

Nay Pyi Taw Accord to strengthen cooperation with global partners to ensure better public service delivery

President U Thein Sein delivers address at first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum



President U Thein Sein and those present pose for a documentary photo at 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—President U Thein Sein delivered an opening address at the opening of the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning.

The following is the full text of his speech:

I would like to welcome you to the First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum and say “mingalar bar” to all participants including the Union Ministers, members of the Pyithu Hluttaw and political parties, members of the Governments, and representatives from donor countries, development partners and international organizations.

I am very happy to see a wide participation of many of our development partners and representatives from international organizations at the forum.

As you all know, the government has placed a great deal of emphasis on undertaking reforms geared towards political liberalization and national reconciliation during the initial stage of the reform process. The government is currently assembling the

National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP), which consists of a set of four five-year plans covering a twenty year period from 2011-2031, as part of the second stage of the reform process to enhance economic development and raise the living standard of Myanmar people.

We hope to discuss the reform strategies and the long-term development plans with all of you as we move forward. The government will adopt a people-centered approach in line with the Framework on Economic and Social Reform (FESR) when reforming the 10 priority areas such as finance and revenue, relaxation of restrictions on trade and foreign investment, development of the private sector, education and health sectors, food security and development of the agricultural sector, transparency in government, the mobile phone and internet systems, and development of the basic infrastructure.

We are also undertaking administrative and management reforms as the third stage of the reform process. In order to help achieve economic growth and raise the living standard for all citizens, the

government is striving to foster good governance and promote clean government throughout the country.

The government has undertaken various reforms over the past twenty one months. Because of these reforms, the international community has made significant changes in their respective policies towards Myanmar, most visibly in the last six months.

This forum is being held mainly because the international donors who wish to help and partner with Myanmar in its reform process would like to know the priority sectors and areas in the country's reform strategy and development plans.

I would also like to inform you that the government's economic policies will focus on the development of the agricultural sector, creation of a modern industrialized country, narrowing the development gap between States and Regions as well as urban and rural areas, establishing an accurate and reliable statistical data base, and improving the statistical data collection system.

While cooperating with donor countries and organizations in accordance

with the five principles of the Paris Declaration—ownership, alignment, harmonization, result-oriented, and mutual accountability—I would like to emphasize the importance of the effectiveness of development assistance for developing countries.

I firmly believe that we will see improvements in the living standard of citizens only when all stakeholders in the social and economic sectors work together.

These stakeholders may come from the government, the general public, the private sector, civil society organizations ranging from local non-

governmental organizations (INGOs) to international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and the international donor community.

While taking the driver's seat, we will have to effectively utilize the development assistance we receive in ways that will help us achieve the millennium development goals and strengthen our relationship with our development partners so that this development partnership and assistance is continued into the future.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the

development assistance, we will institute a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. We will also try to make the development assistance more effective by regularly sharing information about our projects and the programs we are implementing with our development partners.

In striving to enhance economic growth, we will need to utilize the technological knowhow and resources we receive from the international community. At the same time, we will work hand in hand with our development partners to better serve the public.

(See page 9)



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with those present.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS



Myanmar selected football team to play friendly match against Philippine team

YANGON, 19 Jan — As an international friendly match, Myanmar selected football team will play against the Philippine national team at Thuwunna Football Stadium on 6 February. There are admission charges of K 500 for ordinary-stand and K 1000 for grand stand.

Myanmar national football coach Park Sung-hwa will train his 25-player selected team for the match beginning 1 February. As Myanmar national team will take part in AFC Challenge Cup in March, Philippine

national team was invited to play a friendly match with Myanmar. Plans are underway to more play a friendly match with another international team on 22 February. While facing with Philippine team at the group match of ASEAN Cham-pionship recently, Myanmar was defeated by 2 goals to nil. Technical Director U Tin Myint Aung of Myanmar Football Federation said the game against the regional rival, Philippine team, would be a good match for the spectators. The Philippine

national team bringing along its two main players who used to play for an English club, Wimbledon, will arrive in Yangon on 4 February. The Philippine team is also scheduled to play two friendly matches against Vietnam team on 10 February after the game against Myanmar.

The Philippine's national coach is Michael Weiss, a German. The team is ranked 147th in the world. MFF is planning to hire FIFA-certified foreign referees for the friendly match. — *Kyemon*

Leaving MP 4 battery on charge long time causes house fire in Mahaaungmye Township

MANDALAY, 19 Jan — A fire broke out at house at Block (838) in Chan/Myauk ward in Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay at about 2 pm on 17 January.

The fire started while leaving the MP 4 battery on charge for a long time,

with the result that a switch board was caught in fire that destroyed some parts of the wall, a coil of wire and a rice cooker. Altogether 13 fire engines accompanied by 20 fire crews and 60 members of auxiliary fire brigade managed to bring the fire

under control in cooperation with local people.

Likewise, a fire broke out at a vacant land which is covered with some trees and bushes on Industrial Zone 21st Street in Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay at about 3 pm on 15 January.

— *Kyemon*



Hot springs crowded with locals, visitors in cold season in Shan State

TAUNGGYI, 19 Jan — In January, it grew colder in Shan State (South). During the first week of January, Taunggyi had the night temperature of 8 degrees from 14 degrees centigrade while the temperature went down to minus two degree centigrade from zero degree centigrade in Loilem, one degree centigrade in Namhsam, Pinlaung and Heho and three degrees centigrade in Hsipaw and Lashio of Shan State (North) and it was colder than the previous year. The temperature dropped to 6 degrees centigrade in Taunggyi on 12, 13 and

14 January. According to the observation of Centre for Hydrology in Taunggyi centre at 8 am on 15 January, Taunggyi had the night temperature of 7 degrees centigrade.

On those days, local people flocked to hot springs in Yenwe and Taunglaylone in Shwenyaung and Innlay Khaungdine hot spring in the early morning. Hot springs in Taunglaylone and Yenwe villages were packed with visitors from dawn to dusk. Local much preferred Innlay Khaungdine hot spring which has much more sulphur than other ones.

— *Kyemon*

Yangon International Marathon on 27 January

YANGON, 19 Jan — Jointly organized by Yangon City Development Committee and First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Yangon International Marathon will be organized in front of People's Square and People's Park on a grand scale at 5.30 on 27 January. A total of 1050 marathon runners— 530 at home and 520 from abroad— will participate in the Yangon International Marathon.

This event will be held with the aim of raising the public awareness of 2013 SEA Games, convincing the international community of objective situation of the country and promoting the image of the country of scenic beauty and tourism sector in a different way. Marathon runners not only from ASEAN countries but also from China, India, Japan, England, the US, Australia, Ethiopia and Kenya will compete in the event.

Participants will be classified into three events— 42 km, 10 km and 3 km. The first two events will be for professionals and the last one for amateurs. While the events are in progress, traffic will be postponed temporarily along the roads included in the marathon routes. Handsome prizes will be presented to five winners in each event. Further information, please contact FMI Centre (Ph: 240 363).

— *Kyemon*

Upgrading of Kyweshin-Panntin road section in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Upgrading of seven miles and two furlongs long and 12 feet wide Kyweshin-Panntin tarred road into 24 feet wide concrete one is being carried out by Special

Projects Group (1) of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction. It is the road section of Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Chaung-nat-Taungdwingyi road.

Upon completion, there

will be only eight turns left on the road section on which there were 31 turns once for the safety of running vehicles. So far, five miles and five furlongs have been paved with concrete. — *Kyemon*



Book Fair on 26 January in Yangon

YANGON, 19 Jan — Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association will organize a book fair and literary talks on the ground floor of Tawwin Centre from 26 to 28 January and at National Theater on Myoma Kyaung Street from 31 January to 3 February.

The list of the places

for shops that are to be kept open at the book fair will be announced at the meeting hall of Myanmar Writers Association in Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street at 1 pm on 24 January. For further information, call ph: 502673 and 09 5038065.

— *Kyemon*

Brake failure leaves car crash in Insein

YANGON, 19 Jan — A car crash occurred at the traffic light near the railways bridge in Insein Township on 14 January.

A Nissan truck carrying bags of rice powder

driven by Myo Myint Aung, 39, crashed into the back of an ice truck driven by Saw Yan Naing Soe, 23, near the traffic lights while its brakes failed.

— *Kyemon*

WORLD

Don't shrink Afghan forces, two key Senate Democrats warn Obama



US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta (R) and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-MI) arrive at the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defence Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2013 and the Future Years Defence Programme on Capitol Hill in Washington on 14 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—Two Senate Democrats urged the White House on Friday to reconsider plans to shrink Afghan national security forces by a third after 2015, saying a robust Afghan fighting force will be needed to fight al-Qaeda and its allies.

The appeal comes as President Barack Obama weighs how large of an American force to leave behind in Afghanistan

after NATO declares the costly, unpopular war over at the end of 2014 and most foreign forces return home.

Officials say the White House is considering keeping between 3,000 and 9,000 troops in the country, a lower range than initially recommended by the top commander in Afghanistan.

Carl Levin of Michigan, head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and committee

member Jack Reed of Rhode Island said Obama, a fellow Democrat, should use the US troop level announcement—expected in the coming months—as an opportunity to revisit plans to slash the Afghan forces from 352,000 to 230,000 after 2015.

“We support the establishment of a small number for the post-2014 (American) force,” they wrote to Tom Donilon, Obama’s national security adviser.

“At the same time, we are convinced that it will be necessary for the success of the mission, i.e., to prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for al-Qaeda and its affiliated organizations, to reconsider plans to reduce the size of the (Afghan forces).”

Ryan Crocker, a former US envoy to Afghanistan, has estimated that the United States would end up paying about \$2.5 billion a year for Afghan security forces totaling 230,000.

He called the expense “pretty cheap insurance.”

Reuters

Algerian army kill 18 militants in gas field raid

ALGIERS, 19 Jan—The Algerian army have killed 18 militants of the armed group which assaulted a gas field facility in Illizi province, the official APS new agency reported Friday.

APS quoted a security source as saying that the army’s special forces conducted a raid on the militants at In Amenas in Illizi Province, some 1,600 km southeast of Algiers, and killed 18 militants.

Local Ennahar television reported that the killed militants include a French, a Malian, a Tunisian,

two Egyptians, two Libyans and several Algerians. Algerian Interior Minister Daho Ould Kablia indicated on Thursday that the number of militants who attacked the gas field was around 20. “The militants came on three 4x4 vehicles, which can carry some 20 people,” he said.

For his part, Communication Minister Mohamed Said Oublaïd said on Thursday that “we are in front of a new nature of terrorism, as the militants who carried out the assault are hailing from multi nationalities,” adding

that “this attack aimed at destabilizing Algeria and force it to join the military intervention in Mali.”

The special forces launched on Wednesday a raid on the gas field compound to rescue Algerian and foreign workers being detained by the armed group.

On Friday, local media reported that US and British planes arrived in Algeria to take home their nationals.

Meanwhile, a number of injured workers have been evacuated to Azhar clinic in Algiers’ southwestern Dely Brahim suburb.—Xinhua

Twin suicide car bombs go off in Syria’s Daraa city, killing many

DAMASCUS, 19 Jan—Two suicide bombers detonated their explosive-laden cars in front of a mosque in the Syrian southern city of Daraa, killing many civilians, many of whom were worshipers who were leaving the mosque after Friday’s traditional prayers, the state TV said.

The cars were detonated before the Hasan Mosque in Daraa, the state TV said,

casting accusation on the al-Qaeda-affiliated group Nusra Front.

Further details on the casualties are still emerging.

The twin blasts came shortly after a rocket, allegedly fired by rebels, slammed a residential area in the country’s northern city of Aleppo, leaving unspecified number of casualties and

material damages.

SANA news agency said the rocket was fired Friday from al-Kalasseh area at the Muhafaza District, stopping short of giving more details.

Meanwhile, the al-Khabar TV said the rocket has fully destroyed two four-storey buildings and killed and injured scores of people.—Xinhua

85 detained in anti-terror raids in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 19 Jan—Turkish police detained 85 people on Friday in a series of anti-terror raids in seven cities including Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir in a full-scale crackdown on an outlawed left-wing group.

Initial reports said that among those detained were lawyers affiliated with the Contemporary Jurists’ Association, according to English daily *Today’s Zaman*.

The lawyers were reportedly held on accusations that they were receiving messages and orders from jailed leaders of the Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party/Front, a terrorist organization that has carried out a number of attacks in Turkey, and conveying them to members

of the terrorist group.

The operation took place at dawn with the assistance of officers from the Special Forces Command and riot police. About 1,000 officers participated in the operation.

In Istanbul alone, police carried out raids in several districts and detained 55 people—15 of them are reportedly lawyers.

Claims surfaced that the lawyers had given support to prisoners who staged a massive hunger strike in their prison cells last year in support of broader rights for Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the terrorist Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK).

Xinhua

Venezuela, Colombia to build third border bridge

CARACAS, 19 Jan—Venezuela and Colombia have agreed to build a third border bridge to improve the traffic along their 2,220-km border, officials from the two countries said here on Friday.

The bridge will be located between Venezuela’s border city Urena in Tachira state and Cucuta in Colombia’s northern Norte de Santander state, Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin said after meeting with her Venezuelan counterpart Elias Jaua. The bridge will be financed by the Andean Development Corporation and the governors of the two states involved will oversee its progress.

Holguin said she and Jaua had also discussed border security and fuel supply. Their three-hour closed-door meeting was part of the regular meetings between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, which had taken place every three months since 2010.—Xinhua



Residents gather reusable materials from their burnt houses after a fire hit a slum area in Rizal Province, the Philippines, on 18 Jan, 2013. Two hundred houses were damaged in the fire, leaving more than a thousand residents homeless.—XINHUA

700,00 Malians expected to be uprooted in next few months

GENEVA, 19 Jan—As conflict escalates in Mali, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said on Friday some 700,000 Malians are estimated to be uprooted in the next few months. UNHCR is urgently reinforcing its staff and resources for the country in anticipation of the further new displacement, said Melissa Fleming, chief spokesperson with the agency.

There are now

147,000 Malian refugees in surrounding countries including Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Guinea and Togo, and close to 229,000 displaced people inside Mali.

Elisabeth Byrs of the World Food Programme (WFP) stressed at the press briefing that there was a reduced humanitarian presence in Mopti which is directly impacting distribution plans in the

region. WFP was planning the delivery of food assistance to 1,500 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Mopti this week, which had to be put on hold.

Armed groups in the north of Mali started moving their armed factions south on 10 January, which triggered the intervention of the French army in support to the Malian army, leading to the deterioration of humanitarian situation in the country.—Xinhua



Yuki Obataya, one of nearly 20 concierges employed by the Uniqlo casual clothing at its flagship store in Tokyo’s Ginza District, attends to a customer on 18 Dec, 2012 at the store in Tokyo’s Chuo Ward. KYODO NEWS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists awarded top prize, Xi urges innovation-driven growth

BEIJING, 19 Jan—Explosion mechanics expert Zheng Zhemin and radar engineer Wang Xiaomo won China's top science award on Friday at a high-profile annual ceremony held to honour distin-



File photo taken in 1987 shows Wang Xiaomo (L), who was then one of the 14 young and middle-aged experts making special contributions to the country, shaking hands with late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping (2nd R) in Beidaihe, north China's Hebei Province.

XINHUA

guished scientists and research achievements.

They were honoured for their remarkable contributions to scientific and technological innovation, according to a government statement. They were each awarded 5 million yuan (803,792 US dollars).

Their awards were presented by President Hu Jintao at the ceremony. Chinese leaders Xi Jinping, Wen Jiabao, Li Keqiang and Liu Yunshan were also present.

The government has given the annual award to distinguished scientists for 13 consecutive years, and 22 top scientists, including Zheng and Wang, have won the award so far. The award is aimed at boosting

innovation-powered development.

China aims to build itself into an innovative country by 2020, when scientific progress will contribute to nearly 60 percent of the nation's economic growth, according to a national science and technology development plan.

Zheng, 88, is a member of both the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE).

He has devoted his career to research in the areas of elastic mechanics, explosive processing and underground nuclear detonations.

Zheng is a pioneer and founder of the scientific discipline of explosion



Chinese President Hu Jintao (C) awards certificates to explosions expert Zheng Zhemin (R) and radar engineer Wang Xiaomo in the awarding ceremony of the State Scientific and Technological Award in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

mechanics in China. The achievements of his studies were used in the manufacturing of components of the country's first rockets, contributing much to the development of rocket and satellite technologies.

In the early years of his studies, Zheng was a student of China's late "father of mechanics," Qian Weichang, and later, a student of the "father of space technology," Qian Xuesen.—Xinhua

Ex-Nokia CEO to join Swedish TV box software firm

STOCKHOLM, 19 Jan—The former chief of struggling Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia Oyj is to make a comeback to the tech sector as chairman of a Swedish company selling standard software for pay-TV boxes.

Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo is to become chairman of privately owned Zenterio, formed from a division sold by Nokia a decade ago where many former Nokia people still work. Kallasvuo was replaced at Nokia in 2010 by Stephen Elop after the Finnish group struggled to keep pace with smartphone rivals such as Apple Inc and those based on Android software.

"The operating system market for set-top boxes and IPTV (internet protocol television) is extremely fragmented. Each set-box

manufacturer has its own software," he told Reuters on Thursday.

"What Zenterio can offer is a hardware-independent solution for pay-TV operators ... We are talking to many, many top-tier operators globally," he added.

Kallasvuo gave no details of the talks or targets for a company which last year had revenue of less than 100 million crowns (\$15.4 million) and which has been developing its software for many years.

But he said 200 million set-top boxes were sold annually and that the company took license fees for its operating system, which is based on the Linux standard. "The growth targets of course are quite high, it is a small company and a big



Former Nokia President and Chief Executive Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo holds a Nokia mobile phone from 1987 during his keynote speech at the 2010 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada in this 8 Jan, 2010 file photo.—REUTERS

market," he added.

Kallasvuo bowed out of Nokia in 2010 but said he had kept an eye on the company. He declined to express any opinions about the way Nokia is being run

by Elop, whose strategy has been to launch mobile phones with software from Microsoft Corp, his former employer.

(\$1 = 6.5058 Swedish crowns)—Reuters

SurveyMonkey's funding highlights fading allure of IPOs

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Jan—Online company SurveyMonkey said it aims to raise \$800 million in a late-stage venture capital financing, one of the largest such deals in the Internet sector that underscores how many Silicon Valley firms are no longer in a rush to go public.

A listing was once seen as the pinnacle of success for an entrepreneur. But many firms reaching revenue and profitability benchmarks that would make them an IPO shoo-in can now tap the growing availability of late-stage cash and have also likely been put off by recent botched

offerings.

"We're not saying we're never going public," said SurveyMonkey Chief Executive Dave Goldberg. "This was a better path for us, and it would save us some of the hassles of running a public company."

SurveyMonkey plans an equity and debt financing that will allow it to cash out early shareholders and investors and that will also bring in Google Inc as a new shareholder.

In contrast, many once high-flying companies that have gone public have fallen hard and failed to stage much of a recovery.

Reuters

Nasdaq realigns software unit, hires new CIO

NEW YORK, 19 Jan—Nasdaq OMX Group said on Thursday it is combining its software and market technology units as the exchange operator looks to sell more services to the companies that list on its exchanges and draw more revenue from its corporate

customers.

The catalyst for the new software-based segment was Nasdaq's acquisition of Thomson Reuters Corp's investor relations, public relations and multimedia services units for \$390 million in December, Bob Greifeld, Nas-

daq's chief executive officer, said in an interview. "With that deal, our software businesses will exceed \$500 million in revenue," he said, making the unit one of Nasdaq's largest reportable segments.

The new "global technology solutions" business unit will be led by Anna Ewing, who currently runs Nasdaq's technology unit, and has been assigned the task of integrating the new units. Nasdaq also said it appointed Bradley Peterson as global chief information officer, effective on 6 February.

Peterson, a former CIO for Charles Schwab Corp and for eBay Inc, will report to Ewing, who currently holds the CIO position.

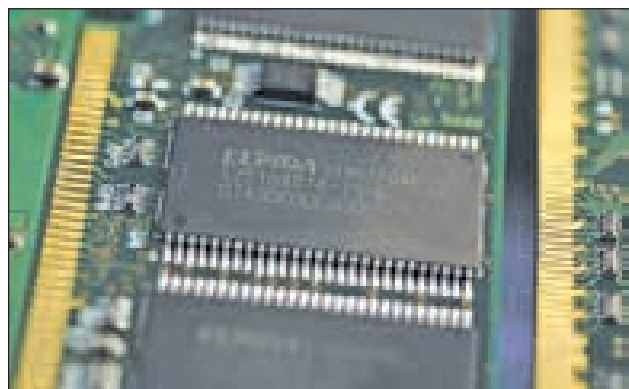
Reuters

Elpida Memory clears hurdle on way to Micron deal

NEW YORK, 19 Jan—Elpida Memory Inc won court approval for technology deals over the objections of US bondholders, who argued the agreements were an attempt to bind the bankrupt chipmaker to a proposed \$2.5 billion sale to Micron Technology Inc.

A US Bankruptcy Court judge in Delaware found no evidence of collusion or improper motives Thursday in Elpida's technology licensing deals with Micron and a \$15 million patent sale to Rambus Inc.

US bondholders opposed the deals because they said they would effectively tie Elpida to its proposed sale and were unfairly beneficial to Micron.



Elpida chips are seen at an electronic store in Tokyo's Akihabara district on 24 April, 2012.—REUTERS

"The bondholders do not cite any facts to contest the proof that these agreements confer substantial benefits on Elpida's estate," Judge Christopher Sontchi said in his 43-page opinion.

Elpida said it would be able to immediately be-

gin improving its operations thanks to the licensing agreements with Micron. Elpida's lawyers have described the objections to the technology agreements as attacks on the Micron deal itself.

Reuters



People walk outside the Nasdaq Market site in New York's Times Square, on 23 July, 2012.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Top economies face fuel price spike as LNG supply drops

NEW YORK/LONDON 19 Jan — Global prices for liquefied natural gas are rising toward record highs this year as increasing demand runs up against stuttering supply, threatening to drive up fuel costs in some of the world's biggest economies.

After a record, unexpected drop in LNG output in 2012, production is expected to grow only marginally this year.

Demand, meanwhile, continues to march higher, driven by energy-hungry Asia's rapid economic growth, Japan's near total shutdown of its nuclear industry and a drought in Brazil that has forced the South American nation to buy emergency fuel supplies at high prices.

With 80 percent of

global LNG supplies locked up under long-term contracts, it is countries such as Brazil, Argentina, number two economy China and India that rely on short term deals who could face the biggest hit.

LNG helps bridge fuel supply gaps in countries where domestic output fails to keep up with demand. The intricate process of liquefying gas, shipping and regasifying the fuel can also make it more expensive than pipeline supplies.

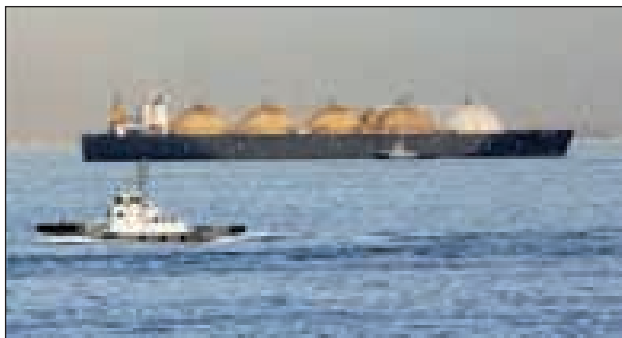
Spot prices of liquefied natural gas are currently about \$18 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), up about \$2 from the same time last year, but still lower than record deals above \$20 in 2008.

"The supply situation

is worse than we thought it would be," said independent LNG analyst Andy Flower, who tracks global export and import volumes. "LNG production declined last year and it doesn't look as though it will increase by much this year."

He added that LNG output has fallen just three other times in the 50 years it has been produced: In 2008 when the global economy was in free fall and in 1980 and 1981 when Algeria halted LNG exports to the United States over a price dispute.

Moreover, the tighter market means that any unforeseen events, such as Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster, big weather events or sudden plant shutdowns, could push prices even higher. In the wake of Fukushima in March 2011, imports by the world's top consumer of LNG rocketed to meet power needs, pushing Asian prices up 70 percent in the following seven months, according to Reuters data. Only two of Japan's 50 nuclear plants are back online nearly two years later.—Reuters



A LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) tanker is anchored off a port in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 5 Dec 2012.

REUTERS

Whole body vibration may help elderly get up and go

NEW YORK, 19 Jan —When the elderly can't exercise, stints on a vibrating platform may help older adults become slightly stronger, faster and more agile, according to a small short-term study.

Exercise is the best option for good health in older age, lead author Alba Gómez Cabello told Reuters Health in an email. But for those unable to perform aerobic exercise, this vibration technique "could be an easy and quick treatment to improve physical fitness."

The method involves standing on top of a flat platform about the size of a boogie board that sends mild vibrations through the feet to the rest of the body, while the person does exercises such as standing or squatting. Bending the knees helps transmit the vibrations, said Cabello, who studies growth and exercise at the University of Zaragoza, Spain.

In the new Spanish

government-funded study, 24 men and women over 65 performed 10 squats held for 45 seconds on the vibrating platform, with a minute rest in between, three times per week for 11 weeks. The study also included 25 people who did not take part in the vibration exercises.

There were some differences between the groups by the end of the study, although they were small. Those who did the exercises were, on average, able to do two more reps of upper and lower body strength exercises, had almost half an inch more lower body flexibility, and walked 33 yards one second faster than before the vibration training, according to results published in the journal *Maturitas*.

"Whole body vibration is an easy and quick way of exercise that stimulates muscles and improves fitness," said Cabello.

Reuters

Citi's Corbat tempers investor expectations in debut

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — Mike Corbat, Citigroup Inc.'s new CEO, used his earnings debut to temper investor expectations for a turnaround at the company, delivering subdued profits and saying the bank still had a lot left to clean up.

Corbat, who took over as chief executive in October after the board abruptly ousted Vikram Pandit, promised investors the third-largest US bank will do a better job for shareholders during his tenure. But he warned that the environment remained challenging and it would take time.

Citigroup's fourth-quarter profit missed Wall Street's expectations by a wide margin, even though earnings were up from a year earlier as trading revenue rebounded. The bank's shares fell 2.9 percent for the day.

The bank took \$2.32 billion of charges for layoffs and lawsuits in the fourth quarter. It also declined to release loan loss reserves just yet, a step which would have boosted profits.

Pandit was still in the job when the fourth quarter started, and some analysts



A traffic light is pictured in front of a Citibank branch in Singapore on 23 February 2009.

REUTERS

said that by not releasing reserves Corbat may have understated financial results. "It may be that the new CEO is holding back," said Gary Townsend, president of hedge fund Hill-Townsend Capital LLC. "There's no reason that the quarter when Pandit left and (Corbat) came in should be great."

Citigroup declined to comment on whether that was its strategy.

But analysts on the conference call repeatedly challenged Chief Financial Officer John Gerspach on why the company did not draw down more of its loan loss reserves, particularly those for mortgage assets, whose value is being lifted

by the stronger housing market.

Gerspach said that while the housing and mortgage loss trends are good, the company had first wanted to make sure the US government got past the so-called "fiscal cliff" threat to the economy and the damage that might have done to housing.

"What we would like to see now is how the US deals with the ongoing debt ceiling debate," Gerspach said. He eventually allowed that if the economy proves resilient to prolonged debates in Washington over government debt, "maybe that will give us the basis then to make some other decisions."—Reuters

China's industrial output growth decelerates in 2012

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China's industrial production growth slowed in 2012 from a year earlier to 10 percent year on year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced on Friday.

The figure represents a 3.9 percentage points decline from the growth rate of 2011, said the NBS chief Ma Jiantang at a Press conference in Beijing.

In December last year, the value-added industrial output increased 10.3 percent from a year earlier, marking the rise for a fourth consecutive month after the figure hit a year low of 8.9 percent in August. China's economic growth quickened to 7.9 percent in the fourth quarter on government pro-growth measures, bringing the full-year figure to 7.8 percent,



Ma Jiantang (C), director of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), gives an introduction on China's national economic situation of 2012 at a press conference in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 Jan, 2013. China's State Council here held a Press conference to release China's national economic situation of 2012 on Friday.

XINHUA

according to the latest data released by the NBS.

In the third quarter of 2012, China's economic growth slowed to 7.4 percent,

the weakest reading since the second quarter of 2009, dragged down by domestic woes and global economic downturn. Value-added in-

dustrial output measures the final output value of industrial production, or the value of gross industrial output minus intermediate input, such as raw materials and labour costs.

For heavy industries, value-added industrial output jumped 10.6 percent year on year, while light industries climbed 9.6 percent from the a year earlier.

By regions, industrial output expanded 12.3 percent in China's western area, followed by 11.0 percent and 9.4 percent in central and eastern parts of the country, respectively. China's industrial profits grew 3.0 percent year on year to 4.66 trillion yuan in the first 11 months of 2012, data showed.

Xinhua



Suresh Senapaty, Chief Financial Officer of Wipro Ltd, speaks during an industry conference in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata on 5 Aug, 2009.

REUTERS

Wipro says deal pipeline strong

BANGALORE, 19 Jan — Wipro Ltd (WIPR.NS), India's No 3 software services provider, sees a strong deal pipeline for its services, Suresh Senapaty, its chief financial officer, said on Friday.

Earlier, the company reported an 18 percent rise in quarterly profit, although shares fell on worries the company's IT business did not perform as well as expected.

Reuters

Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Ms Quentin Bryce AC

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Your Excellency

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day on 4 January 2013, I wish to convey to you and the people of Myanmar my congratulations and those of the Government and the people of Australia.

2012 was a landmark year of change for Myanmar. The Australian Government and people welcome the many positive developments which took place in Myanmar over 2012, including the release of prisoners of conscience, the April 1 by-elections, and the signing of ceasefires with several ethnic armed groups. I appreciate your personal role in this reform process and hope that the government and people of Myanmar will continue to show on-going commitment to strengthening democracy, transparency, economic reform and the rule of law in 2013 and beyond. Challenges remain, particularly in Rakhine and Kachin states, and the Australian Government stands ready to assist Myanmar in addressing these issues of serious concern wherever possible.

I particularly welcome the strengthened bilateral relations between our two countries during the course of 2012. The visit to Myanmar by Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Bob Carr, and the visit to Australia by Myanmar's Foreign Minister HE U Wunna Maung Lwin have been valuable in strengthening the ties between our nations. Parliamentary links have also improved through the visits to Australia by delegations led by Speakers HE U Khin Aung Myint and HE Thura U Shwe Mann, as well as an Australian parliamentary delegation visit to Myanmar.

Australia remains committed to help improve the lives of the people of Myanmar with a particular focus on health, education and livelihoods. Australia is a strong supporter of your government's Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR), and I was pleased that Australia's Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, could participate in the CESR launch during his recent visit to Myanmar.

I am also pleased that Australian businesses are increasingly looking to trade and invest in Myanmar and I look forward to increased links between our two countries.

It was with regret that I learned that your proposed visit to Australia had to be postponed. I very much look forward to welcoming you to Australia at a mutually convenient time.

Thank you for Myanmar's support for Australia's recent election to the United Nations Security Council. Myanmar's assistance in securing the result was greatly appreciated. Our Government is looking forward to engaging with Myanmar on matters before the Security Council and on issues of mutual interest in the years ahead, including Myanmar's chairing of ASEAN and the EAS.

I am confident that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to prosper in the coming year.

Your sincerely

From Mrs Dilma Vana Rousseff

President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

His Excellency U Thein Sein,

On behalf of the People and the Government of Brazil, it is my honour to convey my sincere congratulations on the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. As your country continues to advance on the path of historic transformations towards democracy and social progress, it is with a true sense of respect and admiration that Brazil, along with the International community, wishes to contribute to the development of Myanmar.

From Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the State of Qatar and my own behalf, I want to extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar, our warm felicitations on the anniversary of your country's Independence Day.

I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health and well-being and the people of Myanmar continued development and progress.

With my highest consideration

From Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani

Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar

Your Excellency,

It pleased me on the anniversary of your country's Independence Day to express to you my heartfelt greetings coupled with my best wishes for Your Excellency's personal well-being and further progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

With my highest consideration

From Mr Lee Hsien Loong

Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore

Dear Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Singapore, I would like to convey my warmest congratulations to you, the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of Myanmar's 65th Independence Day.

Over the past year, Myanmar has undergone significant changes. It has made progress in national reconciliation, introduced wide-ranging reforms and opened itself up to the world. I am confident that under your leadership, Myanmar will continue to transform its society and improve the lives of its people.

Myanmar and Singapore share a long-standing friendship marked by growing bilateral cooperation and exchanges under the Singapore-Myanmar Technical Cooperation Programme. I look forward to continue working with you to strengthen our excellent bilateral ties, and foster an integrated and prosperous ASEAN Community by 2015.

I wish your continued good health and success in all your future endeavours.

From Dr. Ali Zidan

Prime Minister of Libya

Excellency,

On this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of you're your friendly country, it gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency on my behalf and the people of Libya, my sincere congratulations and best wishes in wishing Your Excellency continuous good health and happiness and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar further progress and prosperity.

From Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al-Thani

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

Your Excellency,

I have the pleasure on the occasion of the anniversary of your country's Independence Day to extend to you my sincere felicitations coupled with my best wishes of well-being and happiness to Your Excellency and further development and progress to the people of Myanmar.

With my highest consideration

From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to send my warmest congratulations to you, the government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on your country's Independence Day.

It was a great pleasure receiving you in Brunei last year and your visit has reinforced the warm and friendly ties enjoyed by our countries and people.

I look forward to working closely with you in the months ahead to strengthen our much valued bilateral relations and important regional partnership in ASEAN. Your country's support during our chairmanship is also greatly appreciated.

With my kindest regards and very best wishes for your continued good health and happiness.

From Mr Choummaly SOYASON

President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the friendly relations and closed cooperation between our two countries and peoples have been continuously enhanced and strengthened for mutual benefit of our two countries, thus contributing to the development in the region and in the world at large.

In the delightful and significant occasion, I would like to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness, in leading the People of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar advance towards the new

progress and prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Giorgio Napolitano

President of Italy

HE U Thein Sein

The celebration of the National Day offers me a welcome occasion to send You, on behalf of the Italian People and on my personal behalf, the most sincere wishes of peace and well-being to the People of Myanmar.

I am heartily glad for the ongoing steps forward your country has been taken. I encourage the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to go straight with determination on paving the way to democracy. Linked to this process, our increasingly strong relations received a new and noteworthy boost by the lately bilateral meetings.

With the attitude, I express my greetings of prosperity to You and to your People.

From Mr. Islam Karimov

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Your Excellency,

I would like to extend to You and to the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Holiday of Your country—Independence Day.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish Your Excellency a sound health and successes in Your endeavours, as well as peace and prosperity to the people of Your country.

Sincerely,

From Rosen Plevneliev

President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Bulgaria and myself, please accept most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I extend to You best wishes for good health, happiness and success as well as for peace and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

Let me take this pleasant opportunity to congratulate You on the successful transition process developing under your guidance. I would like to reiterate the Republic of Bulgaria's full support for the democratic development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is my firm belief that the arduous path of change Your country has stepped on will bring stability and prosperity for your people.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mohamed OULD ABDEL AZIZ

President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the celebration of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's National Day, I am pleased to express to Your Excellency, on Behalf of the Mauritanian People and Government, and on Behalf of Myself, our warmest congratulations and best wishes of good health and wellness to Your Excellency and further progress and prosperity for the friendly people of Myanmar.

And I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency our willing to continue all the efforts to promote and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two countries, to serve the interests of our two peoples.

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest Consideration.

From Mr Thongsing THAMMAVONG

Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

I have a great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I have the honour to note that the existing closed cooperation between our two countries over the past years has been further strengthened, and I strongly believe that such friendly relations and closed cooperation will continue to be further enhanced in the year to come, thus will contribute to strengthening the ASEAN family, the region and the world at large.

In the delightful and significant occasion, I would like to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness, in leading the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar advance towards the new progress and prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

NATIONAL

First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum continues

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum continued its second session, with an address by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw.

In his speech, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw said that we hope to encourage partnerships between development lenders and grant donors to enhance the quality and inclusiveness of loan projects. We want to ensure there are adequate resources to anticipate, manage and resolve problems. Partly, this will be resolved through thorough and ongoing consultation, including with local authorities and at the grass roots level.

He continued to say that the Myanmar Government's vision of foreign assistance management depends very much on us all working

together effectively. To that end we will be guided by international experience as reflected in the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and most recently and comprehensively, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Most importantly, we want our development cooperation at all times to exhibit the four key principles agreed at Busan—local ownership; focus on results; inclusive development partnerships and transparency and accountability to each other.

To guide us further in realizing these principles we have jointly developed the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for effective development cooperation which we will discuss and adopt at this forum. And we are simultaneously developing our aid management system so that there is high level

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw at the dinner hosted to participants of First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum.

MNA

oversight and guidance to focus our efforts and get the most from our combined resources. This emphasis on maximizing our result for the people of Myanmar will be the recurring theme of this meeting, he added.

After that, third and fourth sessions were held. In the evening, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw hosted a dinner to the guests at Thingaha Hotel.

MNA



Union Peace-making Work Committee invites KIO for peace negotiations

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Union Peace-making Work Committee has reportedly sent a letter dated today addressing to Chairman of Kachin Independence Organization U Zaung Haya inviting to hold peace talks with KIO and the following the full text of translation of the letter.

To

U Zaung Haya

Chairman

Kachin Independence Organization

Subject: Invitation for negotiation

1. Responsible parties were urged through Pyithu Hluttaw at its second day sixth regular session on 11 January to publicize the electronic online negotiation in a transparent manner while both sides find it difficult to enter negotiation at table for ongoing armed conflicts in Kachin State and to build understanding and then trust through negotiations paying attention to voices of the people to ease military tensions to pave the way for lasting peace.
2. The Union Peace-making Work Committee would also like to hold peace negotiations with Kachin Independence Organization.
3. We are looking forward to your reply.

Secretary

Union Peace-making Work Committee

KIA attacks local station in Phakant Township, Kamaing Sub-Township police station

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—One civilian was injured in KIA's attack on local station in Seikmu

The map showing the KIA attack on Kamaing Sub-Township Police Station in Phakant Township at 4:45 am on 19 January



village in Phakant township on 18 January night as the shell spilled over a house in the village. According to Kachin State government, KIA also attacked Kamaing Sub-Township Police station in the same township the next morning, blocked Kamaing-Mogaung and Kamaing-Phakant roads with logs.

They entered the police station yard at about 8.10 am and set fire to two buildings and exploded two mines before their withdrawal from the yard at 9.50 am. Two policemen were killed and five injured in the police station attack.

The attack on the police station by KIA is the second assault followed by the similar attack on 18 December that killed one police and two family members, and injured one.

MNA

KIA attack passenger vehicles, 22 innocent people wounded

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Two passenger vans and one hilux pickup were attacked by KIA with the use of three mines at milepost 27 on Bhamo-Lweijel road at 10:45 am today. Due the

attack, 22 innocent people including four women got injured. The Tatmadaw columns rushed to the scene and were carrying out the relief tasks. Arrangements are being made to send

injured persons to Bhamo.

The attacks occurred after issuing press release 3/2013 of Information Team of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 18 January.—MNA



No casualty in offshore vessel accident

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—An offshore support vessel Penrith Hallin carrying out offshore natural gas pipeline laying at Zawtika Development Project being

implemented by the Ministry of Energy at Mottama Offshore, hit coral reefs near Mawgyi Village in Yebyu Township of Dawei District at 7 pm on 17 January. The

vessel sank under the water this morning. Thanks to the relief tasks by other support vessels near the accident, 42 staff on board were rescued in time.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 January, 2013

Only the healthy negotiation...

Our hearts are broken when every second touches us with great sadness about local people in Kachin State where life is difficult for them, desperately seeking shelter from the gunfire of continued armed conflicts. Untold miseries they are suffering makes us highly sympathetic to their plight. With an intensification of fighting in the region which has been called the birthplace of the River Ayeyawady, the entire people far and wide the nation started to have a high concern about the desperate plight of the war victims because we all belong to the same country, enjoying the same water of the same river. We have to share joys and griefs of our brethren.

Today is not the time to express our anti-government sentiments through the course of armed struggle and neither to refute the demands with the power of gun. It is time to forget old grudges and mistrust, desisting from employing tit-for-tat. If both sides hold conflicting opinions, peace will be more and more out of reach. We need to remember the lessons on how our forefather made great strides in regaining the independence of this nation when colonialists reenter the country. Political dialogue was an answer to our pursuit of independence. There arises an urgent need for constructive dialogue between the actors of the conflicts. Apart from electronic online discussions initiated by the Parliament while there has been mounting tension in the region, both sides need to seek, if necessary, a third party they believe that it is competent to act as a mediator to be able to resume peace talks.

It is required for KIO/KIA group, on its part, to give up committing acts of sabotage that may cause civilian deaths on the pretext of halting the troop deployments of the other side near its Headquarters. Responsible persons of KIO/KIA are to learn from KNU leaders who successfully paved the way for the lasting peace through a marathon round of good-faith negotiations with the government, putting aside the differences and placing the voices of people at fore. The overall result is impressive and really persuasive enough while receiving great warm hugs from the President and even from the Tatmadaw Chief. This results in recent Kayin New Year celebration which was more joyous and meaningful than ever before during the period of more than 60 years.

Only the healthy negotiation could help both sides bring a peaceful ending of internecine strife. This is not only a blessing for the victims who see the fighting escalating but also a good thing for the image of the country which is on the right track to a pluralistic democracy. Bear in mind that the fighting between the Tatmadaw and KIO/KIA group is not a war between the good and the bad.

More haste, less speed.



Trust in reform

Min Bahtoo

Mongolia is also a republic that practices parliamentary system. Though the president can veto the parliament's resolution, he or she is rather nominal. The parliament has to approve the prime minister. There are elections every four years. Though there are a number of political parties in Mongolia, only two of them are major parties. Civil society organizations (CSOs) actively took part in public administration reforms. Non-governmental organizations are involved with such issues like the lack of accountability of public leaders, frequent changes in public administration, offering legal advices and environmental conservation. Open Society Forum established in 2004 is the biggest organization and is encouraging public participation in developing public administration policies.

Major public administration and public service reforms were initiated in early 1990s. Since 2000, the focus was shifted to promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of departments. Despite a series of reforms, Mongolia still has the large workforce of public servants who receives much reduced rates of pay. Work plan for public servant reform was laid down in 2007. Its objectives were to ensure competitive selection to senior positions, application of human resources management information system and introduction of a merit-based pay rate suited to the labour market.

The new constitution was approved in 1992 and then new laws and bylaws were formulated to fulfill the requirements for market economy system. In spite of this, there have been loopholes in legal and judicial systems as they still bear traces of the socialist system. Though the civil law system is functioning reasonably, judicial system is strained,

said the Asian Development Bank in 2004.

Mongolia was ranked 102 in 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2008, making it obvious that Mongolia has yet to tackle corruption.

According to the World Values Survey data, the degree of trust in the government and National Assembly of Vietnam is high whereas the degree of confidence in public institutions, media and corporations is relatively low. Vietnam is a socialist country and the party is on equal terms with the government's administrative mechanism. The National Assembly is invested with constitutional and legislative power. Though it was under the thumb of the Communist Party in the past, it has recently reached a more independent position on issues of direct concern to Vietnamese populace. The National Assembly elects the president for five-year term and the president nominates the prime minister from the executives of the National Assembly. The prime minister has the right to nominate his cabinet members who are countersigned by the president and approved by the National Assembly.

Though civil society was a forbidden topic many years ago, it is free for discussion now. According to 2006 data, there are approximately 2000 non-governmental organizations, most of which are volunteer organizations. Organizations once under the control of the party have become more independent over the last decade. Market-oriented reforms have rapidly developed the economy of the country, said the 2004 report of the World Bank. Involvement of the government, market and people for common interests has led to a considerable number of appropriate legal reforms. Though there is no political rivalry, competition in the economy has been quite open. Public Administration Reform Programme adopted in 2010 includes—

(1) To replace cum-

bersome administrative procedures with more simplified and transparent ones;

(2) To reduce red-tape and corruption;

(3) Streamlining and better defining the mandates and functions of the departments and administrative institutions;

(4) To reform provincial and sub-national administrations and redefine their relations with the central administration;

(5) To rationalize the organizational structure of ministries.

Over the last ten years, Vietnam has reformed a good number of laws, resulting in a significant shift from monopoly to macro-economy in line with international norms. Though the corruption was still rampant according to 2008 Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, anti-corruption law was promulgated in 2005 and the prime minister himself taking actions against corruption chairing the anti-corruption committee.

Analysis

Across the world, people have been increasingly demanding good governance with high standards of accountability, transparency, morality, openness, efficiency, equity and inclusiveness. Of the above-mentioned countries, Japan and Korea made remarkable progress in their democratic governance and market economy over time. Both governments have paid serious attention to new challenges like globalization and information technology advancement. Nevertheless, they still have tough problems to tackle.

The economic performances of China and Vietnam have remarkably improved over the recent years with significant increase in inbound foreign investments. The global competitiveness of China had already surpassed Korea in 2009. Furthermore, those countries could modernize civil service and legal

systems.

In 1990, Mongolia abolished the totalitarian regime as well as planned economy and started the transition to multi-party political system. Many political, administrative, economic, and legal systems are rapidly changing but competent human resources are severely lacking and thus new systems are facing deadlocks.

To sum up, East Asian countries, having put in place administrative reforms with great momentum, have gained substantial progress. Economic performances are also improving although the degree is different in each country. However, public administration reforms are prone to political parties, political scandals and corruption. Regardless of their political ideology, East Asian nations could speed up public administration reforms in recent years. For example, South Korea has given top priority to reforming the government. Even the socialist countries like China and Vietnam have placed special emphasis on public administration reforms.

The general public perceive the quality of the public service issue as one of the several major factors in government. The general public's perception in government may not change considerably so long as the public has a high degree of cynicism and distrust on politics. However, a government can finally find a solution that can offset all the losses by recognizing the value and role of civil society organizations, exercising administrative system that can ensure development in practice, ensuring somewhat comprehensive changes rather than partial changes, practicing real concept of change best suited with own country rather than the world's best and ideal concept of change, and practicing own approach rather than imported one.

Source: *Building trust in Government in Northeast Asia*,

contributor-Pan Suk Kim

(To be continued every week)

Trs: TKK

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Accord to strengthen cooperation with global partners to...

(from page 1)

The Nay Pyi Taw Accord was envisioned with this intention to ensure effective cooperation between the government and the development partners.

If we manage the development assistance, low interest or interest-free loans, and foreign direct investment properly, systematically, and transparently, the donors will be more encouraged to continue this partnership; we will be able to achieve our development goals, improve the standard of living of Myanmar citizens, and raise the capacity of human resources in the country. This will also help us undertake political reforms that are aimed at transforming the country into a modern, developed democracy.

Our government is formed by representatives from the general public.



The government must, therefore, be a people-centered government that pays attention to the interests, expectations and wishes of the people. The tasks the government will have to undertake include the development of the agricultural sector, the

development of small rural manufacturing businesses and home industries, the development of micro-credit businesses, the development of rural cooperatives, and environmental protection. While focusing on improvements in productivity, job creation and income opportunities, we will also need to help people have better access to education, health care, social welfare, electricity, and telecommunication systems. In addition to improving the



agricultural sector, we will also adopt and implement policies that are designed to create export-oriented manufacturing and industrial sectors. I am convinced that we will be able to implement these policies more effectively and successfully if we work together and receive assistance from the international community.

It is worth nothing that peace and stability and socio-economic development go hand in hand. Only when the country is peaceful and stable, will we be able to work towards socio-economic development in the country. Similarly, only when the country is socio-economically developed,

will the country be peaceful and stable. On the basis of the principle of unity in diversity, we will have to embrace our differences. While we work together on areas we agree on, we will patiently try to reconcile our differences until we find a common ground. We will work with concerted



effort to achieve national reconciliation.

In order to ensure peace and stability in the country, we must engage in peace building activities together with all ethnic armed groups. My government will continue to do everything necessary to turn ceasefire agreements into lasting peace. It is very important to create job opportunities in order to



improve socio-economic conditions of internally displaced people and ceasefire groups. We have established the Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon to undertake peace-building



activities effectively. I would like to express our gratitude towards all donor countries and organizations that have contributed our peace building process.

I also want to take this opportunity to talk about peace negotiations with the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO). I want to stress that we continue to try to achieve genuine peace in the country. We will



start political dialogue with all Ten major ethnic armed groups that have concluded ceasefire agreements with the government in the near future. We have extended an invitation to KIO to join the peace meeting. I want to invite my colleagues from KIO to come to the peace meeting from here on again. I believe KIO will soon join us in the peace process. I have ordered the Tatmadaw and other relevant government agencies to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict. I want to note that KIO will

need to reciprocate in a similar way.

We will also be undertaking census collection in 2014. This will be the first census we will be collecting in the last three decades. I would like to request our international partners to help us with the census collection in any way they can.

In conclusion, I would



like to highlight the fact that this is the first time we are holding a forum like this in the last fifty years. I would like to express my gratitude to our development partners and representatives of international organizations and other distinguished guests who have participated in this forum in spite of their busy work schedule. Since the forum will be focusing on the crucial reforms strategy and long term development plan of



this country, I would like to encourage the development partners to make comments, give advice, and share

their wealth of experience in the development field without any reservation. I



am convinced that we will arrive at many useful ideas to assemble and implement our development plan and policies.

President U Thein Sein together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, ambassadors, resident representatives of UN agencies, delegates from ASEAN member countries, representatives from global donor countries,



development partners and international organizations posed for documentary photos.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, MPs, deputy ministers, region/state ministers, departmental heads, representatives from donors countries across the world, development partners and international organizations and special guests.—MNA

Efforts to be intensified to find a mutually acceptable solution to conflict soonest

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued the Statement No. 1/2013 on humanitarian assistance for the conflict victims of the Kachin State dated 18-1-2013. The full text of the statement is as follows:-

Statement No 1/2013 of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on humanitarian assistance for the conflict victims of Kachin State

1. A four-member team of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) visited Kachin State from 8 to 10 December, 2011 for the first time in order to observe at first hand the civil population who displaced as a result of armed skirmishes. During that visit the team from the Commission was able to liaise and coordinate with the concerned authorities to enable the distribution of humanitarian assistance by the Kachin State Government, UN Agencies and Civil Society Organizations to the displaced persons in and around Laiza.
2. The Commission also stated that it would continue to exert efforts for enhancing assistance to the displaced persons in Kachin State.
3. After the visit, the Commission, while acknowledging the efforts of the Kachin State Government to fulfill the basic humanitarian needs arising as a result of the ongoing conflict urged, among other things, the business enterprises to contribute

in these efforts and also strongly urged that the peace negotiations be carried out to its successful conclusion.

4. While acutely aware of the difficulties being encountered in these negotiations, the Commission is encouraged that the Peace-Making Group is relentlessly continuing their negotiations amidst the continued outbreak of skirmishes. At the same time, the Commission is greatly concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation stemming from the conflicts and the difficult access of humanitarian assistance to the conflict victims inside Kachin State and along the border. The Commission is of the view that, due to the intensification of the conflict, the humanitarian situation is likely to worsen, affecting in particular the venerable groups like children, women and the aged, unless urgent actions are taken by all parties concerned to address the issue of humanitarian access.
5. The Commission, therefore, strongly urges that the question of humanitarian access to the conflict victims and of how safe passage for humanitarian supplies could be guaranteed, be addressed as an urgent matter in the peace dialogue. The world donor community also may play an important role in the supply of humanitarian assistances.
6. In view of the impact which the conflict in Kachin State has on the lives and properties of the people as well as on the endeavors of the country for its democratization process, the Commission wishes to urge that efforts be intensified to find a mutually acceptable solution to the conflict soonest.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Dated 18 January, 2013

Thai government granting official documents to undocumented Myanmar migrant workers

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—At the request of President U Thein Sein while meeting with the Thai Prime Minister in Dawei in Taninthayi Region on 17 December, 2012, Thai Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra has allowed to grant an additional three-month grace period to unregistered Myanmar migrant workers, against Thai government's decisions to stop issuing official documents to undocumented Myanmar migrant workers on 14 December, 2012.

Myanmar-Thai labour experts held a work-coordination meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 January 2013. Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of the Labour Department under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security attended the meeting.

WY brand tablets seized in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 19 Jan—IP Taing Za Oak of Southern Mandalay Region Anti-Drug Special Squad and Sgt Than Hlaing Win and party of Nwalan Police Station, security persons of National Development Co and witnesses searched the house of Zaw Lin Kyu and Ma Ho Wu May (a) Ar Wu May in Htanthonbin Zone 3 of Moemi Moehti Region on 16 December morning.

The authorities seized 190 orange colour WY brand suspect stimulant tablets weighing 19 grams and K 49000.

Yamethin Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug possessors.

Myanma Alinn

Illegal sawn teak timber seized from van

HLEGU, 19 Jan—Staff Officer U Phyo Zin Mon Naing and party of Hlegu Township Forest Department and staff from forest departments in Bago, Thingangyun and Insein townships stopped a suspected van enroute to Yangon at 6.22 am on 9 January near Bawnetgyi Bridge.

But, the van did not stop and drove away. So, the departmental personnel

In response to Myanmar President's request, Thai government has agreed to continue running five official documents issuing camps plus 5 camps before March 2013. Undocumented Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand may obtain temporary passports, visas and officials documents at nearby temporary passport issuing camps in Thailand.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin made an inspection tour of roads and bridges in Bago Region on 13 January.

The Union Minister looked into progress of Yangon-Bago section and Bago-Nyaunglebin section of Yangon-Bago-Mandalay Highway through BOT system. He then inspected construction of Madaukgale Bridge on Nyaunglebin-Madauk-Shwegyin road section on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, progress of Nyaunglebin-Zeyawady

Progress of roads, bridges inspected in Bago Region



section, Zeyawady-Yedashe section, Sittoung Bridge No. 3 (Htantabin) on

Khabaung-Myitsu-Htantabin section and water course in Sittoung River.—MNA

Union Attorney-General holds talks with guest from UNODC



NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin met Country Manager Mr. Jason Eligh from United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) at his office here

this morning.

At the meeting, they discussed the role of the office of the Attorney-General of the Union in judicial sector, cooperation with UNODC in making field trips. The Union

Attorney-General said that Myanmar has formed anti-corruption committee to realize clean government and good governance in accord with the guidance of the President.—MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister, Iranian parliamentary member, ambassador hold talks

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin held talks with Mr Mansour Haghighat Pour, a parliamentary member of Iran, and Mr Hossein Kamallian, the ambassador of Iran to Myanmar, at the office of Rakhine State Government on 16 January, over rehabilitation in Rakhine State.

After the meeting, they also met with internally displaced persons of Rakhine and Muslim at the respective camps and presented aids to them.

Afterwards, they held a meeting with regional ministers, officials from UN agencies and townsenders over rehabilitation in the state.

During the meeting, Mr Mansour Haghighat Pour expressed satisfaction for rehabilitation efforts of the Union government and the state government and pledged for cooperation with the state government for rehabilitation including health, education and job opportunities in the state.

MNA

followed it by car.

At 6.54 am, the personnel caught the van at mile post No. 1/3.

However, two persons from the van managed to escape from the authorities.

The personnel inspected the van and seized 0.7072 tons of illegal sawn teak timber.

A file was opened at Hlegu Police Station to take action against driver and owner of the van.

Myanma Alinn

Participants express ...

(from page 16)
result of the forum. There will have to be many more interactions to follow. I do hope that there will be the Nay Pyi Taw accord signed. I do hope that the section meeting will come up with concrete actions on how to move toward the process and how to gain cooperation with business partners not only talk but something to get



Roberta Clarke

things go on.
Hirota Koki, Director General of Southeast Asia and Pacific Department of JICA

NLM: As you have already attended the morning session of First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum this morning, please tell me your comment on this forum.

Koki: This event is very comprehensive. We are very much impressive with the speech of the president. His speech is very confident of the progress up till now. And I am also very much impressive of the whole audience. They are very supportive and I appreciate their discussion. The Myanmar Government is committed. We expect to discuss about the substantial development of sectors such as education and health issues.

NLM: Does your organization have any specific

plan to help Myanmar?

Koki: We have many plans to help your country, especially in social, education and regional development and other sectors. Today discussion is largely dealt with substantial development in your country. It's very good opportunity for your country to hold such a kind of this forum. JICA is comprehensively supporter and we will coordinate more among donors for your country.

Roberta Clarke, Regional Director of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Representative in Thailand under United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

NLM: I would like to know your view on our country as to this forum?

Clarke: Myanmar is a beautiful country and I am happy to be here for this historic 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum. We are attending this important meeting to better understand and respond to the national priorities of the government. In the morning session, the government representatives spoke about importance of good governance. There was also a discussion on inclusive growth and equity. Given UN Women's mandate to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, we are interested to support initiatives and policies that promote women's equal participation in the economic and political processes of the country. We will be supportive of the law reform agenda such as the ongoing work on the law on protection of violence against women.

REGIONAL

Village chief killed in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 19 Jan—A village headman was killed and his friend seriously wounded in a drive-by shooting in restive southern province of Pattani on Friday, *Bangkok Post* online reported. Pol Col Kongath Suwankham said the attack occurred on Friday morning on a local road in Pattani's Mayo district.

Witnesses told police that Abdulloh Maseng, 39, chief of Ban Look Phai village, and his friend were travelling in his sedan when gunmen on a pickup truck opened fire on them with AK47 assault rifles. The assailants then fled.

Abdulloh took bullets in the body and died instantly in driving seat. His friend, Kade Mali, 49, was shot several times in the body and was taken to Mayo hospital.

Police were investigating into the incident.

More than 5,000 people have been killed and more than 9,000 hurt in over 11,000 incidents, about 3.5 incidents a day, in Thailand's three southern border provinces—Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat—and four districts of Songkhla since violence erupted in January 2004, according to Deep South Watch, which monitors the regional violence.

Xinhua



Two Japanese airlines cancel more flights

TOKYO, 19 Jan—Japan's 2 major airlines plan to continue suspending flights of their Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets over the weekend, affecting more than 7,400 passengers.

All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines decided to cancel a total of 44 do-

mestic and 10 international flights on Saturday and Sunday.

All Nippon Airways is canceling 28 domestic flights on Saturday and 16 flights on Sunday. All of the flights were to arrive at or leave from Tokyo's Haneda Airport. The airline will

also cancel 8 international flights, including those linking Beijing in China and Narita Airport near Tokyo on Saturday and Sunday. Japan Airlines will suspend 2 flights between Narita and San Diego in the United States on Sunday.

NHK

Philippine gov't assures assistance to kidnapped nationals in Algeria

MANILA, 19 Jan—The Philippine government said on Friday that it is ready to extend full assistance to Filipinos reportedly involved in the kidnapping incident in Algeria.

However, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), through its post in Tripoli of Libya, which has the jurisdiction over Algeria, has yet to verify reports that there were Filipino casualties in the incident, deputy presidential spokes-

woman Abigail Valte said in a news briefing.

"After we are able to confirm if indeed some of the casualties were Filipino nationals, the post in Tripoli will be working to get their immediate details to determine their status in that particular country so we can extend all the assistance that is necessary to them and to their loved ones," she said.

It was reported that two Filipinos died in the Alge-

rian hostage incident.

This week, Islamist militants abducted an undetermined number of hostages including Westerners at a gas plant in a remote area of Algeria.

The Algerian forces reportedly launched military operations upon noticing that the kidnappers have started to move their hostages to a neighboring country, resulting in a number of casualties.

Xinhua



The Lingyin Temple is crammed with people who swarms to get free Laba porridge in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province. The Lingyin Temple distributed porridge for free on 19 Jan, the eighth day of the 12th lunar month or the day of Laba Festival. This charitable act, however, attracted numerous people and caused transitory disorder. No people got injured.—XINHUA

Cambodian cargo ship on fire off Japan's Kobe, all sailors confirmed safe

OSAKA, 19 Jan—A Cambodian-registered cargo ship, with nine crew members, seven Chinese and two from Sri Lanka and Myanmar, on board, caught fire off the coast of the western Japanese city of Kobe on Friday, according to Japanese maritime au-

thorities.

The fire broke out on the freighter "CHUN XING" in waters several kilometers south off shore of the city at around 9:30 am local time, the Japanese Coast Guard said.

After receiving a call from the 1292-ton freighter,

the coast guard dispatched five patrol vessels to the ship to put out the fire but there were no reports of injured people. A spokesperson for the coast guard in Kobe told *Xinhua* that its teams stopped the spread of fire, but the fire-extinguishing operation is expected

to continue through the night at Kobe Port. Also, the official of the Chinese Consulate-General in Osaka confirmed the safety of all the sailors. The cargo ship, carrying 948 tons of iron scrap, was sailing from Chiba Port in eastern Japan to China.—*Xinhua*

Indian Supreme Court says Italian marines to be tried in special court

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—India's Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the two Italian marines, accused of killing two Indian fishermen off the coast of the southern state of Kerala, will be tried in a special court in the national capital as "it's a federal crime".

A two-judge bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, Altamas Kabir, directed the central government to set up the special court in consultation with the apex court to try the two accused who are currently on bail in Kerala, rejecting a plea by the Italian government to transfer to Rome the case.

The court also asked the central government to get the two marines—Massimiliano Latorre and Sal-

vatore Girone—shifted to the Indian capital and keep them under the control of the Italian Embassy.

The case has sparked diplomatic row between India and Italy.

India accuses the two Italian marines of killing two of its fishermen last February. The two marines, then guarding an Italian oil tanker, MV Enrica Lexie, claims that they shot the two fishermen from on board the vessel, mistaking them for pirates.

Italy claims that they should be tried in a court in Rome as the incident happened in international waters while India says that the accused must be tried in this country as the shooting took place in its waters.

Xinhua



Dancers in colorful costumes perform during a celebration for the Sikhayan Festival in Laguna Province of Manila, the Philippines, on 18 Jan, 2013. The Sikhayan Festival is celebrated annually to recognize local people's spirit of enterprise, ingenuity, and craftsmanship. XINHUA

Chinese mainland publishes book on Taiwan history

BEIJING, 19 Jan—A mainland-written book on Taiwan's history was published on Friday in Beijing.

The two-volume work, compiled by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), narrates the intact history of Taiwan, especially the island's modern history, on the basis of academic results and analysis of historical documents,

CASS vice president Wu Yin said.

According to Wu, the history of Taiwan is an indivisible part of Chinese history. But Taiwan's academic circle tends to emphasize Taiwan as a separate subject in its research, to which mainland counterparts need to respond from a correct perspective of academic theory.

The book will help spread correct knowledge on Taiwan, Wu hopes.

It refutes the "Taiwan-independence" fallacy in theory as well as in historical facts and provides historic grounds for understanding that the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China, added the CASS vice president.

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	(Zebyutaung-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	(Patheingyi)	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	(Shwepyithar)	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.

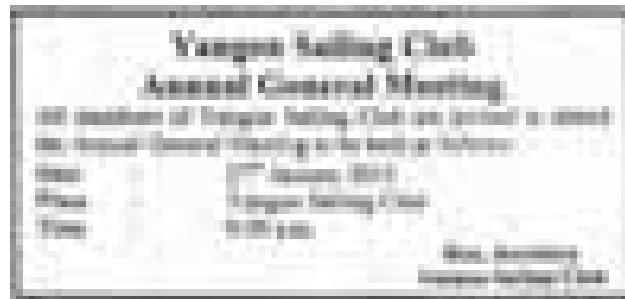
9. The potential bidders must cooperate with a minimum of (1) one Myanmar national owned company registered at Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy, of their own choosing.

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

Ministry of Information
Myanmar Radio and Television
(Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon)**Invitation for Open Tender to purchase
machinery for sub-power station**

1. Open Tenders are invited to purchase machinery for sub-power station for 2012-2013 fiscal year at Myanmar Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

- Accessories for 33/11 KV sub-power stations 1 Lot
- VCB (Studio Complex) for 33/11 KV sub-power station 1 Lot
- VCB (Radio Complex) for 33/11 KV sub-power station 1 Lot
- VCB (Padaukmyay) for 33/11 KV sub-power station 1 Lot

2. Open Tenders form are available at the Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) in office hours (9:30 to 16:30) from (20.1.2013) to (21.1.2013).

3. Open Tenders are to be submitted in the presence of the tender board at the Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 9:30 to 16:30 hours on 22.1.2013. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.

4. The Open Tenders forms and detailed information are available at the following address.

Machinery Purchasing Committee
Myanmar Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information

Ph: 067 79411, 79079, 79135



Orthodox Christian pilgrims attend a mass at a baptism site by the Jordan River on 18 Jan, 2013. Thousands of Orthodox Christians flocked to the baptism site on Friday to start a pilgrimage.

XINHUA



Photo taken on 18 Jan, 2013 shows a wall of smiling faces of students in Liaocheng University in Liaocheng, east China's Shandong Province.

XINHUA

**Nine killed in road accident in
southeastern Kenya**

NAIROBI, 19 Jan—At least nine people were killed and 27 others injured in a grisly road accident involving a bus and a trailer in Nairobi-Mombasa highway on Thursday night.

Deputy Traffic Police Commandant Samuel Kimaru said on Friday the accident which occurred at Manyani area happened when

the Nairobi bound passenger bus tried to overtake a speeding vehicle which was headed to Mombasa. "The bus driver was overtaking careless and the trailer seemed to be on high speed, forcing it to collide with the oncoming trailer at Manyani area at about 8:45 pm (local time)," Kimaru told Xinhua by telephone on Friday. "Both driv-

ers and six passengers died on the spot. One passenger later died while undergoing treatment at the hospital brings the number of people who died from the accident to nine," Kimaru said. He said the deceased are eight men and a 14-year-old girl. He said some of the injured are critical situation at the hospital.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez happy about Ben Affleck's Golden Globes win



She said: "I see them a lot. We're in the same business. You know, we run in the same circle."

LONDON, 19 Jan—Jennifer Lopez says she is "really happy" for Ben Affleck.

The 43-year-old Parker star — who is dating her 25-year-old back-up dancer Casper Smart — has revealed she still sees her ex-fiance regularly and was thrilled to see him win two Golden Globe Awards last

Sunday (13.01.13).

The mother-of-two — who has been divorced three times—told The Ellen DeGeneres Show: "It was nice to see him have that moment. I was really happy for him."

Jennifer insisted she and Ben are still close, and she is also in touch with her ex-boyfriend P. Diddy.

She said: "I see them a lot. We're in the same business. You know, we run in the same circle."

Argo star Ben—who is now married to actress Jennifer Garner—revealed last year that he still "touches base" with Jennifer.

He said: "We don't have the kind of relationship where she relies on me

for advice," he said of the star.

"But we do have the kind of relationship where there'll be an e-mail saying, "Oh, your movie looks great. I touch base. I respect her. I like her. She's put up with some stuff that was unfair in her life, and I'm really pleased to see her successful."—PTI

Megan Fox, Brian Austin Green to get \$620 from photographer

LONDON, 19 Jan—Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green have been awarded \$620 from a photographer who sued the couple for assault. Paparazzo Delbert Shaw had alleged the former Beverly Hills 90210 star hit him after he was "egged on" by wife Megan as they holidayed Hawaii in December 2010 and wanted compensation from them.

However, a Los Angeles judge has now ruled Shaw has to pay the couple \$620 towards their legal fees, although they had initially requested \$2,475.

But the \$25,000 lawsuit, which was filed last March, is still being fought.

Shaw's attorney, Sark Ohanian, was in court on 15 Jan, 2013 and while he objected to the \$620 in sanctions, the judge stuck to her ruling. Ohanian also claimed Megan and Brian had been trying to cover-up their role in the fight.

He told the court: "They are trying to paint my client as a reckless paparazzo and none of the discovery is focused on the incident."—PTI



A Los Angeles judge has now ruled Shaw has to pay the couple \$620 towards their legal fees, although they had initially requested \$2,475.—PTI

Nicole Kidman respects her eldest children Scientology beliefs

LONDON, 19 Jan—Nicole Kidman says she "utterly respects" her eldest children's Scientology beliefs.

The 45-year-old actress — who is married to Australian singer Keith Urban with whom she shares daughters Sunday Rose, four, and Faith Margaret, two, — said she will never discuss her older children Isabella, 20, and 17-year-old Connor Cruise's commitment to the controversial sect or speak out against it.

The Paperboy star — who was previously married to Isabella and Connor's father Tom Cruise—told The Hollywood Reporter: "I've chosen not to speak publicly about Scientology. I have two children who are Scientologists — Connor and Isabella — and I utterly respect their beliefs."

The Oscar winner also opened up about her views on fame and thinks that some of the perks are "tacky". She said: "Never would I take free clothes. That would be



so ... tacky. These people work so hard to make beautiful things — you have to appreciate that." Nicole revealed that she much prefers

living away from Hollywood with her husband in Nashville, although she admitted their days are equally star-studded there.—PTI



Hugh Jackman

Hugh Jackman helps church that Les Miserables was filmed in

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Hugh Jackman helped pay for heating at a church. The charitable 44-year-old actor was struck by the plight of St Mary the Virgin church in Ewelme, Oxon, where he filmed scenes for Tom Hooper's new musical drama Les Miserables and organized for producers to pay 10,000 pound to fund the building's new heating system. The Rev Jonathan Meyer told The Daily Star newspaper: "The spiritual message of the film brought everyone together."

Generous Hugh also impressed

his co-stars — who included Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway and Amanda Seyfried — with his kind-hearted nature because he kept everyone's spirits up on set during the gruelling shoot by treating them to fun gifts.

Les Miserables star Eddie Redmayne recently said: "Hugh was the leader. He would keep all our spirits up and every Friday he would buy all the cast and crew a lottery ticket because by that time we were on our knees. His capacity for generosity of spirit was extraordinary."

PTI

Angelina Jolie's father doesn't know when she will marry Brad Pitt

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—Angelina Jolie's father has revealed he has no idea when she will marry her fiancé Brad Pitt.

The actress's father Jon Voight — who reconciled with her in 2010 after nearly a decade of estrangement — has admitted he isn't privy to any of the couple's wedding plans and said he only really spends time with their six children, Maddox, 11, Pax, eight, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne.

He told EOnline.com: "Actually, I don't know. I'm not like that with them. You know, I've heard the rumours and so and so and what's going on. No, I'm not like that. I'm happy when I see them, we play with the children and that's it."

The 37-year-old The Tourist star is rumoured to have tied the knot with her 49-year-old long-term partner on Christmas Day (25 December, 2012) but they have yet to comment on the reports.—PTI



Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

SPORTS



Players of Boca Juniors attend a training in Banco, city of Tandil, in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 17 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Sharper putting gives Mickelson reason to smile

LA QUINTA, (California), 19 Jan—With his flu all but gone, Phil Mickelson had much more of a bounce in his step after an improved putting performance helped him shoot a five-under-par 67 in Friday's second round at the Humana Challenge.

Mickelson is eager to build momentum on the PGA Tour's West Coast swing as he prepares for the Masters, the opening major of the year, and he was delighted to shake off some pre-season rust on another glorious late winter's day in the California desert.

"I feel much better," the American left-hander,

who has been battling flu-like symptoms for nearly two weeks, told reporters after totaling only 26 putts in a seven-birdie display on the Nicklaus Private course at PGA West.

"I was excited to get out and play. I thought that this was a great day to go low. I left a few shots out there, but the last couple of holes were very encouraging to me. They were the first time that my rhythm kind of set in."



Phil Mickelson

Tournament champion in 2002 and 2004, Mickelson had struggled on the greens on the way to a roller-coaster 72 on the La Quinta layout in the opening round as he launched his 2013 PGA Tour season.—Reuters

Schalke wins 5-4 over Hannover at German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 19 Jan—The German Bundesliga resumed with a thrilling match into the second half of the campaign in 2013 as Schalke and Hannover celebrated a nine-goal festival on Friday. Schalke started highly motivated against Hannover into the opener of the second half of the season. The hosts collected a few scoring opportunities through Jefferson Farfan and Ciprian Marica at the opening period but yet their efforts remained

tional utilized a long throw in by teammate Christian Fuchs to nutmeg Hannover's goalkeeper Ron Robert Zieler with a drop shot from a sharp angle. After the break Schalke started where they left off and they were rewarded, as Julian Draxler was able to exploit Lewis Holtby's assist at the 49th minute to make it 2-0 on

the scoreboards.

It looked like an easy win for the "Royal Blues" but the match took an unexpected turn Sergio Pinto's long-range effort introduced Hannover's comeback, with the assistance of Schalke's Roman Neustaedter who deflected the ball unstoppable for Timo Hildebrandt at the 55th minute. Only four minutes later, Hannover leveled the score through Szabolcs Huszti who had all time and space to handle Chahed Sofian's cross to slot home into the bottom right corner.

Schalke remained unfazed and responded with two goals five minutes later. Marco Hoeger slotted home after a one two with Holtby to beat Zieler whereas Ciprian Marica made it 4-2 after a solo run and goal following a fast break at the 67th minute. It was a short-lived joy by the "Knappen" as Huszti again reduced the lead to 4-3 at the 68th minute. Finally, Lewis Holtby sealed the deal when he utilized the build up play by Jefferson Farfan with two minutes left.

Hannover's Mame Biram Diouf capped it all off when he marked the final 5-4 score with an overhead kick at injury time. The following matches are scheduled for Saturday: front runners Bayern Munich host Greuther Fuerth, Bayer Leverkusen meet Eintracht Frankfurt, Wolfsburg see Stuttgart, Hoffenheim face Monchengladbach, Mainz encounter Freiburg and Bremen clash Dortmund.—Xinhua

Schalke's Ciprian Marica of Romania, left, scores against Hannover.



Red Sox sign Ellsbury to \$9 million contract

SALVO, 19 Jan—The Boston Red Sox have avoided arbitration with Jacoby Ellsbury by agreeing to a one-year, \$9 million contract with the center fielder, the team's website reported on Friday.

Ellsbury, 29, was plagued by injury in 2012, suffering a partially dislocated right shoulder in the home opener in April and did not return until July.

He hit 271 with four home runs and 26 runs batted in (RBIs) while playing 74 games.

The previous year, Ellsbury had finished second in voting for the American League's Most Valuable Player award, hitting .321 with 32 homers and 105 runs batted in. The 2011 All-Star will be eligible for free agency after the 2013 season.



Boston Red Sox Jacoby Ellsbury kneels after he was forced out at second base against the Toronto Blue Jays during the eighth inning of their MLB American League baseball game in Toronto, on 16 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

ting .321 with 32 homers and 105 runs batted in. The 2011 All-Star will be eligible for free agency after the 2013 season.

Reuters

Azarenka fends off Hampton to reach fourth round

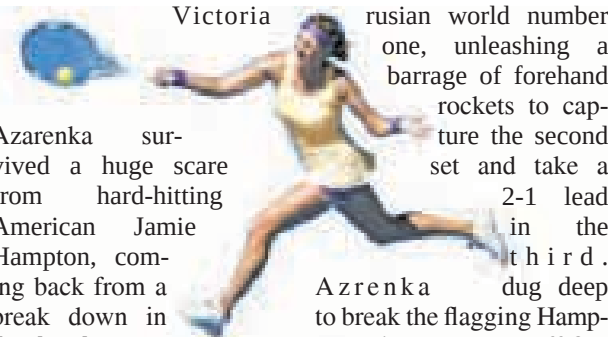
MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—Defending champion Victoria

Azarenka survived a huge scare from hard-hitting American Jamie Hampton, coming back from a break down in the deciding set to win 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 and reach the fourth round of the Australian Open on Saturday.

The 63rd-ranked American winced through the match with an appar-

ent back injury, but went for broke against the Belarusian world number one, unleashing a barrage of forehand rockets to capture the second set and take a 2-1 lead in the third.

Azarenka dug deep to break the flagging Hampton twice and reeled off five successive games to win in two hours and nine minutes. Azarenka will next play Russia's Elena Vesnina or 16th seeded Italian Roberta Vinci.—Reuters



Lysacek withdraws from US championships

SALVO, 19 Jan—Olympic champion Evan Lysacek has withdrawn from next week's US figure skating championships as he is still not fit enough to compete following surgery.

"It's disappointing because health-wise I'm fine," Lysacek said in a statement released by US Figure Skating on Friday. "Due to the long layoff from the surgery I still need about three more

weeks to get back into competition form.

"The good news is I am finally healthy, back to a full training schedule and already working hard to be ready for next season to defend my Olympic title at the 2014 Olympics in Sochi," added the 2009 world champion.

The 27-year-old had been expected to resume a

full competition schedule this season after taking a two-year break following his gold-medal winning performance at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

But injuries followed by surgery in November to repair a sports hernia have kept him out. He has been training in southern California with Frank Carroll and Karen Kwan-Opegard. The US championships will be held Sunday through January in Omaha, Nebraska.

Reuters

Olympic champion Evan Lysacek



GENERAL

The Ambassador of Malta to China Joseph Cassar poses for photo in front of the frozen waterfall during the 8th International Ice Waterfall Festival in Jiuzhaigou, south-west China's Sichuan Province, on 18 Jan, 2013. Diplomats from embassies of 13 countries attended the opening ceremony of the festival.—XINHUA



Neymar: I want to play under Guardiola

SAO PAULO, 19 Jan — Brazilian football starlet Neymar expressed on Friday a desire to one day play under recently



Brazilian football starlet Neymar

appointed Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola.

Neymar has been heavily linked to Guardiola's former club Barcelona but the 20-year-old reiterated his desire to remain at Brazil's Santos until his contract expires after the 2014 World Cup, Brazil's Uol reported.

"He (Guardiola) is a great coach, one of the best in the world. Yes, I have an ambition to work with him

but also with other great coaches," Neymar said during an event in Praia Grande, near Sao Paulo, on Friday. "But I am going to repeat that I want to continue with Santos. I am happy here." Bayern Munich announced on Wednesday that Guardiola would take over from Jupp Heynckes as the club's new coach when the 67-year-old's contract expires this summer.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-1-13 09:30 am ~ 21-1-13 09:30 am) MST

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African Union troops urged to minimize child casualties in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Jan—A senior United Nations official on Friday urged the African Union to strengthen its efforts to minimize child casualties in their operations after several children lost their lives earlier this week in Somalia.

In a news release issued by her office, UN Secretary-General's special representative for children and armed conflict Leila Zerrougui voiced her deep concern about the killing that took place during military operations in the Lower Shabelle region by the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, acting AMISOM Force Commander Major General Salvatore Harushimana committed to opening an

investigation into the facts and circumstances which led to the incident.

"I welcome the proactive stance taken by AMISOM to acknowledge the tragedy and to open a thorough and timely investigation. I hope that this examination will result in concrete measures to prevent further violations," said Zerrougui.

She also urged the African Union (AU) to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, adding that her office stands ready to assist in this regard.

Protection of children must be a central aspect of the AU's peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations, such as in Mali and areas affected by the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), she noted.—Xinhua

Suns part ways with head coach Gentry

PHOENIX, 19 Jan — The Phoenix Suns have ended head coach Alvin Gentry's tenure of almost four years in charge of the Western Conference strugglers after both sides "mutually agreed to part ways", the team said on Friday. The Suns have made a poor start to the campaign and sit bottom of the Pacific division with a 13-28 record, which is also the poorest in the conference.

"All of us, including Alvin, realized that the pieces weren't fitting," Suns president of basketball operations Lon Babby said in a statement. "To be sure, integrating nine new players was a challenge." Gentry has been part of the Phoenix coaching system

since 2004, first as an assistant before taking over the top job as interim head coach in February 2009 and on a permanent basis from May the same year.

"Alvin's hard work, dedication and coaching

ability over the last nine years have been an important part of the success of our organization," Suns managing partner Robert Sarver added. "These partings are never easy but are, unfortunately, part of

the business of professional sports. I wish nothing but the best for Alvin and his family." In his time as head coach of the Suns, Gentry compiled a 158-144 (.523) record, earning one playoff appearance and a trip to the 2010 Western Conference Finals.

"After nine years with the Suns, the organization and I came to a mutual agreement to go in different directions," Gentry said. "I have the utmost respect for Robert (Sarver) and what he's done with the organization. It's unfortunate that I was unable to accomplish what I set out to do here." The team said an interim replacement would be announced within 48 hours.—Reuters



Phoenix Suns head coach Alvin Gentry directs his team against the Boston Celtics in the second quarter of their NBA basketball game in Boston, Massachusetts on 20 Jan, 2012. — REUTERS

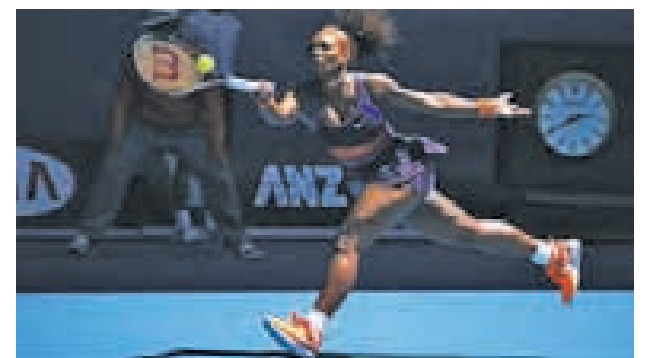
Serena sweeps into last 16 at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan — Serena Williams overcame a feisty challenge from Ayumi Morita at the start of second set but recovered to swat aside the Japanese 6-1 6-3 and ease into the fourth round of the Australian Open on Saturday.

The 31-year-old American, seeking a sixth crown at Melbourne Park and a third successive grand slam title, was 3-0 down in

the second set after suffering a service break for the first time in the tournament.

Showing no discomfort from the ankle strain she sustained in the opening round, however, the third seed stormed back to win the next six games and dismiss the world number 72 in 66 minutes. Williams, who approached record levels with her serve when she hit the 207 kilometre



Serena Williams of the US hits a return to Ayumi Morita of Japan during their women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 19 Jan, 2013. — REUTERS

per hour (129 mph) mark in the first set, set up a last 16 date with Russia's Maria Kirilenko.—Reuters

WORLD

"Talent can pop up anywhere in the world, it's not just one city block."



Niklas Zennstorm Skype Founder

The Swedish founder of internet service provider said the future tech business will not be geographical and come from 'anywhere' of the world rather than Silicon Valley or a city. The venture capitalist also advised potential tech talents to scale up their business "if you have a product that works."

"The wind of change is blowing all over the country now."

The president of Haiti which suffered deadly earthquake in 2010 said the country's disaster awareness is increasing and the Haitians change its traditional ways of construction "to stay safe."

"This is fighting fire with fire."



Michel Martelly Haitian President

Associate Professor of Queensland Institute of Medical Research



David Harrich

The QIMR's recent study represents a medical breakthrough that could lead to a cure for AIDS. Harrich called it "fighting fire with fire" because the method modifies protein in the virus so as to prevent the replication of virus and maintain healthy immune system of patients.

NLM

President U Thein Sein receives Chinese Vice Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—President U Thein Sein received visiting Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Madam Fu Ying and party at Yangon Region Government Office this evening.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and departmental heads and the Chinese delegation was

accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

They exchanged views on matters related to amity and cooperation between two countries, assistance to Myanmar and border area stability of the two countries.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Madam Fu Ying.

MNA



Participants express views on 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum

The First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 January 2013. In the morning session National Development Priorities and Plans, Promoting a culture of democracy and national harmony and Priorities and Plans were presented. And after the first day morning session we NLM news crew held interview with the following persons.

Niels W. Guenther, CEO Three Diseases Fund (3DF)

NLM: After a series of discussions at this forum, what is your view on this forum and also on our country Myanmar?

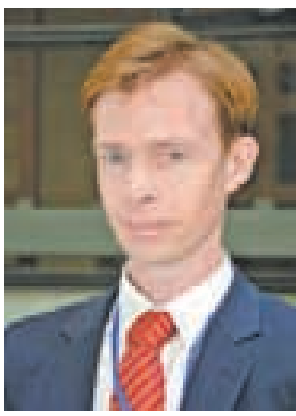
Guenther: I have very positive views on this event. I think it is a very

By: Tin Maung Than and Tha Sein



Mr. Hirota Koki

good, appropriate and a very suitable event in order to move things in this area. I believe that as time has changed significantly, it is necessary for all those actors to come together under the leadership of the government to discuss where the government wants to go, in view with the change situation



Mr. Niels W. Guenther

and on how does the government invite stakeholders to join the process.

NLM: What will be the impacts and the outcome of this forum?

Guenther: I would not expect too much of a concrete outcome. It is important to proceed with (See page 10)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Investigation Commission Press Release No.2/2013

8th Waxing of Pyatho, 1374 ME
(19th January, 2013)

1. Fourth plenary meeting of Investigation Commission was held at ward No.(I-12) in the compound of Hluttaw at 13.30 pm on 18 January. At the meeting, the Commission reviewed its undertakings and coordinated the ongoing programme.
2. The Commission is to submit provisional report to the President at the end of January. The meeting mainly focused on the facts to be included in the provisional report. The provisional report covers the following points:
 - (a) Simultaneous undertakings by forming the teams in serving the duties vested to the Commission.
 - (b) Commission teams' survey and findings pertaining to Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project, mines in Sabetaung and Kyesintaung and environmental conservation, health and socio-economic status.
 - (c) Advices taken from Sayadaws regarding religious edifices.
 - (d) Myanmar Environmental Institute's findings on social and environmental impacts.
 - (e) Discussions with Wenbao Company
 - (f) Discussions with Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd by appointing mine and legal experts
 - (g) Commission's coordination on medical treatment of monks and civilians injured in the incident
 - (h) Discussions with Myanmar Police Force and General Administration Department on the crackdown on Letpadaungtaung protesting camps
3. The Commission is planning to submit the provisional report to the President within 48 hours. The report is aimed only at letting the President know the commission's undertakings and findings, not for release. The detailed facts will be publicized only when the Commission issues its final report.

Investigation Commission
19 January, 2013

Myanmar, Thai boxers to face head-to-head in Yangon

Myanmar - Thai Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge, organized by H& S Group under the leadership of the Sports Ministry, will take place at Theinbyu Indoor Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon on 20 January.

Reigning champion of Dagon boxing challenge Twae Ma Shaung will meet with Joviha of Thailand. Twae Ma Shaung beat Phoe Kay in 2 minutes and 20 seconds into first round

to secure first-class Dagon golden belt. He achieved 30 wins and 13 draws in his 45-game career record. The boxer of Dragon club could manage to win four international games and was unbeatable by Muay Thai boxers, securing five wins and five ties in 10 meets with Thai traditional boxers.

Joviha is a provincial champion, managing 25 victories, five ties and 10 losses in 40 games.

Asian Muay silver medalist Tun Tun Min of

Myanmar will also face Punpet of Thailand. Tun Tun Min never lost to Muay Thai boxers, securing two victories and one draw in three games with Muay Thai boxers. He could manage to achieve 20 wins, five draws and five losses in his career.

Thai provincial champion Punpet defeated 12 opponents, held by 12 draws and lost to eight.

Reigning champion of second-class Dagon golden belt Htoo Htoo, who defeated Phoe Thar Gyi in final,

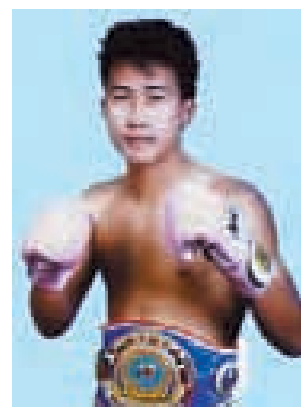


Twae Ma Shaung (Myanmar)

will fight against Petpakai of Thailand. The 2012

Byline & Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

Asian Muay gold medalist secured a sweeping victory



Joviha (Thailand)

against Muay Thai boxers in two games. He has a lustrous career record of 20 victories, five draws and five losses.

Petpakai is a winner of Vice Champion Rard Dum Nem's Boxing Stadium with the record of 35 wins, 10 draws and five losses.

There may also be five challenges between Myanmar traditional boxers.

Myanma Alinn:
14-1-2013
Trs:HKA