Heho Airport had reached 12559 up to 31 December and there were tourists who made Yangon-Innlay coach tours. The number of the arrivals of French, British and German tourists who took flights to Shan State stood in sequence and there were more arrivals of Australian, New Zealand, Thai, Korean and Taiwanese tourists this year. Tourists stopped

for the night in Innlay, Pindaya and Kalaw and made a day trip to Taunggyi, Katku and Htan Hsan Cave. Some globetrotters biked to Khaungdine, Yaypusan, Taunglaylone, Nyaungshwe and Shwenyuang and others to Taunggyi, Khaungdine, Nyaungshwe and Innlay from Kalaw. As there has been an increase in tourist arrivals, hotels serve visitors meals in buffet style. At the hotel zone in Innlay region, there are 93 hotels and guesthouses with 2545 rooms. There are two four-star hotels, eight three-star hotels, eight

two-star hotels, 13 one-star hotels and 35 hotels and 27 guesthouses. There are 2138 hotel rooms and 407 rooms in guesthouses totaling 2545 rooms. Suit rooms are charged at US\$ 100 per room, superior rooms at US\$ 80 and ordinary rooms at ranging from US\$ 40 to 60.

Plans are underway to establish a new hotel zone with the area of 622 acres in the Innlay East forest reserve in order to meet the demand of hotel rooms with high standards following the increased tourist arrivals. — *Kyemon*



WORLD

Over 100 people killed, 70,000 displaced in Sudan's fresh tribal clashes: UNAMID

KHARTOUM, 18 Jan—Over 100 people were killed and about 70,000 others displaced in recent tribal clashes between the Arab Abballa and Beni Hussein tribes in Jabel Amir area of Sudan's North Darfur state, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) said in a statement on Thursday.

commitment to work with all parties to tackle humanitarian needs, saying that "UNAMID is committed to engaging with all stakeholders to address the current humanitarian needs of thousands of civilians who were displaced in the North Darfur villages of Saraf Omra, Kabkabya and El Sereif."

from their homes in villages around El Sereif, along with workers who said they had fled from the work sites at the Jabel Amir gold mines as a result of the fighting."

Meanwhile, UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator Aichatou Mindaoudou urged all concerned parties in the region to facilitate the work of the mission.

"I urge all parties to enable both UNAMID, UN agencies and their humanitarian partners to be given full access to all areas of Darfur, so affected populations can receive needed protection and assistance," Mindaoudou was quoted by the statement as saying.

She said that "the protection of Darfur's people is at the heart of UNAMID's mandate," noting that "it is why we are here and what we focus on each and every day, as we attempt to elevate the lives of Darfuris caught in the conflict across the region."

Reuters



Smoke rises after what activists said were missiles fired by a Syrian Air Force fighter jet loyal to President Bashar al-Assad in Daraya in this picture provided by Shaam News Network on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

"According to Government figures, an estimated 70,000 people have been displaced and more than 100 killed since the clashes broke out," the statement said.

The mission reiterated

UNAMID deployed a team, consisting of civilian, military and police personnel, to the three affected areas, the statement said, adding that "the team found evidence of mass displacement, including those displaced

People do not need assault weapons: defence secretary

VICENZA, 18 Jan—Defence Secretary Leon Panetta joined the gun control debate on Thursday when he told troops at a military base in Italy that only soldiers needed armour-piercing bullets or assault weapons.

Asked by a soldier what President Barack Obama would do to protect school children from gun violence without infringing Americans' right to own guns, Panetta said action was needed after the attack on a Connecticut school in December in which a gunman killed 20 children and six

adults. He told members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team at Vicenza that there were areas where steps could be taken,

"I mean who the hell needs armour-piercing bullets except you guys in battle?"

In the aftermath of the Connecticut shooting — the latest mass killing in the United States on a list that includes Columbine in 1999 and Virginia Tech in 2007 — Obama launched the biggest gun-control push in generations.

He asked Congress on Wednesday to approve an

A display of 7-round .45 caliber handguns are seen at Coliseum Gun Traders Ltd. in Uniondale, New York on 16 Jan, 2013. REUTERS



assault weapons ban and background checks for all gun buyers.

Panetta, who is on a week-long trip to Europe, was President Bill Clinton's chief of staff when the United States banned the sale of assault weapons in the 1990s.

Reuters

Plane crash kills eight in SE Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 18 Jan—At least eight people were killed on Thursday when a small plane crashed shortly after takeoff from the airport of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico's southeast Chiapas State, authorities said.

The accident occurred at around 02:00 pm local time (2000 GMT). The private aircraft was traveling to the southern state of Oaxaca at the time and encountered a strong gust of wind, according to the state civil protection department.

Unofficial versions of the crash say the crash was caused by an explosion of one of the engines of the aircraft, a PA-31 model of Piper Navajo.

Witnesses said that the accident occurred at the time of takeoff after fire and smoke came out of one of the wings. Preliminary data also indicate that the crash could be caused by bad weather.

Among the passengers were eight people, including three adults, three children and two pilots.—Xinhua



A burning truck is seen after a fire incident in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on 17 Jan, 2013. At least three people including a member of the provincial assembly (MPA) were shot dead on Thursday afternoon in Karachi, local media and police said.—XINHUA

US slaps sanctions on Mexico drug trafficking organization

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—The US Department of Treasury decided on Thursday to slap sanctions on the Meza Flores drug trafficking organization from Mexico. The designation includes its leader, Fausto Isidro Meza Flores, several key family members, and three companies, the department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced in a statement, accusing all of them of helping facilitate the operations of the organization.

This designation prohibits Americans from engaging in transactions with these eight individuals,

three entities, and the entire organization, and also freezes any assets they may have under US jurisdiction, according to the statement.

"By targeting the leaders of this extremely violent Sinaloa-based drug trafficking organization we are protecting the US financial system from yet another source of illicit money tied to the narcotics trade," said OFAC Director Adam Szubin, vowing to continue to target this organization as well as other Mexican drug trafficking operations that threaten the United States.

The Meza Flores drug trafficking organization operates out of Guasave,

Sinaloa in northwestern Mexico. It is one of the primary rivals to the Sinaloa Cartel, a drug-trafficking and organized crime syndicate also based in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. As a result of this rivalry, the Meza Flores has engaged in an extremely violent turf war with the Sinaloa Cartel which has resulted in bloody drug-war killings in the last four years.

The US government has previously designated head of Sinaloa Cartel Joaquin Guzman Loera and the cartel itself as significant foreign narcotics traffickers in 2001 and 2009 respectively.—Xinhua

Florida's unpopular Republican governor backs election reforms

MIAMI, 18 Jan—Florida Governor Rick Scott, who rejected calls to extend early voting ahead of problem-plagued elections more than two months ago, said on Thursday he now supports the measure and other reforms aimed at restoring confidence in the election system. Scott, a Republican, saw his low public approval rating sink even further after long voting lines and a slow vote count made Florida the brunt of late-night television jokes in November.

part of a statewide overhaul, include expanding the number of early voting days from eight to up to 14, giving local election supervisors the flexibility to provide more and larger early voting locations and reducing the length of ballots by clamping limits on ballot amendment summaries.

He said expanded voting days should include the Sunday before Election Day. Voting on that final Sunday, which traditionally drew a large turnout in Florida, was

Florida Governor Rick Scott speaks during an interview in New York on 26 March, 2012. REUTERS



In a statement on Thursday, he said he was committed "to ensure we do whatever possible to improve our election system."

During hearings in the state capitol earlier this week lawmakers discussed measures to avoid another election like the one on 6 November. Scott said measures he now supports, as

not permitted in the state last year except by in-person absentee ballot.

Scott's statement made no mention of the fact that he signed legislation, passed by Florida's Republican-dominated legislature soon after he took office in January 2011, that shortened the number of early voting days to eight from 14.—Reuters



People pray in front of the bodies of the Syrian refugees who were killed Tuesday in an explosion during the funeral in Jordan's northern city of Ramtha, which houses hundreds of refugees, on 17 Jan, 2013. Eight Syrian refugees were killed when a kerosene heater exploded and the caravan in which they were living caught fire here. XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

PC titans take notes from tablets to regain customers



Kirk Skaugen, Intel's vice president of PC client group, converts a Lenovo Yoga Ultrabook into a tablet, at an Intel news conference during the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 7 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Jan—Personal computer makers, trying to beat back a tablet mania that's eating into their sales, are making what may be a last-ditch attempt to sway customers by mimicking the competition.

Many of the laptops to be unveiled around the world in coming months will be hybrids or "convertibles"—morphing easily between portable tablets and full-powered laptops with a key-

board, industry analysts say.

The wave of hybrids comes as Intel Corp and Microsoft Corp, long the twin leaders of the PC industry, prepare to report results this week and next. Wall Street is predicting flat to sluggish quarterly revenue growth for both, underscoring the plight of an industry that has struggled to innovate.

In 2013, some are hoping that will change.

With the release of Mi-

crosoft's touch-centric, reimagined Windows 8 platform in October and more power-efficient chips from Intel, PC makers are trying to spark growth by focusing on creating slim laptops with touchscreens that convert to tablets and vice versa. Microsoft, expanding beyond its traditional business of selling software, is expected this month to roll out a "Surface Pro" tablet compatible with legacy PC software developed over decades.

That's a major selling point for corporate customers like German business software maker SAP, which plans to buy Surface Pros for employees that want it, said SAP Chief Information Officer Oliver Bussmann.

"The hybrid model is very compelling for a lot of users," Bussmann told Reuters last week. "The iPad is not replacing the laptop. It's hard to create content. That's the niche that Microsoft is going after. The Surface can fill that gap."—Reuters

US temporarily grounds Boeing 787s pending safety check

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced on Wednesday that it will temporarily ground Boeing 787s after incidents involving lithium ion battery failures.

The FAA said that US airlines will have to demonstrate that the lithium ion batteries of the Boeing 787s, the newest commercial airliner nicknamed Dreamliner, are safe before further flight.

"As a result of an in-flight Boeing 787 battery incident earlier today in Japan, the FAA will issue an emergency airworthiness directive to address a potential battery fire risk in the 787

and require operators to temporarily cease operations," the FAA said in a statement.

The move was taken after an incident earlier Wednesday, in which a battery failure caused one of All Nippon Airways (ANA) Dreamliner passenger jets, flying from Yamaguchi Ube airport in western Japan to Tokyo, to make an emergency landing.

The FAA said that it will work with the Boeing Co and US airlines "to develop a corrective action plan to allow the US 787 fleet to resume operations as quickly and safely as possible." The United Airlines is currently the only US airline operating

six Dreamliners.

The in-flight battery incident on Wednesday was the second such incident of the Boeing 787s since a Japan Airlines (JAL) Boeing 787 caught fire on 7 January in the US city of Boston, due to a battery problem. Both the ANA and the JAL have grounded their fleet of Dreamliners in order to conduct a safety check. The ANA has a fleet of 17 Dreamliners and the JAL has seven.

After the JAL incident in Boston, the FAA already announced on last Friday that it will have a comprehensive review of the 787s critical systems with the possibility of further action pending new data and information.

In addition to the review of the airliner's design, manufacture and assembly, the FAA will also validate that 787 batteries and the battery system are in compliance with the special condition the agency issued as part of the aircraft certification.

Reuters



RIM says users line up to try new BlackBerry 10 platform

TORONTO, 18 Jan—BlackBerry maker Research In Motion is helping customers prepare to switch to its soon-to-be-launched BlackBerry 10 smartphones that it hopes will help it reclaim market share from rivals such as Apple Inc.

RIM is betting that the new range of touch-screen and keyboard devices, set for a 30 January launch, will revive its fortunes.

The company was "very enthused by the engagement and response of our customer base" to a programme aimed at persuading them to adopt the BlackBerry 10 devices, Bryan Lee, senior enterprise accounts director, told Reuters on Wednesday.

Indeed, whether it will be successful in clawing back market share will depend on the response from RIM's top clients, like

companies and government agencies, who have long valued the strong security features that BlackBerry devices offer.



The exterior of one of the Research In Motion Limited (RIM) buildings is seen in Waterloo on 10 July, 2012.

REUTERS

Lee said more than 1,600 customers in North America had registered for its recently launched BlackBerry 10 Ready Program and more than a thousand were actively using the program, which offers customers access to services, information and tools to ease their transition to the BlackBerry 10 and the BlackBerry Enterprise Server 10.

RIM also said its BlackBerry Enterprise Server 10, which runs the new devices on corporate networks, was in beta testing with more than 130 major government agencies and corporations in North America.

Reuters

Habitat module to be tested at ISS

HOUSTON, 18 Jan—The US space agency will fund a project by a private firm to test an inflatable module for human occupancy at the International Space Station.

NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver spoke about the plan on Wednesday in the state of Nevada, where space company Bigelow Aerospace is based.

NASA will pay 17.8 million dollars to launch the company's prototype module to the station in 2015.

The module—4 metres long and 3 metres in wide—is a third the size of the space habitat the com-

pany plans to commercialize. The module will remain attached to the ISS for 2 years. During that time, crew will enter the module to make various studies, such as how it withstands cosmic radiation.

Company founder and president Robert Bigelow, said he wants to succeed in the test launch and make a real space facility where anyone can stay casually.

Bigelow, who also owns a hotel chain in America, is trying to develop a space hotel that will allow individuals to have extended stays in space.—NHK



A prototype inflatable space module, developed by Bigelow Aerospace, will be tested aboard the International Space Station.—NHK

EBay tops holiday quarter forecasts on mobile boom

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Jan—EBay Inc reported holiday quarter results that beat Wall Street expectations as the e-commerce company benefited from a boom in mobile shoppers, but it gave a 2013 forecast in line with analyst

estimates, restraining share price gains. The stock rose 1 percent to \$53.43 in after-hours trading following the announcement.

Expectations were high ahead of the results because sales data from outside

sources suggested strong sales growth from eBay's online marketplace and a solid increase in transactions processed by the company's PayPal payments business.

EBay's online marketplace, one of the largest in the world, has lagged behind the growth of e-commerce and Amazon.com Inc for several years. But under Chief Executive John Donahoe, eBay has invested to improve the buying experience by upgrading search capabilities and prodding sellers to provide more services such as free

shipping and easier returns.

The explosive growth of mobile shopping and popular mobile shopping applications have also attracted millions of new consumers to eBay's marketplace and PayPal in the past year.

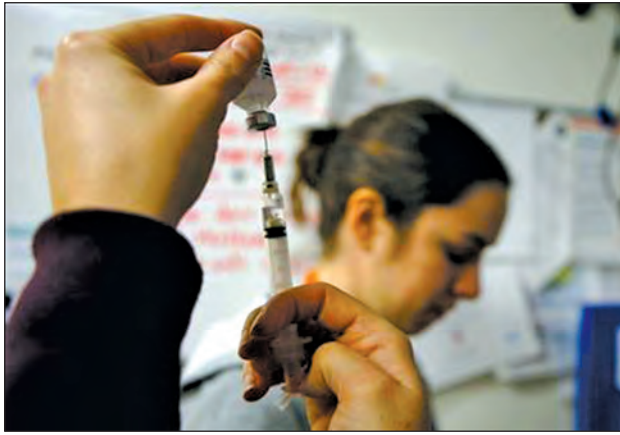
"These are great numbers," said Bill Smead of Smead Capital Management, which owns eBay shares. "The marketplace business used to be a noose around their neck, but now it's a key destination for people wanting to buy new goods as well as existing goods".—Reuters



A general view of eBay headquarters in San Jose, California is pictured in this 25 Feb, 2010 file photograph. REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Flu vaccine not linked to fetal death



Nurses prepare influenza vaccine injections during a flu shot clinic at Dorchester House, a health care clinic, in Boston, Massachusetts on 12 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 18 Jan—Getting the flu vaccine while pregnant does not increase the odds that the fetus will die in the womb, according to a new study of

tens of thousands of women in Norway.

Although fetal deaths were rare during the study, they were more common in pregnant women with the

flu.

“Vaccination itself was not associated with increased fetal mortality and may have reduced the risk of influenza-related death during the pandemic” of 2009, said the team, led by Dr Siri Haberg of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo.

Dr Jon Abramson of the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Centre in North Carolina, who was not connected with the research, said it was already known that influenza can be unusually dangerous in pregnant women.

“The increased hospitalization rate is about fourfold higher among pregnant women compared

to women of a similar age who are not pregnant,” he told *Reuters Health*.

With some exceptions, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the flu shot for everyone over six months of age, including pregnant women.

Abramson called vaccination “a double bang for your buck.”

The study, which appears online in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, encompassed the H1N1 pandemic in the fall and early winter of 2009 and took place after publicity about more than 30 cases of fetal death following vaccination.

Reuters

Nokia to cut over 1000 IT jobs

HELSINKI, 18 Jan—Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia said it will cut over 1000 IT jobs, including 820 employees who will transfer to HCL Technologies and Tata Consultancy Services, as part of an already-

announced restructuring.

It said 300 jobs will be cut altogether, and that most of the reductions would be in Finland.

The cuts are part of Nokia’s plans to cut 10,000 jobs, including 3,700 in Finland.—Reuters



Nokia Lumia smartphones are pictured in a shop in Warsaw, on 11 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Australian scientists discover potential cure for AIDS

CANBERRA, 18 Jan—A breakthrough that could lead to a potential cure for AIDS has been developed by Australian scientists, a latest study from Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) revealed on Wednesday.

According to a statement from QIMR, Associate Professor David Harrich, from QIMR’s Molecular Virology Laboratory, has determined how to modify a protein in the virus, so that it instead provides strong, lasting protection from infection.

Although this approach, published in the journal *Human Gene Therapy*, was not a cure for HIV, Harrich said it would ensure the virus remains

dormant. This protein present in immune cells would help to maintain a healthy immune system so patients can handle normal infections.

“I consider that this is fighting fire with fire,” he said. “What we’ve actually done is we’ve taken a normal virus protein that the virus needs to grow, and we’ve changed this protein, so that instead of assisting the virus, it actually impedes virus replication and does it quite strongly.”

“This therapy is potentially a cure for AIDS,” he said. “So it’s not a cure for HIV infection, but it potentially could end the disease.”

More than 30,000 people have been diagnosed

with HIV in Australia. Harrich said animal trials are due to start this year and early indications are positive. If clinical trials are successful, one treatment could be effective enough to replace the multiple therapies they currently need.

He also said the new treatment has the potential to make big improvements in the quality of life for those carrying HIV.

“Drug therapy targets individual enzymes or proteins and they have one drug, one protein,” Associate Professor Harrich said. “They have to take two or three drugs, so this would be a single agent that essentially has the same effect.”—Reuters

Government permits state-run oil firms to raise diesel prices

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—State-run oil marketing companies can now raise diesel prices in line with increases in global crude oil prices, Oil Minister Veerappa Moily said on Thursday, a move that could help the government reduce its vast subsidy bill.

“Oil marketing companies have been allowed to raise diesel prices in small quantities over a period of

time,” senior oil ministry official G C Chaturvedi said. He did not give details about the time-frame. India’s policy to subsidise retail prices of fuels such as diesel, which accounts for about 40 percent of refined fuel consumption, is a major drain on the budget.

Ratings agencies threatened last year to strip India of its investment-grade credit rating if the

government did not take steps to rein-in a widening fiscal deficit. Finance Minister P Chidambaram has repeatedly vowed that the deficit will not exceed 5.3 percent of GDP this financial year.

India imports more than 80 percent of its fuel needs. The government liberalised petrol prices in June 2010, but has often prevented them from being raised to reflect rising oil prices on global markets.

Fuel consumption in India rose 5 percent in the last fiscal year, its fastest since 2007/08. Shares in oil marketing companies rose while bond yields fell after Moily’s announcement.

Hindustan Petroleum Corp shares (HPCL.NS) surged 5.2 percent while Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC.NS) gained 4.3 percent.

Reuters



An employee fills a taxi with diesel as her colleague clean the windows of the car at a fuel station in Kolkata on 19 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Sharp in talks to sell Chinese TV plant to Lenovo

TOKYO, 18 Jan—Sharp Corp may sell its Chinese TV assembly plant to Lenovo Group as the cash-strapped Japanese TV maker looks to sell assets to bolster its finances, sources said.

Sharp is in talks with Lenovo about selling the LCD TV assembly plant in

Nanking and also about tying up with the Chinese company in its other subsidiaries there, two industry sources familiar with the discussion told *Reuters*.

Sharp said in a statement to the Tokyo Stock Exchange that it had not announced any talks. The talks were

first reported in the Nikkei business daily in Japan.

The maker of Aquos TVs in November said it may not be able to survive on its own after it doubled its full-year net loss to \$5.6 billion. To repay short-term commercial paper loans and stave off failure in October it won a \$4.4 billion bailout from its banks.

Sharp had been in talks to sell its Chinese TV plant to Taiwan’s Hon Hai Precision industry along with an assembly plant in Mexico. Hon Hai, which is also in talks to buy a stake in Sharp and earlier bought a share in the Japanese company’s advanced LCD panel plant in Sakai western Japan, may now buy only the North American facility.

Reuters



Sharp Corp’s Aquos TVs are displayed at an electronics store in Tokyo on 28 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Skin cancer phone apps aren’t very accurate

NEW YORK, 18 Jan—Smartphone applications that use algorithms to analyze skin lesions may not be very good at determining which ones are cancerous, a new study suggests.

The apps are marketed as educational only and so aren’t covered as medical devices under the Food and Drug Administration’s regulations.

But that may not stop some people from relying on the inexpensive tools instead of going to see a dermatologist, researchers said—which could mean slower diagnosis of potentially dangerous lesions.

“There’s no substitute, at this point, for a complete skin exam performed by an expert dermatologist for picking up melanoma as well as other skin cancers,” said Dr Karen Edison, a dermatologist from University of Missouri in Columbia who wasn’t involved in the new study.

“Just sending a picture to someone you don’t know anywhere in the world can be reassuring if it’s very clear that (the lesion) is benign, so that’s a good thing,” she told *Reuters Health*, “but it’s kind of fraught with other issues that we haven’t grappled with adequately, I don’t

think.”

For example, even if an app makes a correct diagnosis of melanoma, that doesn’t necessarily help if the patient doesn’t know where to get a biopsy or doesn’t have insurance to pay for it, Edison said. “We’re all for technology, but we need to keep it in perspective, and make it a tool.”

For the new study, researchers used photos of 188 pre-diagnosed lesions—60 melanomas and 128 benign lesions—to check the accuracy of four Smartphone apps made to look for melanoma in previously-taken images.—Reuters

Japan's Komeito leader to visit China to mend ties

TOKYO, 18 Jan—Japan's New Komeito Party's leader Natsuo Yamaguchi said on Thursday that he will pay a four-day visit to China from next on Tuesday, aiming at relieving tensions between the two countries due to territorial dispute, local media reported.

Yamaguchi said his party has responsibilities to make efforts to restore Japan-China relations that have been damaged over territorial row, Japan's leading news agency Kyodo News said.

The New Komeito Party is part of Japan's coalition government and key ally of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party. The former is considered less hawkish than the latter.

Yamaguchi said both countries should improve the bilateral relations through an overall perspective.

He also said he would consult with Abe whether he would carry a letter or message from the prime minister to China.—Xinhua

2nd batch of Japan's PKO in Golan Heights returns home



Maj Fumihiko Kayanuma (front), head of Japan's Self-Defence Forces personnel involved in UN peacekeeping operations in the Israeli-held Golan Heights, and other members of the team are welcomed on arrival at Narita airport near Tokyo on 17 Jan, 2013.— KYODO NEWS

CHIBA, 18 Jan — The second batch of Japan's Self-Defence Forces personnel involved in UN peacekeeping operations in the Israeli-held Golan Heights returned home on Thursday.

The 12 SDF members arrived at Narita international airport near Tokyo following the return of the 33-member

first batch in late December, after then Defence Minister Satoshi Morimoto ordered their withdrawal last month due to worsening security conditions amid the civil war in Syria.

It is the first time an SDF mission has been pulled out for safety reasons.

Kyodo News

Longtime US columnist "Dear Abby" dies at 94

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan— The women who wrote under the name of "Dear Abby" to offer advice to millions of troubled newspaper readers in the United States died after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease in Minneapolis, Minnesota, her publicist said on Thursday. She was 94.

Pauline Phillips, writing under the name of Abigail Van Buren which was shortened to "Dear Abby" since 1956, was one of the most popular columnists in the world as her terse, comic and sympathetic pieces were run by 1,400 newspapers with a daily readership of over 110 million.

The housewife-turned-columnist named her advice column after "Abigail," a wise woman in the Old

Testament and one of her favourite US presidents, "Van Buren." Phillips' first feature appeared in 1956 and the column, which became more popular, run until 2002 when the author suffered from the onset of Alzheimer's disease and her daughter Jeanne Philips took over.

In the meantime, Phillips' twin sister Eppie Lederer also wrote a similar column, "Ask Ann

Landers," from 1955 until 2002 when she died at 83 of multiple myeloma. Born on 4 July, 1918 in the Sioux City, Iowa, the then 37-year-old housewife started her career at the San Francisco Chronicle in 1955. Her first column feature appeared on 9 Jan, 1956, and was syndicated in the same year.

Phillips advocated "equal rights for women, minorities, people with



Dear Abby advice columnist Pauline Friedman Phillips.



New Kansai International Airport Co President Keiichi Ando (2nd from L) takes part in a groundbreaking ceremony for FedEx Corp's North Pacific regional hub at the Kansai airport in western Japan on 17 Jan, 2013. The US delivery service company plans to launch operations of the facility in the spring of 2014 as its consolidation point for shipments from China and South Korea to North America.

KYODO NEWS

US Navy ship runs aground in Sulu Sea, W Philippines

MANILA, 18 Jan—A US Navy minesweeper has run aground on a reef in Sulu Sea, western Philippines, a local military official said on Thursday.

Oliver Banaria, commander of the Armed Forces' 6th Civil Relations Group in Palawan, said he received official report that the ship ran aground on Tubbataha Reef, early Thursday, about 98 nautical miles from Puerto Princesa city.

No one was reported injured, but Banaria said that they have sent patrol craft to check on the incident and see how local of-

ficials can help the crew.

Banaria said that similar incidents had happened in the past and it's possible that misnavigation may have led to the grounding.

A separate statement issued by the US Navy confirmed that no one was hurt when the USS Guardian (MCM 5) ran aground on Tubbataha Reef at 2:25 am local time.

The ship had just completed a port call in Subic Bay and was en route to its next port of call when the grounding occurred. The crew is working on how to safely extract the ship.

Xinhua

NEWS in BRIEF

(18 January 2013)

Engaging school kids in anti-Posco stir illegal

BHUBANESWAR, 18 Jan—Participation of school children in anti-Posco agitation is "illegal" and action is being contemplated against those responsible for it, official sources said.

Rape accused an adult at time of incident, rules Juvenile Board

LUCKNOW, 18 Jan—Eight years after a youth allegedly raped a minor girl, the Juvenile Justice Board here has finally declared that he was an adult at the time of the incident.

Bribe case an 'aberration', will take action: Natarajan

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan said action would be taken against the Ministry official arrested by CBI for allegedly accepting bribe for arranging mining clearance for a Odisha-based company and termed it as an "aberration".

Probe report on role of police, Safdarjung staff sub

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—A high-level inquiry set up to probe alleged non-responsive behaviour of PCR vans to a distress call for helping Delhi gang-rape victim and other claims by her friend on 17 Jan, 2013 submitted its report to the Home Ministry.

Will fight against corruption till my last breath: Anna

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—"I have been fighting corruption and goondaism throughout without bothering about my life and will continue to do so till my last breath," he told reporters here en route to Bijapur.

Blood to be delivered by motorbikes: Maha govt

MUMBAI, 18 Jan—In a first, Maharashtra Government has devised a system where blood will be a phone call-away, to be supplied to hospitals by specially kitted-out motorbikes.



Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda speaks at a ceremony to celebrate production of its fully remodeled Crown luxury sedan at the carmaker's Motomachi plant in the city of Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, on 17 Jan, 2013. Toyoda said orders for the new Crown had reached around 19,000 units by 15 Jan, three weeks after its launch, nearly five times higher than the company's monthly sales target.

KYODO NEWS

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Union Commerce Minister receives Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce



YANGON, 18 Jan—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held a discussion with a delegation led by Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian of the People's Republic of China at the Ministry of Commerce, here,

on 16 January.

The meeting mainly focused on promoting trade, signing of more comprehensive MoU on setting up a plan for promoting export of Myanmar agricultural

produce to China, increased production of value-added agricultural produce, sending of Myanmar delegation to China and formation of joint trade committee.

MNA

Yangon City Public Transport Authority meets for first time



YANGON, 18 Jan—About three million people of six million in Yangon made short and long trips between offices and schools and their residences in Yangon daily; thus, the Yangon City all private bus-line control committee managed transport of over 2.5 million passengers with the use of 6700 buses; however students and people are still facing difficulties in their trips at the end of office hours and school hours; nowadays, the State is making reform process; so, arrangements are being made for ensuring convenience of the people in their basic needs; and now the Yangon City Public Transport Authority has realized the plans and assigned the duties so as to ensure smooth transport of the Yangonites, said Chairman of the Authority U Kyi Thein at the first meeting of the Yangon City Public Transport

Authority at the meeting hall No. 1 of Yangon City on 11 January morning.

The chairman of the authority continued that plans are to be implemented for smooth transportation of six population of Yangon and more plans are to be set for growing population of 15 million in the future.

Chairman of the All Private Bus-line Control

Committee (Central) U Hla Aung reported on services of bus lines. Members of the authority discussed priority to be given to prevention against traffic congestion, use of river and creeks around Yangon, establishment of website, enforcement of traffic rules, collection of data and emphasis on smooth transportation for the people.

MNA

New school buildings opened in Tatkon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—A ceremony to open new building was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Khayansatgon Village in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 11 January morning.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe, Nay Pyi Taw Education Officer U Myint Zaw and Director

of SKK Co U Kyaw Swa formally opened the new school building.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Than Aung made a speech.

Headmistress Daw Nweni Win of the school explained matters related to the school.

Director of SKK Co U Kyaw Swa handed over the documents related to



Golden Myanmar airlines receives first airplane



YANGON, 18 Jan—With the aim of enabling the foreign and local passengers to take flights at reasonable charges and every citizen to take flights, the Golden Myanmar Airlines, the

School Family Day observed in Mogaung

MOGAUNG, 18 Jan—The School Family Day was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in MyoU Ward of Mogaung in Kachin State for 2012-2013 academic year on 11 January morning.

Township Assistant Education Officer U Min Oo, Ward administrator U Myint Aye and Headmaster U Ye Naing made speeches.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding students.

Myanma Alinn

first-ever public airlines, is running its schedules.

At 2 pm on 9 January, the first airplane for the airlines arrived at Yangon International Airport.

Local and foreign pilots and flight attendants will discharge duties at the Golden Myanmar airlines. The lines will launch its maiden flight for Yangon-Mandalay route on 17

January and conducted the test-run on Yangon-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route on 10 January.

The newly-arrived Air Bus A 320-232, XY-AGS can accommodate 180 passengers. The second airplane for the airlines will arrive in February to be able to extend foreign flight schedules.

Myanma Alinn

Children centred approach demonstrated in Salingyi



SALINGYI, 18 Jan—A demonstration on children centred approach (CCA) was held at Basic Education Primary School in Myezun of Salingyi Township in Sagaing Region on 12 January morning.

Leader of the primary school group Headmaster U Kyaw Swe made a speech. After that, teachers discussed six kinds of teaching techniques for children centred approach from KG to fourth standard.

The demonstration was attended by Assistant Township Education Officer U Tin Win, Headmistress Daw Khin Soe Yi of Basic Education High School and teachers from 10 basic education primary schools.

The government has adopted the national action plan for education in March 2013 in order to transform the teacher centred approach into the children centred one.

Hein Tayzar

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 January, 2013

Youth Suicide

The 21st century can be best characterized by challenges as the age has never been as demanding as now to us. Stress has become inseparable part of our lives. When things become unbearable and life seems hopeless or worthless, one would use suicide as a means of exit strategy to end but not to ease his own pains.

Over one million people die from suicide every year, which represents one death every 40 seconds according to the World Health Organization. It was the 10th leading cause of death worldwide as of 2009. Worldwide suicide rates have increased by 60 per cent in last 45 years, mainly in the developing countries. Suicide is now one of the three leading causes of death among those aged 15-44 (male and female).

Due to the belief in sanctity of life, Myanmar people traditionally consider suicide unpardonable sin. Nonetheless, there have been a number of reported cases of suicide in some towns. As youth suicide is increasing at an alarming rate globally, more and more Myanmar youths are committing suicide, not in the form of actually killing themselves but ruining their lives and sometimes others.

Everyone has at least had a dream big or small, vivid or vague in his childhood or early adulthood. While some pursue and realize their dreams, some take them to the grave. Many people while struggling for survival have forgotten their dreams whereas a handful of people while indulging in the lap of luxury are spoiling themselves and others' dreams as in the case of a municipal sanitation worker hit hard by a gang of midnight boy racers for no reason.

Many are working but with no ambition which in turns kills their aggressiveness, innovation and initiative. This is attributable to a lack of motivation resulting from an apparent situation of feeling like no option. Meanwhile, many find nowhere to use what they have learnt at lecture halls as most companies are demanding experiences. While some have almost no chance, some are misusing, for example, the internet often portrayed as treasure trove is often used for wrong purposes.

An idle brain is the devil's workshop. While opportunities must be created for youths to help improve themselves, youths on their part should not lose track of their dreams, their directions.



Maung Pe Pe

NATIONAL

Myanmar C-in-C calls on Malaysian Prime Minister



Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views skill demonstration of Airborne Division No. 10.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces General Tan Sri Dato Sri Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin hosted a dinner to the Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Shangrila Hotel on 16 January.

The two armed forces chiefs and their wives exchanged gifts after the dinner. Also present at the dinner were senior military officers from Myanmar Armed Forces, Myanmar

Military Attaché (Army, Navy, Air) Brig-Gen Win Maung and wife, senior military officers from Malaysia.

Myanmar military delegation in company with the Malaysian Armed Forces Chief visited Airborne Division No. 10 in Malacca yesterday morning. Personnel from the division demonstrated their combat skills. The Malaysian Armed Forces Chief presented cap and badge of Malaysian Armed Forces to the Myanmar C-in-C in his honour.

The Myanmar C-in-C then visited AIROD, a maintenance, repair & overhaul organization and observed arms and ammunition booth and aircraft. The C-in-C paid a call on Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak at his drawing room in the evening. The C-in-C described his visit a milestone in relations between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Malaysia. The two discussed matters related to strengthening of ASEAN and peace process

in Myanmar. Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Tin Latt and wife and Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Win Maung and wife paid a call on the C-in-C at Shangrila Hotel. The C-in-C urged them to safeguard "Our Three Main National Causes." The Malaysian Chief of Armed Forces then hosted an exclusive dinner to Myanmar military delegation at officers mess. The Myanmar military delegation arrived back here this evening

MNA

Profile of Mr Kang Chang-hee, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly

At an invitation of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann of the Republic of the Union Myanmar, a delegation led by Mr. Kang Chang-hee, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly and wife will pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar from 20 to 23 January.

Profile of Mr. Kang Chang-hee

Mr. Kang Chang-hee was born in University August 1946. He got B.A from Korea Military Academy in



1969, M.A from Kyungnan University in 1980 and Honorary Dكتورate Degree in Politics in 2004 from the same

university. He was elected as the Speaker of the 19th Korean National Assembly in July 2012.

Speaker Mr Kang Chang-hee served as Professor at Korean Command and General Staff College in 1979 and a parliamentarian at 11th Korean National Assembly in 1983. He also served as Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister. He served as Chairman of Committee for National Assembly Science and Technology & Information and Communication

in 1996. He served as Science and Technology Minister from 1998 to 1999, Member of Grand National Party Supreme Council, Professor of Kyungnan University in 2002 and Member of Presidential Committee on Green Growth in 2009. Mr Kang Chang-hee attended 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 19th National Assemblies as a parliamentarian. Madam Lee Jae-sook, wife of the Speaker of Korean National Assembly, will accompany the goodwill delegation.

Foreign representatives arrive to participate in 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum

YANGON, 18 Jan — Representatives from foreign countries and UN agencies arrived here yesterday to participate in the 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum.

The two-day forum will be opened at Myanmar

International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw tomorrow.

The representatives from France, Sweden, Finland, Korea, Netherlands, Israel, Italy, the United Kingdom, EU, Switzerland, New Zealand, Luxembourg,

the United States of America, Japan, Germany, Norway, China, Australia, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Laos, Brunei, Singapore and UN agencies will discuss development of Myanmar.

During the forum,

papers on development cooperation for Myanmar will be read by Union ministers, economic ministers from regions and states, representatives from political parties and Hluttaws, representatives from NGOs, representatives from donor countries, partner countries and INGOs.—MNA

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Information Team

Press Release (3/2013)

7th Waxing of Pyatho, 1374 ME
18th January, 2013

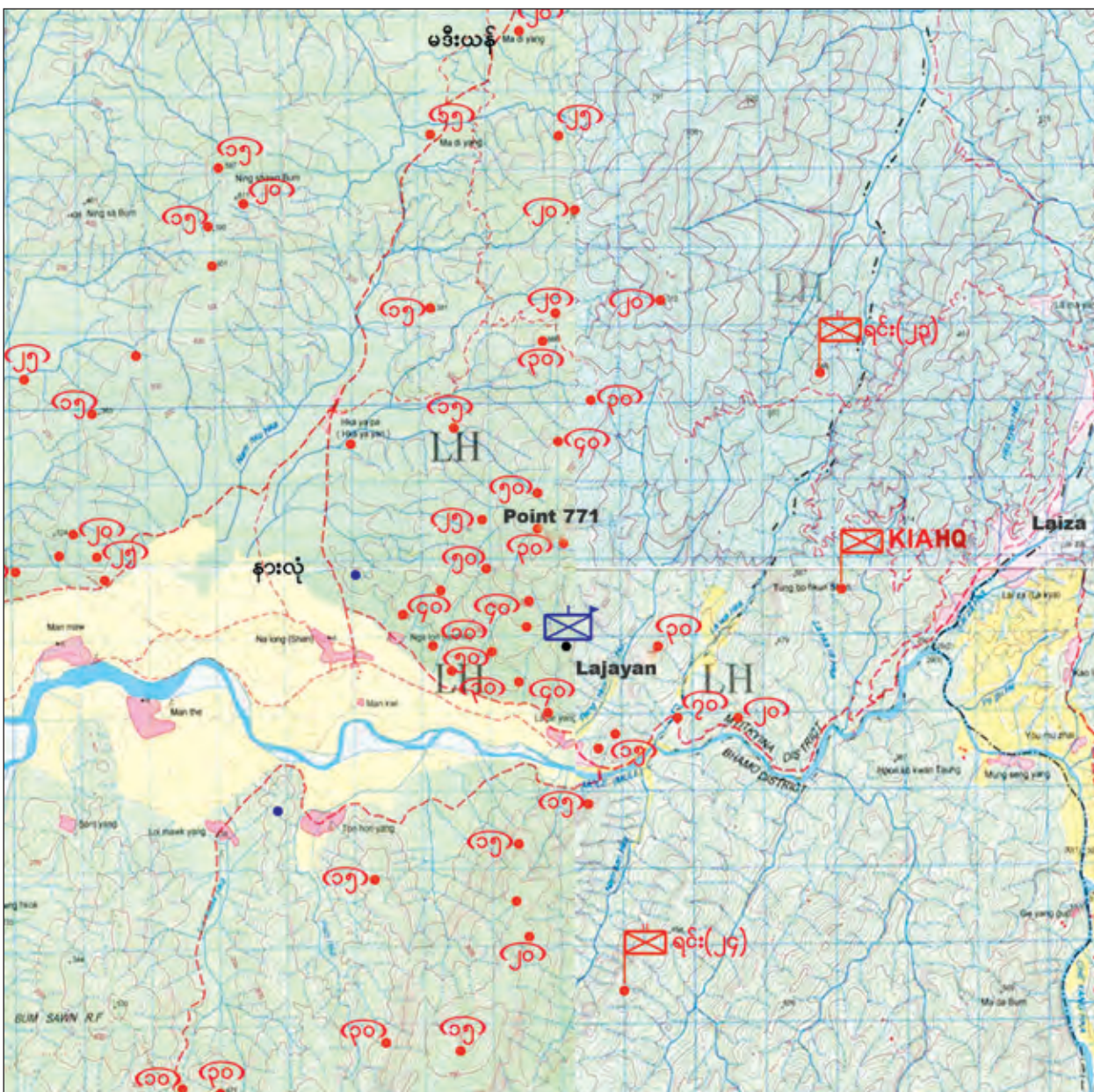
1. KIO/KIA troops had been surrounding Lajayan outpost, ambushing military columns which are transporting rations to Lajayan outpost, blocking Myitkyina-Bhamo Union Highway disabling public use, and blasting bridges since March 2012 in Lajayan of Kachin State. The Tatmadaw therefore had to launch attack on KIO/KIA strongholds including Point 771 hill beginning 27 December, 2012.
2. The Tatmadaw, since the resumption of fight between it and KIO/KIA in June 2011, had launched counter-firing only for self-defence in line with instructions of the President. However 35 Tatmadaw men fell and 190 were wounded

as KIO/KIA troops ambushed military convoys transporting rations to Tatmadaw men in Lajayan outpost for three times. Lajayan outpost has been a military outpost from which the Tatmadaw troops undertook regional security even before ceasefire agreement in 1994 (before KIO/KIA had built their Laiza Camp) and the Tatmadaw troops had also informed KIO/KIA that rations would be transported to the outpost. In spite of this, KIO/KIA intercepted those convoys. As foodstuffs could not be sent to Lajayan outpost, rations ran out there and the Tatmadaw men therefore had to clear unavoidably the areas of KIO/KIA just for survival.

3. The army asked supporting fire from the Air Force just to make sure accurate hitting of KIO/KIA targets and to avoid hitting civilian targets. KIO/KIA troops had sieged the Lajayan outpost setting up barbed wire cutting off its contact with outside world and thus Tatmadaw men there had nothing to choose but to fight. Though the

Tatmadaw had decided to move its outposts through negotiations at table, KIO/KIA failed to come to the table. Their rejection of invitation from the government and failure to come to Shweli negotiation had led to aforesaid fights.

4. The Tatmadaw as it has achieved limited objectives for security of Myitkyina-Bhamo Union Highway will stop its operation beginning 0600 hrs on 19 January, 2013.
5. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services reaffirmed that the military would strictly adhere to the instruction of the President not to fight except for self-defence. Nonetheless, both sides will need to stop fighting so as to ease tensions in the armed conflict. Therefore, KIO/KIA is urged to order its troops not to attack the Tatmadaw troops first. Studying the previous events, until the instruction from President Office was issued, KIO/KIA had blasted roads and bridges for 122 times, attacked military outposts for 64 times, robbed for 60 times, recruited and



abducted civilians for 28 times while civilians came under mine attacks for 30 times. KIO/KIA troops engaged with military columns for 1095 times and many officers and other ranks were killed and wounded in those incidents.

6. In addition, KIO/KIA troops should not block or blast motor roads and railroads in public use in consideration of the people who are in trouble due to skirmishes in Kachin State. For the time being, as KIO/KIA troops have mounted mine blast attacks on Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad for 56 times, Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Railroad for 15 times, and Myitkyina-Bhamo motor road for 42 times, killing and wounding civilians and disrupting normal transportation. The attacks have resulted in commodity price rise in Kachin State, particularly locals in Putao are facing shortage of food and the Tatmadaw has sent food supplies to the area by military plane. As the Tatmadaw has instructed its troops not to attack civilian targets, KIO/KIA on its part will need to stop attacking public transportation facilities like railroads and motor roads. Only then military tensions will ease and economic, social assistance could be given and rehabilitation works undertaken more for locals.
7. The government will proceed with ceasefire agreements to strong political dialogues in order to make lasting peace with all ethnic armed groups for national reunification and unity. It will also continue peace talks with KIO/KIA. In future negotiations, decision makers from KIO/KIA need to negotiate with the representatives from the Tatmadaw.
8. The government is ready to join hands with all national people including KIO/KIA to be able to build peace and national unity in Kachin State.

Information Team

JGC: Three Japanese found safe, 14 unaccounted for

YOKOHAMA, 18 Jan—A Japanese engineering firm says it was able to contact 3 of 17 Japanese nationals working at a natural gas plant in Algeria attacked by Islamist militants.

A spokesperson of JGC Corporation met with reporters at its head office in Yokohama on Friday

morning.

The news conference follows reports that the Algerian government stormed the plant to rescue hostages.

The spokesperson said 78 people affiliated with the firm were stationed at the plant in In Amenas at the time of the attack. They comprise 17 Japanese and

61 foreign nationals. The official said the firm made contact with 3 Japanese by phone, but the remaining 14 are unaccounted for.

The official added the firm was able to contact one of the 61 non-Japanese workers employed by a JGC subsidiary and contractor.—NHK



A visitor watch photographs exhibited during the photo exhibition "Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs" in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 17 Jan, 2013. The exhibiton displays 151 photographs shot by the Pulitzer Prize winners since the award was established in 1942.

XINHUA



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (C) and Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert A. Mundell (2nd R) attend the Gaidar forum in Moscow, Russia, on 16 Jan, 2013. The annual forum brought together Russian and international businessmen and experts to discuss the integration of Russia into the global economy.—XINHUA

ADB to provide 230 mln USD to Cambodia for development projects

PHNOM PENH, 18 Jan—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday signed up to provide 230 million US dollars to Cambodia for six development projects, aiming at promoting inclusive growth and reducing poverty in Cambodia, according to the bank's media statement.

The financing agreements were inked between Eric Sidgwick, country director of ADB to Cambodia, and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Keat Chhon.

The 230 million US dollar assistance includes 218.46 million US dollar concessional loan and 11.7 million US dollar grant, the statement said, adding that the six projects are focused on education, decentralized public service and financial management sector, economic diversification promotion, flood and drought risk management and mitigation, power sub-transmission line construction, and Southern economic corridor town development project.

"The assistance demonstrates an excellent partnership between Cambodia and ADB," Keat Chhon said at the signing ceremony. "The financing support

to these projects is a timely response to our need for development in the current global context to achieve high economic growth and forms the basis for long-term development."

To date, he said, the bank's cumulative amount of project loans and grants extended to Cambodia has reached 1.85 billion US dollars, of which ADB has financed 1.5 billion US dollars as loans for 63 projects and 350 million US dollars as grants for 33 projects.

"This has contributed considerably to the development of Cambodia," the minister said.

Eric Sidgwick said the projects would improve the quality of life for poor and vulnerable people, further develop the economy by helping the government roll out a series of policy reforms and measures to expand trade and investment, diversify the country's economic base, and help transform Cambodia into an open and market-based economy.

"They reflect ADB's ongoing efforts to achieve inclusive growth through harnessing the synergies between a range of interventions," he said.

Xinhua

Obama pledges to promote peace, security in Somalia

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—US President Barack Obama pledged on Thursday to work with the new Somali government to promote peace and security in the Horn of Africa country, as his administration recognized the new government headed by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

Obama dropped by a meeting with Mohamud at the White House by his deputy national security advisor Denis McDonough, and congratulated him on his election last September as

peace and security, improve fiscal management, and increase the provision of social services" in the country.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met later with the Somali president, and announced Washington's recognition of the new Somali government, the first time since 1991. Somalia's central government collapsed in 1991 when a civil war broke out, in which al-Shabaab militants once held all of south-central Somalia including the capital city of Mogadishu.—Xinhua

Obama reaffirmed his commitment to work in partnership with the new Somali government to "promote

peace and security, improve fiscal management, and increase the provision of social services" in the country.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met later with the Somali president, and announced Washington's recognition of the new Somali government, the first time since 1991. Somalia's central government collapsed in 1991 when a civil war broke out, in which al-Shabaab militants once held all of south-central Somalia including the capital city of Mogadishu.—Xinhua



Students from the School of Fine Art of Liaocheng University present self-designed masks in Liaocheng, east China's Shandong Province, on 17 Jan, 2013. A competition for mask design was held in the school to promote the ideal of environment protection and a low-carbon lifestyle.

XINHUA

Okinawa invites Japanese firms in China

OKINAWA (Japan), 18 Jan — Okinawa Prefecture is inviting Japanese firms operating in China to set up business in the southern islands, to spread their risks amid rising tension between the two countries.

Okinawa held an investment seminar in the Chinese city of Dalian on Wednesday. Officials from 65 Japanese firms attended the session.

Okinawan officials explained the islands have ample young labour available. They told the participants that preferential taxes and wage subsidies are being offered in the prefecture's special economic zones. A participant said that labour costs in Dalian have risen to relatively high levels and it would make sense to set up business in Okinawa from a personnel

cost point of view.

Some Japanese firms operating in China are seeking to set up plants in Southeast Asia to reduce risks. Okinawan officials say the prefecture has been left behind as Japanese firms expand their businesses globally, but they hope to have the prefecture serve as a new hub for distribution and the telecommunication industry.—NHK

Central African Republic president to meet stakeholders on gov't formation

BANGUI, 18 Jan—Central African Republic's President Francois Bozize is set to hold a meeting on Thursday morning with all stakeholders on the formation of a national unity government, according to state radio.

On Saturday, Bozize dissolved the government led by Prime Minister Faustin Archange Touadera, just a day after signing an

agreement with rebels in Libreville, Gabon, which was the broker of peace in 2007. According to the agreement, the post of prime minister will be given to the democratic opposition, involving opposition parties, the civil society and the Seleka rebel coalition, which launched an offensive against the government on 10 Dec, 2012 and has taken control of more than

10 towns in northern and Central African Republic.

On Wednesday, Bozize met with the envoy of Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso and a delegation from Seleka, the radio said, without elaborating on the talks.

The Republic of Congo is acting as the mediator in the current crisis in neighboring Central African Republic.—Xinhua

Egyptian president appoints former VP Ambassador to Vatican

CAIRO, 18 Jan—Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi issued a decree on Thursday appointing former Vice President Mahmoud Mekki the country's Ambassador to Vatican, the official news agency MENA reported.

Mekki, who was named as Morsi's deputy in August 2012, resigned late December after Egypt's new constitution was established.

"I realized that the nature of political work does not suit my professional side as a judge," Mekki, also deputy chairman of the Court of Appeal, said in a statement when he resigned.

He continued to chair a national dialogue between Egypt's presidency and political forces after his resignation, in an attempt to end growing divisions among Egyptians over Morsi's controversial decisions and the new constitution.

Xinhua



A visitor watches a piece of art work presented at the 10th International "REALISME" exhibition in Amsterdam, on 17 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

REGIONAL

Japan PM may cut short Asia trip due to hostage crisis

TOKYO, 18 Jan—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has cancelled part of his trip in Southeast Asia, his first overseas trip since taking office, and is considering flying home early due to the hostage crisis in Algeria, Japan's top government spokesman said on Friday.

Algerian forces stormed a desert gas complex to free hundreds of hostages, including Japanese, but 30 were killed in the assault along with at least 11 of their Islamist

captors, an Algerian security source told *Reuters*.

"The action of Algerian forces was regrettable," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, adding Japan had not been informed of the operation in advance.

Three Japanese workers of Japanese engineering firm JGC Corp have been confirmed safe but 14 others remained unaccounted for, he said.

Speaking after the government's taskforce meet-

ing on the crisis, Suga said the prime minister had cancelled a luncheon meeting with Japanese residents in Indonesia to focus on the Algeria hostage crisis.

"He is considering coming back home right after a summit meeting (with his Indonesian counterpart)," Suga said. Local organizers said Abe had also cancelled a planned policy speech due later in the day which he was expected to use to push for closer ties in Southeast Asia.—*Reuters*



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shakes hands with Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) during his visit to Thailand at the Government House in Bangkok on 17 Jan, 2013.—*REUTERS*

Australia's New South Wales braces for ferocious fire conditions

SYDNEY, 18 Jan—Australia's southeast state of New South Wales firefighters are facing a day of fierce fire conditions, with temperatures expected to climb into the 40s degree Celsius in Sydney and many other areas of the state, local media reported on Friday.

A total fire ban is in place across much of the state as hot and windy conditions return.

Currently, 84 bushfires are burning across the state, and 14 of them are uncontrolled.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) said a fire in the Warrumbungle National Park in northwestern NSW broke containment lines on Friday morning.

The fire has already destroyed 51 homes, burning out 45,000 hectares of bushland in the Warrumbungle National Park.

Xinhua



Most of the casualties in a fatal bus collision in central China's Henan Province on Thursday have been confirmed as employees of Foxconn, the world's largest electronics contractor.—*XINHUA*

Eleven killed in China road accidents

SHIJINAZHUANG, 18 Jan—At least 11 people were killed and dozens of others injured in separate road accidents in north and central China, traffic police said on Thursday.

More than 20 vehicles were involved in nine separate collisions on Thursday morning on a 2-km section of an expressway in Hebei Province, killing four people and injuring nine others, according to Hebei traffic police.

Police said the section of the expressway linking Daqing City of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province and Guangzhou, capital city of southern Guangdong Province, was suddenly covered in heavy fog.

The injured have been sent to local hospitals. Their conditions are unknown.

Separately, a vehicle collision in central China's Henan Province on Thursday morning left seven

people dead and another 20 injured.

The accident happened at 8:22 am when two passenger buses collided with each other in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan, according to sources with the Zhengzhou Municipal Public Security Bureau.

The injured have been sent to local hospitals.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

Xinhua

Vietnamese pour into S China amid labour shortage

NANNING, 18 Jan—Rising labour costs and a labour shortage in China's coastal regions have led to more Vietnamese illegally crossing the border to seek work in south China, border police said on Thursday.

The border-jumpers have created new challenges for law enforcement on the China-Vietnam border, which saw a 20-percent increase in illegal entries and exits in 2012, according to sources with the border control force in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Border police apprehended 3,592 Vietnamese border-crossers in 2012, with a third of them stating that they were seeking jobs in southeast China's coastal regions, the sources said.

Increased demand for short-term labourers during the harvest season has also resulted in increased illegal entry, the sources said. Border police said they will crack down on illegal entry by intensifying checks of hotels and rented apartments.—*Xinhua*

Concert of violins made from tsunami-hit houses

TOKYO, 18 Jan — Japan's Empress enjoyed a violin concert held in Tokyo. The violins used in the performance were made from wood left behind by the tsunami that hit northeastern Japan on 11th March, 2011. Empress Michiko joined the audience at a recital by Mexican violinist Adrian Justus in Tokyo on Thursday. The event included a joint performance with Japanese violinist Yuriko Kuronuma.

The 2 violins played in the concert were made from house pillars that were swept away by the tsunami in Iwate

Prefecture. The only pine tree to have survived the tsunami along the coast of Rikuzentakata City was also used in the construction of violins.

The "miracle lone pine" became a symbol of hope for reconstruction, but was cut it down after it was found to be dying from extensive saltwater damage.

The recital was part of a project in which 1,000 violinists take turns playing the violins to pray for the souls of the victims. Another aim of the project is to help people reflect on the disaster as time passes. So far, 115 vio-

linists have performed with the instruments.

In the concert, Yustus and Kuronuma played a duet with piano accompaniment. The Empress and the audience listened quietly to enjoy the stirring melodies and applauded after the performance concluded.

Thursday was the 18th anniversary of the massive earthquake that hit Kobe City and surrounding areas in western Japan. Earlier in the day, the Emperor and the Empress observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims.—*NHK*



Katsuji Asano (R) and his father Akitoshi (L) of centuries-old Japanese taiko drum maker Asano Taiko Co have been preparing to open a Los Angeles shop and launch taiko lessons in July 2013. Photo was taken on 17 Dec, 2012, at a shop of the taiko maker in Hakusan, Ishikawa Prefecture. KYODO NEWS

Singapore to add two new subway lines by 2030

SINGAPORE, 18 Jan—Singapore will add two new subway lines and expand three existing lines by 2030, Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew said on Thursday.

The rail network stretch in the city state is also expected to double to 360 kilometres from the current 178 kilometres, potentially putting Singapore ahead of Hong Kong and Tokyo, and on the par with New York, local media reports said.

By then, eight in ten households will have a train station within a ten-minute walk, compared with about six in ten currently.

Lui announced the plan as he visited a local train station on Thursday. The plans came after a review of the Land Transport Master Plan.

One of the new lines will be the 50-kilometre Cross Island Line running from the Jurong Industrial Estate in the west of the island to Changi near the airport in the east. It will be connected to all the existing lines and is expected to relieve the load of the current East-West and North-East lines and shorten journey times significantly.

The other new line Jurong Region Line will be

completed in 2025.

The 20-kilometre line will be mainly in the west.

The existing Circle Line, Downtown Line and North-East Line will be extended.

The population of Singapore has grown steadily from 1.65 million in 1960 to 4.03 million in 2000, and then to 5.31 million in 2012. The fast growth of the population, while contributing to the remarkable growth of the Singapore economy, also led to pressure on infrastructure, including the rail network.

Xinhua



Patrol vessel Haixun 21 arrives at a port in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 17 Jan, 2013, after finishing a three-day patrol in the South China Sea.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Dated: 17th January, 2013

INVITATION FOR BIDS TO CONDUCT PETROLEUM OPERATIONS
IN MYANMAR ONSHORE AREAS (2013)

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces Invitation of Sealed Bids for Petroleum Operations to be conducted in Myanmar Onshore Areas on production sharing basis.

2. The following Onshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:-

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	PSC B2	(Zebuytaung-Nandaw)	PSC
(2)	PSC C1	(Indaw-Yenan)	PSC
(3)	PSC H	(Taungoo-Pyinmana)	PSC
(4)	PSC J	(Mawlamyine)	PSC
(5)	PSC K	(Yamethin)	PSC
(6)	PSC M	(Kyaukpyu)	PSC
(7)	PSC O	(Pathein)	PSC
(8)	EP 1	(Kyaukkyi-Mindon)	PSC
(9)	EP 3	(Thegon-Shwegu)	PSC
(10)	EP 4	(Mayaman)	PSC
(11)	RSF 5	(Ondwe)	PSC
(12)	IOR 3	(Tetma)	PSC
(13)	IOR 4	(Pyay)	IPR
(14)	IOR 5	(Htantabin)	PSC
(15)	IOR 6	(Myanaung)	IPR
(16)	IOR 7	(Shwepyitha)	IPR
(17)	MOGE 3	(Padaukpin-Natmi)	PSC
(18)	MOGE 4	(Myintha)	PSC

3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest", together with Company's Article of Association (AOA), Memorandum of Association (MOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report and Detail Track Record, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company's registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted "*Confidential*" "*Myanmar Onshore Blocks Second Bidding Round-2013*", to the following address not later than two (2) Months after the date of announcing of this invitation (17th January 2013):-

Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and/or improved petroleum recovery basis and the party(s), who desire to enter into the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and/or Improved Petroleum Recovery Contract (IPR) with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) shall have

technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise and technical know how to conduct petroleum exploration and development works and must have good track record.

5. The potential bidders will be pre-qualified and selected. Then the potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be presented with General Overview of each Block consisting of representative data and information free of charge by Geological/Geophysical Team of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

6. The potential bidders will be explained and provided with Standard Terms and Conditions by Energy Planning Department in order to submit proposal(s).

7. The potential bidders will be allowed to submit up to three (3) proposals for three (3) onshore blocks together with proposed Terms and Conditions. The proposal submitted shall be on a block by block basis.

8. The potential bidders' proposed Terms and Conditions will be assessed and the best offered Terms and Conditions will be selected for awarding.

9. The potential bidders must cooperate with a minimum of (1) one Myanmar national owned company registered at Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy, of their own choosing.

10. Energy Planning Department will provide the list of Myanmar national owned companies registered at Energy Planning Department to interested foreign companies.

Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Note: For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the followings:-

- (1) Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 099/ 411 057
Fax: 95-67 411 113
Email: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm
- (2) Managing Director
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 055/ 411 056
Fax: 95-67 411 125
Email: mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm
- (3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries

HAVE BEEN MARRIED

The only son of Thang Khan Cin & Ngin Do Cing of Kalaymyo

**Mr. Hau Tung Nung
&
Miss Cing San Neam**

The second daughter of Lam Khan Mang & Hau Khan Cing of Thuklai Village, Tedim Tsp have been married at 12:00 (noon) on 4th Jan 2013

at Leipi Baptist Church solemnized by Rev. Sian Za Mung, the Church Pastor of Leipi Baptist Church.

Both parents and Mr. Hau Tung Nung & Miss Cing San Neam.

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

TENDER NO(1) (Adm:) A.M.D (2012-2013)

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

LOT: No	Description	Quantity
1/2.	HINO TE/NISSAN CONDOR Spare Parts	80 Items
3/4.	4D/KM-300 RANGER Spare Parts	77 Items

2. Tender Closing date: 25-1-2013, 16:00 hrs
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Office No. 50, NayPyi Taw, during office hours from (21-1-2013). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact; 067-431219/431243

**Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEIYO SAPPHIRE VOY NO (EAL03)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEIYO SAPPHIRE VOY NO (EAL03) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2013 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA WARLUS VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA WARLUS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (1) 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: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO. LTD.**
Phone No: 256924/256914

Journalist shot dead in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 18 Jan—A local Somali journalist was shot dead on Friday by unknown gunmen in the capital city of Mogadishu as he left his home for work, witnesses and media reports said. Abdi Hared Osman was rushed to hospital after he was shot several times by armed assailants as he walked to a bus stop in the Mogadishu District of Wadajir.

"Reporter Abdi Ha-

reed was shot by a group of men armed with pistols as he headed to work," the local Shabelle Radio in Mogadishu reported. Hared worked as an editor and playwright at the radio station.

The reporter died as he was being prepared for operation by doctors at the Medina hospital in Mogadishu which he was taken to following the attack, health officials said. This was the

first killing of a journalist since the beginning of the year. The year 2012 was the deadliest for Somali journalists. In the year, 18 Somali journalists lost their lives in violence.

A journalist is currently under arrest by Somali government police after he was accused of interviewing a woman who claimed to have been raped by government soldiers, a charge vehemently denied by of-

ficials. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the latest killing of the journalist. None of the previous attacks were claimed. The Somali government accuses the Islamist Al Shabaab group of targeting the journalists.

International and local media watchdogs consider the war torn horn of Africa country as one of the worst places for media to operate.

Xinhua

Drive Safely

ENTERTAINMENT & ADVERTISEMENT



Actress and honouree Jessica Simpson poses at the US Weekly Hot Hollywood Style issue party in Hollywood, California, 26 April, 2011.—REUTERS

Singer Jessica Simpson to star in TV comedy

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan—Pop singer Jessica Simpson is set to star in a television pilot in development for NBC that is loosely based on her life, executive producer Ben Silverman said on Tuesday. The comedy could be Simpson's first step back into a major acting role in more than five years.

The former teen pop star is best known for her reality TV shows, including MTV's "Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica," which followed Simpson and her first husband and fellow pop singer Nick Lachey. She also served as a mentor on NBC's

"Fashion Star."

Simpson, 32, will play a celebrity who must balance life as a mother and a public figure, Silverman told Reuters. The singer gave birth to her first child in May 2012 and said last month that she was pregnant with her second.

"The show is inspired by her life as she's going through a new phase in her life becoming a mom," said Silverman, who is the creator of NBC's reality show "The Biggest Loser."

"It's a combination of 'I Love Lucy' and 'Curb Your Enthusiasm,'" he added, referring to the classic 1950s Lucille Ball comedy series and the HBO series by "Seinfeld" creator Larry David.—Reuters

Daniel Day-Lewis is a "sucker" for compliments



Daniel Day-Lewis

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—Actor Daniel Day-Lewis has already won awards for his portrayal of the heroic US president Abraham Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's biopic Lincoln but has admitted he is still wary of the feedback from critics and fans — finding himself "sensitive" to their comments. He said: "I don't go looking for reviews, but they tend to find you, good and bad. People encourage you to look at both." "I'm a sucker when people say nice things, and it's unpleasant when people write unpleasant things. I'm still sensitive towards that."

Daniel — who has sons Ronan, 14, and 10-year-old Cashel, wife Rebecca Miller as well as 18-year-old Gabriel-Kane with ex-girlfriend Isabella Adjani — is aware people have different views on him, from obsessively driven to a recluse during filming, but takes all the rumours and "misrepresentations" in his stride.

PTI

Why Jennifer Lawrence can't give advice to other young actors

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—Jennifer Lawrence believes she isn't experienced enough to give advice to other young actors.

The Silver Linings Playbook star — who was recently nominated for her second Oscar and also won a Golden Globe Award on Sunday (13 January)—turned down an offer to appear on the respected Bravo show Inside The Actors Studio with James Lipton because she never knows her lines and has no method.

The 22-year-old beauty told Entertainment Weekly: "Do you know how much that guy would hate me? 'Tell me about your method?' There is no method! I never know my lines! He would be horrified."

"I love that show but I'm not old enough. I'm not at a place yet where I can look back and think 'Oh this how I...' I'm not ready. And, please, I'm an animal."

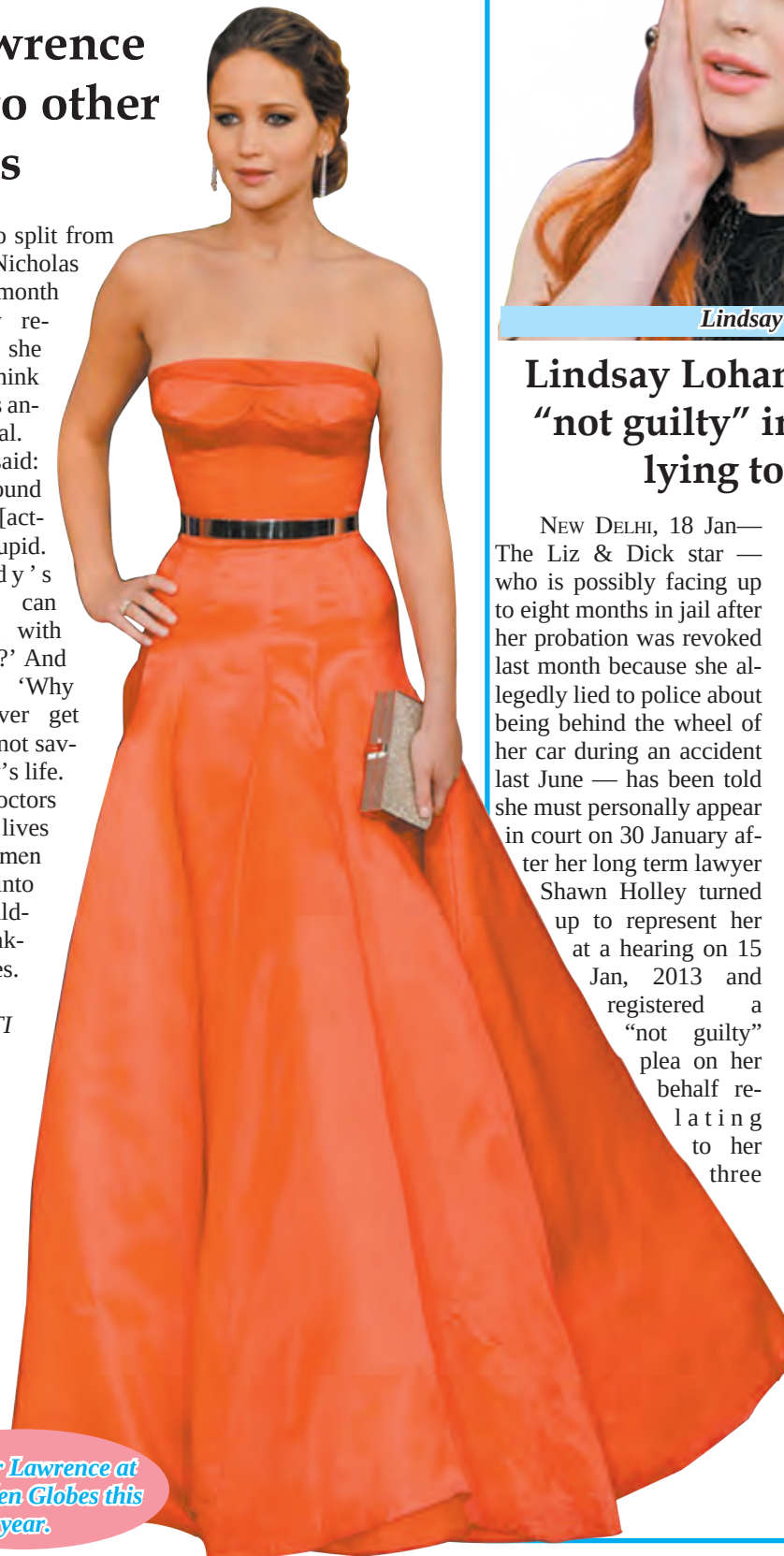
The actress also admits she is embarrassed after starting her speech at Sunday's ceremony with the words "I beat Meryl!" referring to acclaimed actress Meryl Streep and claims it didn't go down well with her fellow celebrities. She said: "I never know what's going to come out of my mouth and that's what always gets me in trouble."

The newly single ac-

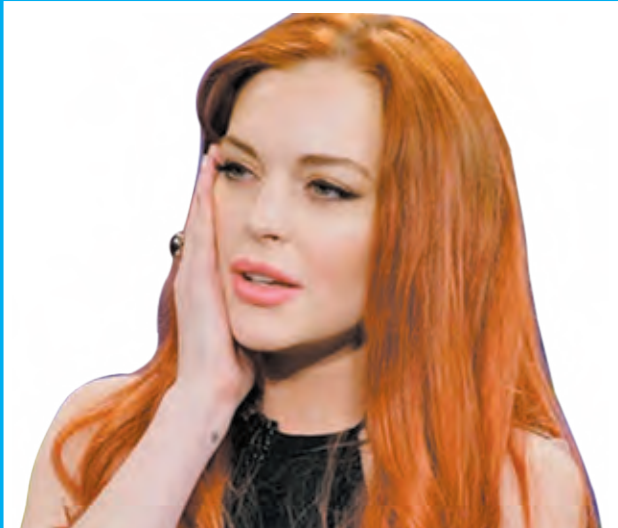
trix — who split from boyfriend Nicholas Hoult this month — recently revealed she doesn't think that acting is anything special.

She said: "Not to sound rude, but [acting] is stupid. Everybody's like, 'How can you remain with a level head?' And I'm like, 'Why would I ever get cocky? I'm not saving anybody's life. There are doctors who save lives and firemen who run into burning buildings. I'm making movies. It's stupid.'"

PTI



Jennifer Lawrence at the Golden Globes this year.



Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan has pleaded "not guilty" in court about lying to police

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan—The Liz & Dick star — who is possibly facing up to eight months in jail after her probation was revoked last month because she allegedly lied to police about being behind the wheel of her car during an accident last June — has been told she must personally appear in court on 30 January after her long term lawyer Shawn Holley turned up to represent her at a hearing on 15 Jan, 2013 and registered a "not guilty" plea on her behalf relating to her three

misdeemeanour charges despite being fired yesterday on 14 Jan, 2013.

The 26-year-old troubled starlet signed a termination letter that was then sent to Shawn by her new lawyer Mark Heller, who did not appear at her arraignment On 15 Jan, 2013. But according to gossip website TMZ.com, Shawn said she still technically represents the actress for the moment as she hasn't formally been removed from the case by the judge, which stopped the judge from issuing a bench warrant for her arrest.

Sources revealed that Lindsay told Shawn that she was cancelling her termination on 14 Jan, 2013 and allegedly ordered her new New York lawyer Mark to send her a letter to confirm this but it never arrived.

However, insiders connected to her lawyer said he has been calling everyone involved in the case to inform them he is Lindsay's lawyer.

PTT

SPORTS

London Olympics boost UK's image: study



LONDON, 18 Jan—A study released by VisitBritain on Thursday suggested that image of the UK was greatly boosted by the hosting of the London 2012 Games. According to result of the study, global perceptions of “welcome”, Britain’s “overall nation brand” and the sporting and cultural credentials of the UK have significantly improved thanks to the Games.

The Nations Brands Index (NBI) research rates 50 of world’s leading nations around six core categories, was carried out in last July and repeated after the Olympics. Britain has moved from the twelfth place as a welcoming nation to the ninth, edging into the top 10 for the

first time. Its overall national brand and culture ranking moved up one place, with tourism in the fourth position. Nine of the panel countries, including the United States, China, Japan, Russia and India, ranked the UK in the top three on the overall NBI.

The study also found that among those polled for the study, 63 percent said the Olympic had increased their interest of visiting the UK for a holiday, 75 percent agreed they wanted to see more than London, and 70 percent said Britain had lovely countryside.

Perceptions of British sport see it move up two places into the top five in the overall rankings. The UK will continue to host major sporting events in the coming years such as a Champions league Final, Tour de France, and the World Athletics Championships.

“London’s hosting of the Games, the amazing opening and closing ceremonies

and the warmth of welcome shown to our international visitors have combined to boost our global image,” said Sandie Dawe, Chief Executive of VisitBritain. “Britain is already an established visitor destination and our tourism ranking is high. The goal this year was to maintain rankings in culture and heritage where we are strong, and improve in areas such as the warmth of our welcome where we had room for improvement.”

Culture Secretary Maria Miller noted that the summer of 2012 put the UK firmly in the global spotlight, shaping international perceptions and showing the best of Britain. “We are determined to deliver a lasting economic legacy for the whole country, boosting tourism and growth,” she said.—Xinhua

Ghana rises to 26th spot on FIFA world rankings



ACCRA, 18 Jan—Ghana moved four places up to rank 26th on the January edition of the overall FIFA world rankings, the Ghana Football Association (GFA) announced here on Thursday.

Ghana jumped from the 30th position on December’s rankings to the 26th place after picking 11 more points to reach a total of 788. The Black Stars maintained their fourth position on the continental ranking table. Cote d’Ivoire is still leading the African pecking order, followed by Algeria and Mali respectively. World champions, Spain, start the year as the number one side ahead of Germany and Argentina.

According to FIFA,

only 46 matches were included in the ranking since December’s episode, 18 of which took place in 2012, with the remaining 28 played in the first half of January 2013. Ghana’s Black Stars, who placed

fourth at the 2012 CAF Nations Cup co-hosted by Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, last year, have been drawn in Group B of the 2013 edition of the tournament alongside Mali, Niger and DR Congo.

The West African nation Wednesday ended its camping in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where the team fine-tuned ahead of the Cup of Nations competition scheduled for South Africa from 19 January. The team defeated Egypt and Tunisia in two warm up friendly matches in Abu Dhabi and has since arrived in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, where it will be based for the tournament.

Xinhua

AC Milan plan to loan back

Kaka

MILAN, 18 Jan—Serie A giants Milan confirmed on Thursday that they are talking with Real Madrid about a possible



Kaka

have revealed that the two clubs are discussing the possibility of a loan move.

Adriano Galliani, Milan’s vice president, admitted the talks with Real Madrid to take Kaka on loan will be very difficult.

“It’s true, I was very, very pleased with Kaka’s words. There is contact with Real Madrid. “Will it be possible to

January move for Kaka.

The club’s own TV station, Milan Channel,

sign Kaka? It will be difficult, very difficult,” he said.—Xinhua

LA QUINTA, (California), 18 Jan—Four days after winning his maiden PGA Tour title, American rookie Russell Henley made light of a fatigued start to the week as he surged into contention at the Humana Challenge on Thursday. The fresh faced 23-year-old fired an eight-under-par 64 on the Nicklaus Private course at PGA West, ending an ideal day for scoring just one stroke behind his pace-setting compatriots Jason Kokrak, Roberto Castro and James Hahn.

“It was a perfect day,” he told reporters after mixing seven birdies with an eagle and a lone bogey. “The weather is perfect, the greens were true so it’s just trying to stay patient and let the birdies come to me. And I made some good putts. “I got off to a fast start. Hit the pin on the first hole for eagle and it (the



Russell Henley of the US celebrates with the trophy and gestures a “Hawaiian Shaka” after winning final round of the Sony Open golf tournament shooting a 24 under par in Honolulu, Hawaii on 13 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

ball) went to about two feet. So it was cool to start out with a birdie. That gave me a little confidence and I just fed on it all day.”

Asked if he had felt ready for this week’s event after being cata-

pulted into the limelight by his spectacular three-shot victory in Honolulu, Henley replied: “I’ve gotten some good rest the last few nights, so I felt pretty good today physically. “I made some par putts when

I had to. I’m feeling very confident. The last thing I want to do is waste any energy and be emotional right now.

“I got to conserve all my emotions and energy as much as I can so I can play another full golf tournament. That’s what I’m focused on right now.”

Henley, who stunned the golfing world with a spectacular display of clutch putting and ice-cool nerves as he closed with a seven-under 63 at the Sony Open, is a staggering 32 under for his last five rounds on the PGA Tour.

He came agonizingly close on Thursday to shooting a fourth 63 this season but eventually had to settle for an eight-under opening round. “I thought about it coming down the stretch... but I was trying to push that thought out of my mind,” Henley said of carding another 63.

Reuters

Cooling temperatures fail to slow Radwanska’s hot form

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Agnieszka Radwanska took advantage of cooler conditions in Melbourne to continue her red-hot



start to 2013 with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Britain’s Heather Watson in the third round of the Australian

Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland

Open on Friday. The Pole, who claimed the Auckland and Sydney titles before the year’s first grand slam, has now won 12 successive matches in 2013 and hardly seemed pushed against the 20-year-old Briton in their 84-minute

Celsius (104F) at Melbourne Park on Thursday but a cool front pushed through early on Friday, bringing rain showers that forced a slight delay to the match as the roof was closed on Hisense Arena.

The 23-year-old, who took a medical timeout after the first set to receive treatment for a finger injury, however, was not slowed by the delay and romped to a fourth round clash against either Jelena Jankovic or Ana Ivanovic, both Serbian former world number ones.

Reuters

Bryant voted to record 15th straight All-Star start

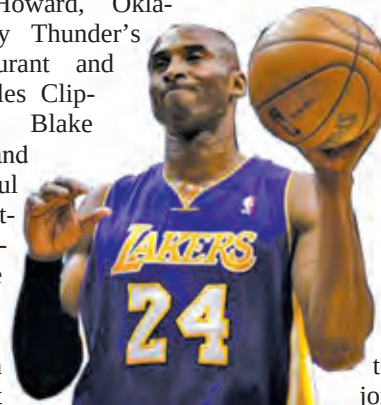
LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan—Kobe Bryant was voted to an NBA-record 15th consecutive All-Star start on Thursday, leading the votes despite the sluggish start to the season by his Los Angeles Lakers (17-21).

Bryant collected 1,591,437 votes to edge out Miami’s LeBron James as the most popular pick, breaking out of a tie with Jerry West, Karl Malone and Shaquille O’Neal for the most consecutive All-Star selections.

The Lakers guard will

be joined by team mate Dwight Howard, Oklahoma City Thunder’s Kevin Durant and Los Angeles Clippers duo Blake Griffin and Chris Paul in the Western Conference starting lineup for the clash against the Eastern Conference in Houston on 17 February.

James and his Miami Heat team mate Dwyane Wade will spearhead the East, with New York’s Carmelo Anthony and Boston pair Rajon Rondo and Kevin Garnett rounding out the starting five.—Reuters



GENERAL

Photo shows
Bago Region
Union Minister
U Nyan Win
visits Nikko Auto
Myanmar KPZ
1 motor sales
centre in Oaktha
Myothit, Bago.
MYANMA ALINN



Federer beats Davydenko to set up Tomic meeting



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return to Nikolay Davydenko of Russia during his men's singles match on the fourth day of 2013 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 17 Jan, 2013. Roger Federer won 3-0.

XINHUA

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan—Wimbledon champion Roger Federer advanced to the third round at the Australian Open with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Russian Nikolay Davydenko here on Thursday. The two 31-year-olds know each other well, on court at least. After turning pro just a year apart, they've since met on 19 occasions, with

Federer besting the Russian scrambler in all but two of their matches.

Former world No 3 Davydenko hasn't enjoyed a career as consistent as that of his opponent. He didn't win a single title in 2012, which was the first time in nine years that he has failed to capture some silverware.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion Federer

had few problems with the quirky, 40th-ranked Russian, winning in one hour 59 minutes in a night match on Rod Laver Arena.

Federer soon had Davydenko under pressure, breaking the Russian's service in the sixth game, and he cruised to the opening set in 42 minutes.

He followed up with a service break in Davydenko's opening service game to take the second set in a similar time and broke him again in the first game of the final set to steam home. Federer stretched his record over Davydenko to 18-2 with a dominant performance containing three service breaks from 13 break point opportunities.

Federer made more unforced errors in his latest match, 42 to his 35 winners, but he was always in command of the Russian, whose last win against the 31-year-old Swiss legend was three years ago at Doha.

Federer will now meet the only Australian felt in the draw. The four-time Australian Open champion will play 20-year-old Bernard Tomic on Saturday for a spot in the top 16.

Xinhua

Arians takes over as head coach of Arizona Cardinals

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan—The Arizona Cardinals have installed Indianapolis Colts offensive coordinator Bruce Arians as their new head coach, the official National Football League (NFL) website reported on Thursday.

Arians helped guide the Colts to the playoffs this season, stepping in as interim head coach for 12 games (9-3) when Chuck Pagano underwent treatment for leukemia. Arians has reportedly signed on a four-year deal with an option for a fifth to



replace Ken Whisenhunt, who was fired after the Cardinals finished bottom

of the NFC West division with a 5-11 record.

The 60-year-old has

followed Whisenhunt into a job before, doing so as offensive coordinator at the Pittsburgh Steelers. This will be his first official NFL head-coaching role, although he spent five seasons in charge of Temple in college football.

Arians becomes the eighth and final appointment of all the teams that fired head coaches at the end of the regular season.

Reuters

Indianapolis Colts interim head coach Bruce Arians

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-1-13 09:30 am ~ 20-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Western Union Bringing The World To Myanmar
- * Eco-Friendly Rattan & Hyacinth
- * News
- * Record Album
- * Alphabet of Myanmar Language
- * News
- * Kid's Talent
- * Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf Works
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- * Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation 2011 (Part-1)
- * News
- * The hopes of Kyaw Khine Khant
- * News
- * The difference between Samatha Meditation and Vipassana Meditation (Part-2)
- * News
- * Sweet & Dreamy Taste
- * News
- * Public Dental Health Care Donation
- * Myanmar Movies "One Precept"

MYANMAR TV

(19-1-2013, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:05 pm | 13. Musical Programme |
| 7:20 am | 2. Dhamma Puja Song | 4:20 pm | 14. Cultural Dances |
| 7:25 am | 3. To Be Healthy Exercise | 4:50 pm | 15. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Maths) |
| 7:30 am | 4. Morning News | 5:00 pm | 16. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:40 am | 5. Nice & Sweet Song | 5:05 pm | 17. Documentary |
| 7:50 am | 6. Health Programme | 5:20 pm | 18. Beautiful ASEAN |
| 8:10 am | 7. Poem Graden | 5:30 pm | 19. Game For Children |
| 8:10 am | 8. Metta Bhavana by Mingun Sayadaw | 6:00 pm | 20. Evening News |
| 11:10 am | 9. Musical Programme | 6:15 pm | 21. Weather Report |
| 11:50 am | 10. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News | 6:20 pm | 22. Celebrity and Dinner |
| 1:30 pm | 11. Joint Performace by State Orchestra and State Traditional Orchestra | 7:15 pm | 23. TV Drama Series |
| 4:00 pm | 12. Martial Song | 8:00 pm | 24. News |
| | | 10:00 pm | 25. Myanmar Series |
| | | | 26. News |
| | | | 27. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |

Erratic start to 2013 PGA Tour for Mickelson

LA QUINTA, (California), 18 Jan—Not yet fully fit after battling flu-like symptoms, Phil Mickelson struggled with his putting as he launched his 2013 PGA Tour campaign with a roller-coaster round at the Humana Challenge on Thursday. On a day of generally low scoring in the California desert, the four-times major winner totaled 30 putts on the way to a level-par 72, finishing a distant nine strokes off the first-round lead.

"My timing and rhythm was off a little bit today," Mickelson told reporters after mixing three birdies with one bogey and a double-bogey at La Quinta Country

Club, one of three venues hosting the pro-am celebrity event. "My putter was atrocious and I've been putting great (in practice) too, so that was disappointing. I know that it's there even though the results today were not good. I'm looking forward to



Phil Mickelson of the US

playing tomorrow. "I birdied the last hole and hit some decent shots coming in but (going) out-of-bounds on 10 and (missing) four, five, six-footers, that has prevented me from having a good round today." Tournament champion in 2002 and 2004, Mickelson three-putted

for a disappointing par five after hitting a superb five-wood to 35 feet at the long 13th and drove out-of-bounds at

the 10th to record a double-bogey. "To three-putt (13), it was just a lot of rough stuff today," the former world number two said. "But coming in here, even though I hadn't been able to practice a lot, when did I play and hit balls I was playing great.

Reuters

Bomb-threatening note found at US high school

HOUSTON, 18 Jan—A bomb threatening note was found on Thursday at a high school in the US state of Texas, prompting an early release of students, local media reported.

The note was found by a student in a boys' bathroom at the Highland Park High School. School authorities had notified the police in University Park city, the *Dallas Morning*

News reported.

A similar note was found on Wednesday at the same place, according to district spokesman Helen Williams.

The police has searched the building with bomb-sniffing dogs and found no imminent safety threat. School officials said they would beef up security on Friday and continue to look for suspects.—Xinhua

Proposal on urging responsible organizations and the government to stop fighting with KIO/KIA and start making peace talks as quickly as possible, approved

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— Ten questions were answered at today's Pyithu Hluttaw Session. Hluttaw approved an urgent proposal submitted by Daw Dwe Bu of M'Jangyang Constituency on urging responsible organizations and the government to stop fighting with KIO/KIA and start making peace talks with them as quickly as possible.

Regarding the question of U Aye Pe of Cocogyun Constituency on if there is a plan to resume Cocogyun-Yangon trip, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein replied that coordination will be made with Myanmar Five Stars Line under Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd for resumption of Cocogyun Yangon trip, and with Yangon Region government for the special affairs.

With respect to the question of Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency on if there is a plan to build the treasury of State-owned Myanmar Economic Bank in Kunhing township, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein said that it will be built only after fund allotment for 2013-2014 financial year has been received.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied to the question of U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyai Constituency on if there is a plan to extend Malhan-Mongyai-Kehsi road sections and upgrade Khonarli and Nama bailey bridges into RC concrete ones. He said that it will be implemented with a special maintenance fund in 2013-2014 financial year.



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book.—MNA

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting

Committee U Win Sein submitted Committee's report. Member of Bill Committee Dr Soe Moe Aung

read out the committee's report on the bill amending the Civil Procedure Code submitted by the Supreme

Court of the Union. Hluttaw approved the bill amending the Civil Procedure Code.

MNA

Union Government urged to lay down firm basic principles which can help build trust between two sides to be able to bring about eternal peace



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives seen at Amyotha Hluttaw session.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— **The Union Government was urged today by a representative from Kachin State at Amyotha Hluttaw to lay down basic principles which can help build trust between the two sides to be able to bring about the eternal peace in**

the country.

In his proposal submitted to Amyotha Hluttaw today, U Khet Htein Nan of Constituency No 1 from Kachin State urged Amyotha Hluttaw to organize a peace mediator or negotiation team as a step for bringing about

peace and as a principle to be able to secure ceasefire between the two sides, to make peace and to resume the peace talks politically as there was no signs of easing conflicts despite eleventh negotiations with KIO/KIA since June, 2011.

The peace mediator

or negotiation team should be comprised with State-level dignitaries, reliable personnel from Hluttaw and leaders from national races who gain trust and respect

from both sides and who can manage to negotiate the two sides, he also said in his proposal.

He also demanded to stop the fighting and to provide aids to internally displaced people in Kachin State. During today's meeting, five questions were discussed.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region constituency No 4 asked **if there was a plan to build low-cost housing by Ministry of Construction, Yangon Region Government, Yangon City Development Committee and private construction companies in Yangon as a joint-venture with the assistance of the Union Government.**

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin replied that the Ministry has planned to build the two

housing projects in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, injecting K 288.24 billion and to seek ways for selling the apartments to the low-income families.

Regarding the **Myanmar Citizens Investment Bill** which was sent by Pyithu Hluttaw, Lt-Col Zaw Moe discussed the bill and Amyotha Hluttaw decided that Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee was to hear the discussion.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region constituency No 6 called on the Union Government **to take steps to implement the rehabilitation and modernization project of flood protection, embankments, drainages and ancillary structures for Ayeyawady Delta.**

The meeting will continue on 21 January.

MNA

Field study conducted to collect data for agro-business development

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— The workshop on rural area development, poverty alleviation and agrobusiness development took place at the Ministry of Border Affairs from 14 to 16 January, attended by

officials from Rural Area Development Department, Country Director Mr Toyli Kurbanov of UNDP and trainees.

The course instructors and trainees made data collection for poverty score

card and collected data for agrobusiness development in Nyaungbintha Village in Pyinmana Township yesterday. They also had an individual interview with farmers on progress of their family's agrobusiness.—MNA

YANGON, 18 Jan— As first phase of gas engine generators totally thirteen to be equipped at Hlawga, Ywama and Thaketa power plants arrived yesterday and today.

To add about 200 megawatt to the power supply to Yangon, Ministry of Electric Power has imported 50-megawatt-gas-turbines, and of them, eight SFGM

560, 1025 KV, Guascor NG brand eight generators from Spain arrived at Asia World Jetty yesterday and they will be equipped at Hlawgar Power Plant.

Four 3.35 MW X 1 generators from Australia arrived at Htidan Jetty today and they will be equipped at Thakayta Power Plant and two 40 MW Gas Turbine X 2 and one 40 MW Gas Turbine

X generator from USA arrived at Sule Jetty today and they will be equipped at Ahlon Power Plant.

The remaining generators will arrive Yangon by the last week of February, and arrangements will be made to equip and run the newly imported generators at respective power plants before 31 March.

MNA

Power generators for Hlawga, Thakayta and Ahlon power stations arrive