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President acknowledges crucial role civil society organizations play in political development of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivered an address at the meeting with community-based social organizations at the hall of Yangon Region Government in Yangon at 2.30 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Soe Thein, U Aung Min, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Maung Soe, U Khin Yi, and U Win Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe region ministers, departmental officials, chairpersons, executives and representatives from 86 community-based social organizations and media.

In his address, President U Thein Sein said:

I would like to welcome you all to this meeting by conveying my best wishes. In this meeting with leaders from civil society organizations, I would like to briefly discuss some of the important political achievements our society has attained. To begin with, I would like to stress my firm belief in the crucial role the civil society organizations play in the political development of our country.

One of our political achievements is the new political culture that has emerged in our country during the last twelve months. Under this new political culture, our society has stopped using confrontation as a way to solve problems. We are now solving our problems and differences through deliberation and dialogue.

Here, we must also acknowledge the enhancement in the degree of political consciousness and tolerance among the members of political and civil societies as well as the general public.

In the past twelve months or so, we have witnessed the changes that are unprecedented in our history. It is an undeniable fact that the endorsement of these changes by the internal political forces and the international community has raised our country's reputation.

In order to bring about such unprecedented political changes, our government, Hluttaw, political parties, business associations, civil society organizations, Tatmadaw, and especially the entire population, have worked very hard in performing the duties they are entrusted with.

I firmly believe that regardless of the challenges we are subjected to, the joint effort of all the forces in our country will definitely pave the way for success in all the reforms we undertake. I, therefore, would like to call on the civil society groups to intensify their participation in the nation and state building activities.

In so doing, I am not suggesting that civil society organizations must agree with us on everything. I am just inviting you all to work with the government in the areas of state-, nation-, and peace-building activities where we all agree on.

In dealing with our differences, we must steer clear of confrontational means and seek solution through dialogue.

I am making this particular request mainly because we must be able to solve our problems peacefully if we wish to create a modern society and a modern national economy. In addition, we will also need to have the kind of national unity General Aung San managed to achieve during our national struggle for independence.

I believe that the political openness we now have in our country will give rise to such national unity.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers an address at the meeting with community-based social organizations at the office of Yangon Region Government.—MNA

I also want to emphasize that a state-building process is full of challenges. There is a great deal of irrationality in the economy.

In order to amend such irrationality, we have adopted the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms (FESR) and the Framework for Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development (FPAED). Furthermore, we held the first donor cooperation forum yesterday in order to find an effective way for local and international experts, and international organizations and government agencies, to work together in undertaking various reform programs throughout the country. Most of the economic sanctions against our country have also been successfully lifted. We have also begun to undertake education and health care reforms to better develop the social sector.

The government is also doing everything it could to turn ceasefire agreements into political dialogue. My administration will avoid using piecemeal measures when dealing with ethnic problems. We will only adopt the means that will lead us to lasting peace. In so doing, we will try to

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Shield Judo Tournament 2012 in Yangon

YANGON, 20 Jan — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Shield Judo Tournament 2012 was held at Tatmadaw Indoor Stadium in Hline Township, here, from 18 to 20 January. Northern Command stood first with 12 gold medals.

Basic and amateur level Judo events were held in Yangon and International level in which athletes from Tatmadaw are to compete with other athletes will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 January.

Secretary of organizing committee Captain Win Zaw Htwe said only 33 teams, out of 47, from military commands participated in the tournament.

The Judo Tournament is the 17th in series which has been held annually since 1996. Seven Judo champions have emerged from the tournaments, and there are three international level course instructors.

Thant Zin Win (NLM)

LOCAL NEWS

Playing sports together a great morale booster for the children

KYAUKPADAUNG, 20 Jan — Organized by Shwe Nadi Philanthropic Monastic Education School and Bedapyan philanthropic organization for monastic education, School Family Day of monastic education schools in Kyaukpadaung Township was held at Shwe Nadi Philanthropic Monastic Education School on 15 January.

School children took part in 24 kinds of sports including track and field and traditional outdoor games and indoor games like subject-wise competition, general knowledge quiz, poem recitation and talent contests. Costs of giving prizes were used from the funds of two philanthropic organizations.

This is the first time. The purpose of holding this event is to boost the morale of the children. Offspring of the poor and orphans are among the children. We want them to know that they are not being marginalized by the society and they have own ability to show their sporting prowess, Saya U Ko Lay, head of two organizations, said.

A total of more than 150 students from some villages in the township and Shwe Nadi monastic education school participated in the school family day held till 16 January.

Kyemon

Loan disbursements to cooperative societies in Shan State

TAUNGGYI, 20 Jan — A ceremony to disburse loans to cooperative societies in Shan State was held at Shan Literature and Culture Hall of a building on Bogyoke Aung San street in Taunggyi on 12 January.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun delivered an address at the ceremony.

Loans provided to cooperative societies in Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Pinlaung, Yatsawk, Hopong, Hsihseng, Pindaya, Ywangan, Pekhon, Namhsan (south) and Kengtung Townships amounted to K 293.335 million. — *Kyemon*

Artesian well relieves water stress in Aungthukha village of Ayadaw Township

AYADAW, 20 Jan — Under the supervision of region Hluttaw representatives in co-operation with officials of Water Resources Department, DRB 003 group sunk an artesian well for adequate supply of drinking water in Aungthukha village of Ayadaw Township in Monywa District recently.

The opening of artisan well was held at the village, attended by the region Hluttaw representative, Ayadaw Township Administrator U San Htay and departmental personnel. The township administrator presented cash award to the leader of DRB 003 group.

Aungthukha village has the population of 808 people whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. "It is common to face water stress in summer in the village. We are very glad to see an artisan well that will be able to make adequate supply of drinking water and thank for doing this", farmers expressed their feelings.

Kyemon

Funfair, sports meet for autistic children held in Yangon

YANGON, 20 Jan — Jointly-organized by Myanmar Special Sports Federation and IFG, the opening of funfair and sports meet for autistic children in Yangon Region took place at the playground in Karaweik Park of Kandawgyi, here, on 16 January. U Hla Shwe and Daw Myo Pa Pa and family presented sports gear and gifts to the President of Myanmar Special Sports Federation.

About 120 children affected by autism happily participated in the events of sports meet.

Kyemon

Talks on curbing crimes given in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLWIN, 20 Jan — An educative talks was given to school children at Basic Education High School (Branch) at Moegyo model village in PyinOoLwin on 11 January. It was jointly-organized by Basic Education Department and Myanmar Police Force with the aim of broadening the horizons of students.

Police Officers of Myanmar Police Force gave talks on curbing crimes, traffic rules enforcement and road safety, dangers of narcotic drugs abuse and anti-human trafficking.

Kyemon

Cash donated to Kanbalu Township anti-venom injection organizing committee

KANBALU, 20 Jan — A cash donation ceremony of Myanmar citizens in Singapore to an anti-venom injection organizing committee was held at Shwe Theimdaw Monastery in Kanbalu Township on 9 December. On behalf of the wellwishers, U Tin Maung Aye presented K 1,082,025 to the Patron Sayadaw of the committee.

It was the second donation of wellwishers in Singapore. They donated 19 anti-venom injections to the committee.

During the period from March to October, the committee provided 34 victims with anti-venom injections. The committee presented eight anti-venom injections to Htankon village and four each to 12 villages.

Kyemon

Cash donation for quake-victims in Thabeikkyin Township

THABEIKKYIN, 20 Jan — Cash donations of Meiktila dwellers were presented to quake-victims in Thabeikkyin Township on 16 January.

Meiktila Township Administrator U Kyaw Swe and townselders handed over K 3,915,000 for 262 victims in Seikkan and Kanbet ward through the region Hluttaw representative and officials.

Now rebuilding quake-hit region in Thabeikkyin Township are in progress and wellwishers the far and wide the nation are providing cash and

Kyemon

Plans underway to provide adequate water supply to Magway dwellers

MAGWAY, 20 Jan — Magway is situated in the arid zone and it is under the possible danger of fire due to the intense heat in summer. Magway Township Development Affairs is striving for ensuring adequate water supply in the upcoming summer. Director of Magway Region Development Affairs Department U Maung Maung Aung made a tour of inspection of water supply infrastructures in the township. Plans are underway to facilitate water supply tasks when the township saw blackouts.

Kyemon

Paddy price goes up in rural areas

YEDASHE, 20 Jan — Starting from the second week of January, there is an increased demand for paddy in rural areas and the price of paddy which was set to fall again has increased to over K 380,000 for 100 baskets following the decrease in sale of paddy in villages.

Some farmers are expecting to fetch a high price for paddy in their hands, but most of farmers started to sell their produce in the market.

Kyemon

Third time's a charm: Obama to celebrate with oaths, parade

Barack Obama takes the Oath of Office as the 44th president of the United States from US Chief Justice John Roberts as his wife Michelle holds the Bible during the inauguration ceremony in Washington, in this 20 Jan, 2009 file photo.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan —President Barack Obama will take the oath of office for the third, fourth and final time this weekend during an inauguration celebration that kicks off his second term in a more muted tone than his historic swearing-in four years ago. High unemployment and partisan fights over fiscal policies have drained some of the hope that marked Obama's first swearing-in after he swept to victory on a mantle of change in 2008 to become America's first black president. This time around, there is a less festive inauguration.

On Sunday, following a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama will be sworn in officially at the White House at 11:55 am EST, meeting the constitutional requirement that he do so on 20 January. That portion will be private—except for a media presence—with a small audience of mostly family members. Obama repeats the procedure on Monday during a public ceremony at the US Capitol. Both times he will be sworn in by Supreme Court Justice John Roberts who, in 2009 after flubbing the oath the first time, administered it to Obama again in the White House the day after his inauguration. The president's two recitations this year will be the third and fourth time he has taken the oath.

It will be only the second time he has made an inaugural address, however, and millions worldwide will be watching. Some 800,000 people are expected to flock to Washington for the event, down from a record 1.8 million in 2009. With workers rushing to complete preparations for Monday, Obama started his inauguration weekend by joining in a nationwide day of community service projects honoring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The public swearing-in will fall on the national holiday marking King's birthday.

The president, first lady Michelle Obama and their two daughters went to a local elementary school to help carry out renovations as part of a National Day of Service, a volunteer program launched when he took office four years ago as a way to pay tribute to King's legacy. In his inaugural speech, Obama is expected to talk about the need for political compromise where possible—a nod to the divisive fights with the Republican-led House of Representatives over the "fiscal cliff" and raising the US debt ceiling.

Reuters

Israeli President Shimon Peres (R) meets with United States Republican Senator John McCain, who is heading a delegation of US senators to the region, at the presidential compound in Jerusalem, on 19 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

15 militants killed in Afghan

KABUL, 20 Jan —Up to 15 Taleban militants have been killed in separate operations in different Afghan provinces, authorities said on Sunday. "Afghan and coalition forces killed six insurgents, detained one, and located two weapons caches during operations in eastern Afghanistan throughout the past 24 hours," the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement. Afghan Border Police killed six insurgents during an engagement in Achin District in Nangarhar Province 120 km east of Kabul, the ISAF's statement said. The weapons caches were found in eastern Khost and neighbouring Paktia Province, the ISAF forces said in the statement.

In addition, Afghan army and police launched a cleanup operation on Saturday in the country's Helmand Province, 555 km south of Kabul, to clear the militants in areas in Nad Ali and Marjah Districts, killing nine armed Taleban militants, a spokesman for provincial government, Ahmad Zirak, told *Xinhua* on Sunday.

He said the Afghan army troops also detained a Taliban fighter, who shot dead a teenage girl in Nad Ali District, during the operation. The Taleban has been waging an insurgency since its regime was toppled by a US-led invasion in late 2001.—*Xinhua*

Netanyahu says Israel needs strong ruling party

JERUSALEM, 20 Jan—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday a country with as many enemies as Israel cannot afford a weak ruling party, after polls ahead of Tuesday's parliamentary election showed a slide in his support. Two polls on Friday showed Israel's right-wing and religious bloc winning a slim parliamentary majority of 63 out of 120 seats, with Netanyahu's Likud-Beitenu group on course to be the largest party in the Knesset, albeit with eroding support.

Iran, Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah and the Islamist Hamas movement, which controls the Palestinian Gaza Strip, were all following the election, Netanyahu said. "(They) want to know one thing, whether the ruling party has grown or shrunk. They want a weak Israel, a divided one and the most challenged country in the world must not be divided," Netanyahu told Channel Two's "Meet The Press". Netanyahu says dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions will be his priority. Israel and the West suspect that Iran is working to develop nuclear weapons, an allegation Teheran denies.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) speaks on the phone to persuade citizens to vote for his party at the Likud-Yisrael Beitenu headquarters in Tel Aviv on 17 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

The polls in *Haaretz* and *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspapers both showed Netanyahu's party winning 32 seats, its poorest predicted showing so far and some 10 seats fewer than Likud and Yisrael Beitenu took in 2009 when they ran separately. Despite the slippage in polls, Netanyahu is still in prime position to secure a third term in office. But a relatively weak showing at the ballot box would make him more susceptible to the demands of his prospective coalition partners. No one party has ever won a majority in a parliamentary election in Israel and Netanyahu's government would have to rely on smaller parties for its survival.—*Reuters*

France, Africa seeks support for regional Mali force

Malian soldiers greet each other in Niono on 19 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

ABIDJAN/NIONO, (Mali), 20 Jan—France and West African leaders called on Saturday on other world powers to commit money and logistical support for African armies readying their troops to join French soldiers already battling al- Qaeda-linked militants in Mali.

The appeal came as African leaders met in Ivory Coast to hammer out details of a regional mission that is due to take over from French forces but is dispatching soldiers while still short of financing, planning and even ammunition.

France has deployed ground troops and its war planes have bombed rebel columns and bases, halting an Islamist advance.

The intervention aims to stop militants from tightening their grip on Mali's northern desert zone and using it as a springboard for attacks in Africa and on the West. "Today you have both France and some elements of the Malian army. They are doing the job, because if they had not done the job, there would no longer be a free country called Mali," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said at the summit. "Terrorism would be there," he added.

Reuters

Syria says talk of Assad's removal unacceptable

BEIRUT, 20 Jan—Syria's foreign minister said on Saturday any discussion of President Bashar al-Assad's future was "unacceptable", a week after an international envoy said the president should not be part of a transitional government.

Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem's comments showed the government has dug in against foreign pressure for a deal with the rebels fighting to topple Assad. "No one should dare discuss the position of the president ... this is unacceptable," he told Syrian state television in an interview.

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad speaks at the Opera House in Damascus on 6 Jan, 2013, in this handout photograph released by Syria's national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

World powers have been deadlocked in their efforts to promote a transitional government they hope could prevent more bloodshed in the 22-month-old uprising against Assad, which has turned into a civil war that has killed more than 60,000 people.

United Nations and Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who recently visited Assad and Syrian officials, told Reuters a week ago Assad should not be part of a transitional government.

Syrian officials condemned his comments and said the mediator was biased toward governments supporting the rebels.

Moualem said Assad's proposal earlier this month for a new parliament and constitution was the only way forward out of the conflict. He reiterated the embattled leader's argument that only "nationalistic opposition" could participate.

Their definition excludes the armed opposition or any group that supports intervention in Syria's conflict, even though they are now the driving force of the rebel movement.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

First undersea fiber-optic cable links mainland, Taipei

Fiber Optic Cables

FUZHOU, 20 Jan — An undersea fiber-optic communications cable directly linking the Chinese mainland and Taipei was officially put into service on Friday. It is the first communications cable linking both sides of the Taipei Strait. The operation of the "direct communications link," which came after both sides formed direct mail, trade and transport links, means mainland-Taipei communications will no longer rely solely on international cables.

The move has been widely hailed by telecommunications circles and authorities from both sides as "a significant step forward in promoting cross-Strait peace and development." Connecting Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, and Tamsui, Taipei, the cable stretches 270 kilometres, the shortest distance between the mainland and Taipei.

The cable, "Cross-Strait Fiber-Optic 1," was jointly constructed by mainland telecommunications companies China Unicom, China Mobile and China Telecom and Taipei-based FarEasTone, Taipei Mobile, Taipei International Gateway Corporation and ChungHwa Telecom. Cable-laying work began on 6 November last year.

Two ceremonies were held simultaneously on Friday in Taipei and Fuzhou to mark the official launch of operations. The cable incorporates the most advanced transmission technologies. It is expected to largely enhance cross-Strait communications and free both sides from their reliance on international fiber-optic communications cables, said Chang Xiaobing, board chairman of China Unicom.—*Xinhua*

Ukrainian students design bed-making robot

KIEV, 20 Jan — Six students from Ukraine's Dnepropetrovsk National University have designed a robotics system for bed making, local media said on Thursday.

"This is a real project, not fiction," project manager Anastasia Rudenko was quoted by *Segodnya* newspaper as saying.

The robot, which is able to make the bed, change bedclothes and remove stains from bed sheets, was recognized as the winner at the Student Research Conference Business Week-2012 in Paris, she said.

Rudenko also expected that the invention could go into mass production soon at the price of 200 US dollars to 800 dollars depending on its characteristics.

Once the robot is put to use, it will help people maintain order at home and save time for sleep in the morning.—*Xinhua*

China works out formula for success

BEIJING, 20 Jan — Turning China into a leader in science and technology is a long-term goal, but Chinese in the intensely competitive fields are already making advances in terms of respect among international peers. "Chinese scientists are among the brightest and most talented scientific force in the world," said Richard Zhao, a co-director of the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America, which has 2,500 members from academia, medicine and business.

He credits China's increased openness and improved educational system over the past 30 years.Chinese scientists who return home after studying abroad are also crucial in expanding their country's base of expertise by passing on their training and education in developed economies to succeeding generations, said Zhao, who is also a professor of pathology at the University of Maryland medical school and head of the university hospital's molecular diagnostics lab.

Bao Zhenan, 42, is a US resident whose accomplishments in science — more than 280 referred publications and 50 patents — have made her a rising star in the eyes of peers and even local media. Three of her research papers, about an ultra-thin synthetic material, were published by the journal *Nature Nanotechnology* between 2010 and 2012." My research group has developed a skin-like synthetic material that heals itself in 30 minutes if torn or cut," said Bao, a professor of chemical engineering at Stanford University in California since 2004. The findings could be applied to medical treatments or the development of new touch screens for digital devices. The government has been pushing forward outreach. The National Medium and Long-Term Talent Development Plan (2010-20) outlines priorities to attract highly skilled professionals through incentives such as housing, career development and research grants for overseas-educated Chinese scholars.—*Reuters*

China Association for Science and Technology

Dotcom says new site legal, no revenge for Megaupload saga

AUCKLAND, 20 Jan — Kim Dotcom, founder of outlawed file-sharing website Megaupload, says his new "cyberlocker" is not a way to exact revenge on the US authorities who planned a raid on his home, closed Megaupload, and charged him with online piracy for which he faces years in prison if found guilty.

The flamboyant Dotcom said his new offering, Mega.co.nz, which will launch on Sunday even as he and three of his colleagues await extradition from New Zealand to the United States, complied with the law and warned that attempts to take it down would be futile. "One thing has to be clear: This is not some kind of finger to the US government or to Hollywood," Dotcom told *Reuters* at his sprawling estate in the bucolic hills of Coatesville, just outside Auckland.

"Legally, there's just nothing there that could be used to shut us down, this site is just as legitimate and has the right to exist as Dropbox, Boxnet and other the other competitors in this space," he said, referring to other popular cloud storage services.

His lawyer, Ira Rothken, added that launching the new site was compliant with the terms of Dotcom's bail conditions. US prosecutors argue that, in a statement related to his bail proceedings last year, Dotcom said he had no intention of starting a new internet business until his extradition was resolved.

Dotcom will celebrate the launch will a party at his home, a mansion worth roughly NZ$30 million ($25.05 million), which features a servants' wing, hedge maze and life-size statues of giraffes and a rhinoceros in the grounds. A year ago, New Zealand's elite special tactics forces choppered into Dotcom's home in a dawn raid to arrest him and his colleagues and confiscate evidence related to Megaupload, at the request of the FBI.

Reuters

*Workers assemble the word "Mega" at the Dotcom Mansion in Auckland on 19 Jan, 2013. —*REUTERS

Japan's Sharp cuts iPad screen output

*A visitor tries Apple Inc's iPad at an electronics store in central Seoul on 18 Jan, 2013.—*REUTERS

TOKYO/SEOUL, 20 Jan — Sharp Corp has nearly halted production of 9.7-inch screens for Apple Inc's iPad, two sources said, possibly as demand shifts to its smaller iPad mini. Sharp's iPad screen production line at its Kameyama plant in central Japan has fallen to the minimal level to keep the line running this month after a gradual slowdown began at the end of 2012 as Apple manages its inventory, the industry sources with knowledge of Sharp's production plans told *Reuters*.

Sharp has stopped shipping iPad panels, the people with knowledge of the near total production shutdown said. The exact level of remaining screen output at Sharp was not immediately clear but it was extremely limited, they said. Company spokeswoman Miyuki Nakayama said: "We don't disclose production levels." Apple officials, contacted late in the evening after normal business hours in California, did not have an immediate comment.

Reuters

Samsung, Apple seen pulling ahead in smartphone race

HELSINKI, 20 Jan — Samsung and Apple pulled ahead in the global smartphone race last quarter, according to forecasts by analysts in a *Reuters* poll, while Nokia and others are expected to have fallen further behind. Overall shipments of handsets are expected to have risen in the fourth quarter, with most of that growth dominated by Samsung. Analysts forecast the South Korean company shipped 61 million smart devices, up 71 percent from a year earlier.

Samsung forecast earlier this month that it expected to earn a quarterly profit of $8.3 billion on strong sales of its Galaxy handsets as well as solid demand for flat screens used in mobile devices. Samsung's full results are due by 25 January. While some are wary that Samsung's momentum may slow in coming quarters owing to market saturation, it is still expected to outpace Apple as sales of the new iPhone 5 appear slightly weaker than originally forecast.

A Samsung Galaxy Note II phone-cum-tablet is displayed during the first day of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 8 Jan, 2013. — REUTERS

Apple is forecast to have shipped 46 million iPhones in the quarter, up 25 percent from a year earlier, according to the poll. Shares in Apple dipped below $500 earlier this week for the first time in almost a year after reports it was slashing orders for screens and other components as intensifying competition eroded demand for the new iPhone. The poll showed analysts expect Apple's full-year shipments to grow to 167 million this year from 134 million in 2012, while Samsung's shipments are expected to grow to 283 million smartphones in 2013 compared to 210 million in 2012.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

US ready to levy steep duties on wind towers from China, Vietnam

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan— The US International Trade Commission (USITC) decided on Friday that the domestic industry was materially injured or threatened by imported wind towers from China and Vietnam, thus allowing Washington to impose punitive duties on these products. The ruling, backed by three commissioners of the federal bipartisan trade panel, cleared the way for the US Commerce Department to issue antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imports of utility scale wind towers from China and Vietnam.

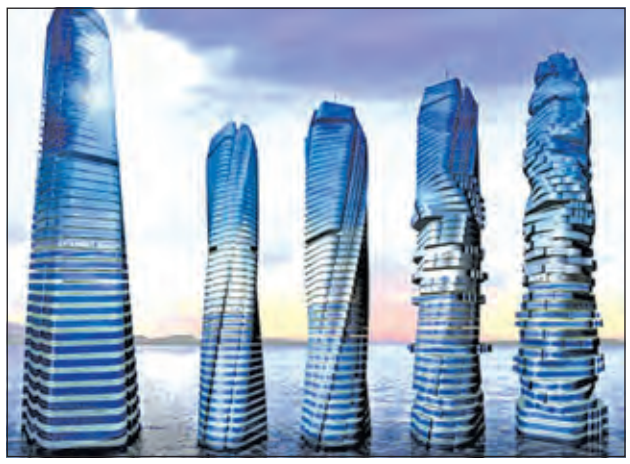
Two USITC commissioners found the US industry composed of 13 producers was materially injured and another found it threatened with material injury. The other three voted in the negative. The Commerce Department determined in December, 2012 that producers and exporters from China and Vietnam sold these products in the US market at dumping margins ranging from 44.99 percent to 70.63 percent and 51.50 percent to 58.49 percent, respectively. And those from China also received countervailable subsidies of 21. 86 percent to 34.81 percent.

The punitive tariff orders would apply to goods that entered the US market after 30 May and 27 July when the Commerce Department made affirmative preliminary determinations on countervailing and anti-dumping investigations respectively. The latest USITC decision concluded the probe that commenced on 19 Jan, 2012, in response to a petition filed on 29 Dec, 2011, by the Wind Tower Trade Coalition comprised of four companies.

The United States imported 265.9 million dollars of wind towers from China and Vietnam in 2011, which accounted for 63 percent of the US market, according to USITC data. China and Vietnam took the second and fifth places in terms of import sources in 2011, respectively. China and the United States are two of the world's biggest markets for solar, wind and other renewable energy technology. Both governments are encouraging their own suppliers in order to generate higher value added growth.

Trade tensions with China are especially sensitive at a time when the United States and other Western economies want to boost exports to revive economic growth and cut unemployment. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce has repeatedly urged the United States to abide by its commitment against protectionism and work together with China and other members of the international community to maintain a free, open and just international trade environment.

Xinhua



Wind towers

Caterpillar writes off most of China deal after fraud

The Caterpillar logo is seen on a tractor in Gilbert, Arizona on 20 Oct, 2009. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 20 Jan— Caterpillar Inc uncovered "deliberate, multi-year, coordinated accounting misconduct" at a subsidiary of a Chinese company it acquired last summer, leading it to write off most of the value of the deal and wiping out more than half its expected earnings for the fourth quarter of 2012. Shares of Caterpillar fell 1.5 percent in afterhours trading following news of the fraud, which was discovered after problems were found with the Chinese company's inventory.

Caterpillar, the world's largest maker of tractors and excavators, said on Friday it would take a noncash goodwill impairment charge of $580 million, or 87 cents per share, in the quarter. Analysts had expected the company to report $1.70 per share when it reports its results on 28 January, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Caterpillar closed the purchase of ERA Mining Machinery Ltd and its subsidiary Siwei last June, paying HK$5.06 billion, or $653.4 million. ERA had been publicly traded in Hong Kong, doing business through Siwei, which is known for making equipment to support roofs in mines.

A member of the Caterpillar board during the course of the Siwei deal told Reuters the board was distracted at the time by a larger transaction and paid relatively little attention to the Siwei acquisition. "It came as a complete surprise to us," the former board member said of the fraud, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. "It was presented to us as a pretty straightforward transaction. It's a shame. It should have been investigated further."

Reuters

Tainted-chicken probe goes on in Shanghai

BEIJING, 20 Jan— Shanghai's food safety watchdog is still investigating Yum! Brands Inc and its subsidiary KFC for a scandal involving antibiotics-tainted chicken, vowing severe punishment for any violations. At a news conference in the city on Friday, Yan Zuqiang, director of the Shanghai Municipal Food Safety Commission Office, said it will honor its promise to make the investigation results public, but did not disclose details about the probe. He declined to comment on the possible punishment Yum! may face if found to have used the tainted chicken supplied by a company in Shandong Province in 2010 and 2011.

Legal experts said any punishment will be closely linked to possible damage the company might have caused to consumers' health, and whether the scandal involves negligence of duty that caused lax quality control or illegal activities in intentionally providing substandard products to consumers. In the latest blow to Chinese consumers' confidence in food safety, the United States fast-food chain KFC was found to have concealed information that excessive amounts of antibiotics were found in eight batches of raw chicken samples taken from Shandong Liuhe Group.

On 10 January, Yum! publicly apologized for what it called its inappropriate response to the Chinese government's investigation, admitting shortcomings in the company's self-checking process and a lack of internal communication. The company destroyed raw-chicken products suspected of containing amantadine, a drug used as an antiviral and to treat Parkinson's disease, on Thursday, the *Shanghai Morning Post* reported. But it is still not known how much chicken meat the fast-food chain bought from Shandong Liuhe or other problematic suppliers during this time, whether these products were substandard, and whether they had been processed and served in its restaurants.

Experts said the incident exposed faults in food safety supervision at large food-producing companies. The scandal was first reported by China Central Television on 18 December, and the eight batches of tainted chicken meat were found in a test by a testing institution hired by the US company, rather than by tests initiated by food safety watchdogs.

Xinhua

US Treasury commences plan to sell General Motors shares

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan— The US Treasury Department on Friday announced a plan to sell its approximately 300.1 million remaining shares of General Motors (GM) common stock, a key step for the government to exit the bailout after a four-year partial ownership of the firm after the onset of the financial crisis.

The Treasury Department intends to sell its shares into the market in an orderly fashion and fully exit its remaining GM investment within the next 12-15 months subject to market conditions, the department said in a statement.

The Treasury's sale of its GM common stock is part of its continuing efforts to wind down the Troubled Asset Relief Programme (TARP). To date, the Treasury has already recovered nearly 93 percent of the funds in the amount of 418 billion US dollars disbursed through the TARP.

At the height of the 2008 financial crisis, the US government rolled out the controversial TARP, a bailout program to aid the nation's financial companies and auto giants. The US government invested about 50 billion dollars in GM through the TARP.—*Xinhua*

Newborn screening misses some deaf kids

NEW YORK, 20 Jan —New research provides further evidence that some babies who pass their newborn hearing tests are found to be deaf or hard of hearing as young kids. Some of those newborns may receive passing grades incorrectly, researchers said, but others can be born with good hearing but develop progressive hearing loss as babies and toddlers. "A parent or a physician may think, 'Oh, this child had passed the screen, so they must not have hearing loss,'" said Dr David Chi, the study's lead author from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre in Pennsylvania.

"Don't depend on just the fact that (your child) passed the screen, especially if there are any concerns about hearing loss or speech concerns," he told *Reuters Health.* Chi and his colleagues analyzed the medical records of 923 kids who came to their medical center with hearing loss between 2001 and 2011, and were between four and five years old, on average.

Reuters

WORLD

Malaysia's plan to review harsh drug law could save Japanese woman

PUTRAJAYA, 20 Jan—A lawyer for a Japanese woman appealing her death sentence for drug trafficking expressed hope on Friday a government proposal to amend Malaysia's harsh drug laws could save her.

Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail was quoted by *The Malay Mail* last July saying the government is looking at abolishing the mandatory death penalty for drug couriers.

The move could help Mariko Takeuchi who was convicted and sentenced to death in October 2011 for trafficking 3.5 kilograms of methamphetamines into Malaysia on 30 Oct, 2009.

Under Malaysian law, anyone possessing a minimum of 50 grams of methamphetamine is considered trafficking a dangerous drug, which is punishable by death.

"All the death sentences by the Federal Court are going to be put on hold until Parliament tables a new bill abolishing death sentence," Takeuchi's lawyer Salehuddin Saidin said. Takeuchi has pleaded innocent and claimed the drugs found in a suitcase she brought to Malaysia from Dubai were not hers.

Her appeal in the Court of Appeal began on Friday, with hearings set for 27 March.

"So even if the Federal Court disagrees with us and sentences her to death, that will be put on hold until the law comes into force. When the law comes into force she will no longer be imposed with the death sentence. They will convert that into imprisonment," Salehuddin said. Abdul Gani told *The Malay Mail* that among the proposals being studied is to amend the drug law to give judges discretion in imposing sentences. Now, once a person is found guilty of drug trafficking, the only sentence is death.—*Kyodo News*

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy (R) and Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic attend a press statement after a bilateral meeting at the EU headquarters in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 18 Jan, 2013. —XINHUA

A woman tries on a carnival mask in a store in central Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 18 Jan, 2013. Carnival-related products sell like hot cakes in Brazil, three weeks away from the annual Rio de Janeiro Carnival. —XINHUA

UN initiates consultations in Vietnam for post-2015 development agenda

HANOI, 20 Jan—The United Nations (UN) in Vietnam has initiated a series of consultations with a broad range of Vietnamese citizens on the new development framework to be put in place in 2015, once the current Millennium Development Goals expire, Communist Party of Vietnam Online Newspaper reported on Friday.

Pratibha Mehta, UN resident coordinator in Vietnam said the UN wants to ensure that a diversity of voices is heard in determining the new development goals post-2015. A wide range of people, including eight target groups, are asked about what kind of world they want.

The national consultations are an excellent way to identify how we can best address the new development challenges we are facing, and how to build a world beyond 2015 where all people can enjoy a life of prosperity, equity, freedom and dignity, said Pratibha Mehta.

Bui Quang Vinh, Vietnamese minister of planning and investment, said that Vietnam is committed to achieving the MDGs and has paid special attention to developing policies and mobilizing and prioritizing resources for social and human development, especially poverty reduction and narrowing the development gap. With two years left before 2015, Vietnam has already achieved most of the MDG targets.

The consultations in Vietnam are taking place from the end of 2012 to early 2013 across the country. The opinions and views gathered will be consolidated and included in a final report by the UN in Vietnam.

The report will be discussed at a national workshop before it is shared with the UN secretary-general's advisory High-level Panel in March 2013, then is expected to be sent to the UN secretary-general in the first half of 2013. These findings will inform the secretary-general's report to UN Member States at the General Assembly session in September 2013.

Xinhua

Pakistan to release all Afghan Taleban detainees

ABU DHABI, 20 Jan—Pakistan plans to release all Afghan Taleban prisoners still in its detention, including the group's former second-in-command, an official said on Friday, the clearest signal yet that it backs reconciliation efforts. "The remaining detainees, we are coordinating, and they will be released subsequently," Jalil Jilani, Pakistan's foreign secretary, said at a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

Asked if the former Taleban number 2 Mullah Baradar would be among those to be released, he said: "The aim is to release all," without elaborating further.

Reuters

Sydney sizzles under record heat

SYDNEY, 20 Jan—Australians are experiencing a record-breaking heat wave.

Temperatures are high especially in the southeast, where the mercury rose to a record 45.8 degrees Celsius in Sydney on Friday afternoon. The previous record of 45.3 degrees was set in January 1939.

The heat led to problems with railway points and traffic lights, causing trains to be delayed.

Emergency responders were flooded with more than 150 calls by people suffering heat stroke.

The dry air and strong winds are fanning forest fires that started in early January.

In the eastern state of New South Wales, more than 70 fires have been reported. They are burning down houses and causing other damage. Some residents have evacuated.

Firefighters expect the fires to ease on Saturday, as showers are forecast in some areas with daytime highs of around 25 degrees Celsius. That's around 20 degrees lower than Friday.—*NHK*

Eva Air to launch regular flights between Taipei and Okayama

OKAYAMA, 20 Jan—Taiwanese carrier Eva Air is in the process of launching regular flight services between Okayama, western Japan, and Taipei from 3 April, local government officials said on Friday.

The new services are under consideration as there was solid demand among tourists for chartered flights linking Okayama Prefecture and Taiwan when they were available from September to 2 Janunary, the officials said.

Eva Air plans to operate two round-trip services a week, on Wednesday and Saturday, through 26 Oct, using aircraft with capacity for about 150 passengers.

An official of the prefectural government's aviation planning division said the prefecture hopes that the Taiwanese carrier will continue the services beyond 26 Oct. To that end, the prefectural government will promote the flights by advertising Okayama's specialties in Taiwan and carrying out other measures.

Kyodo News

US photographer Ed Hetherington placed his camera on a lioness' prey in Zimbabwe, hoping to capture some close-up shots of the big cat feasting. But surprisingly, the lioness picked the camera up and took it away.—XINHUA

Ex-head of nursing home found guilty in fatal fire incident

MAEBASHI, Japan, 20 Jan—The former chief of a nursing home in Shibukawa, Gunma Prefecture on Friday was found guilty by a local court in connection with a 2009 fire that left 10 residents dead, on the grounds that he could have known that the facility was at risk of a fire because its ban on smoking had no teeth.

The Maebashi District court handed down a two-year prison sentence, suspended for four years, to Goro Takakuwa, 88, former director of the home called Tamayura while acquitting another defendant, former board member Tomiko Kubo, 76. Kubo was not under an obligation to advise Takakuwa on safety measures, the court said.—*NHK*

Tokyo Tower in Tokyo's Minato Ward is illuminated in the colour of cherry blossoms on 18 Jan, 2013, to wish success to those sitting the annual unified college entrance examinations starting the next day. —KYODO NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

Plans underway to assign mobile teams at airports, ports, railway stations

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Mobile teams will be assigned at airports, ports and railway stations to take out tasks of controlling illegal trade and protecting consumers, said an official of Ministry of Commerce recently.

"Mobile teams have been assigned at border trade checkpoints to prevent illegal trade and protect consumers against dangerous issues. Plans are underway to assign more mobile teams at airports, ports and railway stations," he said.

In this regard, mobile teams will be stationed at railways along Mawlamyine-Yangon railroad, the railroad leading to Muse and other stations. Moreover, the teams will check not only passengers but also vessels and cargo ships from Ayeyawady Region.

As mobile teams are discharging their duties at border trade camps, the illegal trade of commodities are being made through aviation, waterway and railroad. So, the teams will be assigned at the necessary points.

Assignments of mobile teams comprising personnel from Ministry of Commerce, Customs Department, General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, UMFCCI and media will raise legal trade of the nation and trading of safety foodstuff for the people.

At present, the teams are assigned at Muse, Tachilek, Myawady and border trade camps.

Myanma Alinn

Mobile team controls illegal border trade

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—"The mobile team is aimed at controlling illegal trade for customers protection and promoting trade," said Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, at a meeting with mobile teams, at the briefing hall of Nawnghkio on 18 January.

Mobile team leader Director U Win Aung of Border Trade Department under the ministry and officials reported trade flow and trade. After that, the Union minister and officials replied to the queries raised by media. Then, the Union minister inspected seized contrabands in the store.

The mobile team is carrying the control of illegal border trade on Mandalay-Muse Union Road.

MNA

Bags of rice donated to Pa-O region

TAUNGGYI, 20 Jan—Nippon Foundation of Japan donated 1200 bags of rice to Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) which is one of peace organizations in Shan State, at Taunggyi Hotel in Taunggyi on 12 January afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Shan State ministers, the deputy speaker of Shan State Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, U Khun Thurein of PNLO and officials, Project Director of Nippon Foundation, responsible persons of NGOs and INGOs and departmental officials.

The Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister and the Project Director of Nippon Foundation explained the purpose of donation. U Khun Thurein of PNLO spoke words of thanks.

After that, U Khin Thurein accepted the bags of rice.

Later, the vehicles carrying bags of rice left for Maukmei and Kadugyi regions. The bags of rice will be distributed to the local people.

Myanma Alinn

Japanese company donates 50 sets of computer to Myanma Insurance

YANGON, 20 Jan—Under the insurance and IT programme, Taiyo Life Insurance Company of Japan donated 50 personal computers (PC) to Myanma Insurance at Parkroyal Hotel, here, on 18 January morning.

On the occasion, Managing Director of Myanma Insurance U Aye Min Thein spoke words of thanks. Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Ichiro Maruyama of Japanese Embassy to Myanmar extended greetings.

Company Chairmen Mr Katsuro Oishi and Mr Katsuhide Tanaka explained the purpose of the donation.

Next, the managing director, the general manager andofficials concerned from the Japanese Company cut the ribbon to open the donation ceremony. The documents related to the donations were handed over to Myanmar officials.

The donation helps Myanma Insurance carry out its life insurance with a minimum of delay.

MNA

Hybrid maize plantations thriving in Tatkon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe inspected thriving hybrid maize plantation of 75 days on five acres of farmland of U Aung Hsan Oo in Khayansatgon Village of Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 11 January morning.

After that, he met with farmers and members of Township Agricultural Coordination Committee and gave necessary instructions on agricultural matters.

Myanma Alinn

Vehicle with bamboo plunges into ravine

THAYET, 20 Jan—A vehicle with the load of bamboo plunged into the ravine near Yathedaung of Si Village-tract in Kanma Township of Thayet Township.

At 5.30 am on 11 January, a Hino driven by Nga Zaw, 25, of Alechaung village in Kanma Township with load of bamboo leaving Yathedaung for AlechaungVillage plunged into the ravine on left side of the road due to out of break control.

In the incident, diver Nga Zaw, Nyan Auing, 35, Myint Win, 35 and Zaw Lay, 25 of Alechaung Village in Kanma Township died on the spot.

Gyobin Police Station opened a file of lawsuit for the accident case.

Myanma Alinn

Cash donated to patients with cleft lip and palate

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Mon Mon Aung and CEC members donated K 3.1 million for 68 patients who will receive surgical operations for cleft lip and palate at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) on 14 January morning.

After comforting the patients, the president and party presented foodstuffs to them.

MNA

Gymnastics referee course conducted

YANGON, 20 Jan—Under the supervision of Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Gymnastics Federation opened the second course for gymnastic referees at the training hall of the federation in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township, here, on 14 January morning.

Vice-President of South-East Asian Gymnastics Federation and President of Myanmar Gymnastics Federation U Thein Win made an opening address. Course instructor Mr Champon of Thailand spoke words of thanks. The training course was conducted up to 17 January.—*Myanma Alinn*

Fire drill exercised at raft jetties in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 20 Jan—As Myanma Timber Enterprise is earning a large amount of foreign exchange for the State, fire preventive measures is to be taken for export timber logs as an important role.

The talks on fire preventive measures was held in conjunction with the fire drill at No 2 and No 3 raft jetties in Tachilek of Kengtung Timber Extraction region of Myanma Timber Enterprise on 13 January.

Assistant General Manager U Wai Kyaing explained the plans on taking fire prevention.

U Kyaw Ko Ko of Tachilek District Fire Services Department and members demonstrated fire fighting drills together with staff and workers of Myanma Timber Enterprise.

Myanma Alinn

Robbers arrested within 48 hours

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Ko Soe Tint and wife Ma Nyo Nyo Htwe, stafff of Irrigation Department, residing in Nyaungbingyisu Village of Patta Police Station in Pobbathiri Township, returned home at 7 pm on 5 January passing 500-acre model plantation.

On their way back home, unknown persons threatened them with dagger and snatched one gold chain weighing 0.75 tical, one gold chain weighing about one tical and over K 100,000 from the couple.

Due to the information given by the couple, IP Zaw Min Khaing opened a file of lawsuit under Section 392 and made investigation. Therefore, the authorities could arrest suspected New Gyi (a) Thet Naing Soe and Aung Tin who committed the robbery case on 24th street in Aungthaya Ward of Pobbathiri Township at about 11 pm on 7 January.

The authorities seized two daggers, K 270,000, one handset and one motorcycle from the suspected persons. In the investigation, one gold chain and three gold bracelets obtained from last month's two robbery cases were seized from them.

Under the investigation, these suspected persons committed many crimonal cases, so the police station concerned continues more investivation to take action against them.

Aye Than

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 21 January, 2013

New generation cinemas

According to the desire of the people of the ten categories of Myanmar movie world – producers and distributors, main actors, supporting actors, directors, film editors, script writers, drama industry, technicians, video industry, and makeup professions – Myanmar is working hard on a plan focusing on establishment of a new generation cinemas for introducing internationally practiced F-cinema and D-cinema systems and digital system.

This plan calls for the conversion of the current 35-mm system into digital system and the establishment of D-cinemas all over the Union.

Accordingly we must build 100-seat or 200-seat D-cinemas or new generation cinemas in Yangon, Mandalay, major towns in Regions and States and other towns and villages. The number of D-cinema for each place will depend on its population.

In fact, the conversion programme involves digital filming, production and screening systems and D-cinemas which require foreign currency to import them. As this is beyond the financial capacity of domestic film producers and cinema owners, our option is to get international loans, which is the main source for digitalization, as digitalization can bring financial and other progress to our movie world.

We will also form a work committee that will arrange direct financing from banks only to the persons really involved in the project after evaluating the amount of cash required for each project. This method will save the loans from being channeled into other businesses.

Development of Myanmar movie world through digital system will bring benefits to all the persons of movie industry including producers and cinema owners as it will create a new generation D-cinemas. We can also take this development as the success of the Union as it will contribute to national development in one way or another.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, PLA armed forces hold first strategic discussion

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan— Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win organized a welcoming ceremony for Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

General Soe Win and Lt-Gen Qi Jianguo took salute of the Guard of Honour and Lt-Gen Qi Jianguo inspected the Guard of Honour. The two then held the first strategic discussion between the two armed forces at Zeyathiri Beikman meeting hall, exchanging views on regional and global conflicts, and promotion of joint drills and ties between the two armed forces.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese PLA Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo inspect Guard of Honour.—MNA

General Soe Win then hosted luncheon to the Chinese military delegation.—*MNA*

Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan— Deputy Finance and Revenue Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein presided over fifth session of first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum and Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw over sixth session of the forum on day two of the forum at Myanmar International Convention Centre today.

Departmental officials, reps from donor countries and development partners participated in discussion.

First Secretary Mr. Brent Rapson from New Zealand delegation discussed: The government of New Zealand would like to state its support to Nay Pyi Taw and to co-work for the development cooperation. I believe this forum comes at a crucial time for Myanmar's develop-ment.

It is very important the international assistance is coordinated and delivered in wider support and grows Myanmar government capacity without overwhelming or duplicating efforts. It is also required the international community truly commits to working together transparently. We have unfortunately made mistakes and another occasion that has not might last mistakes here in Myanmar. The pragmatism which is even in the recognition of the need to start modestly and to take concrete steps.

Mr Brent Rapson

Ms Katji Nordgaard

Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong

Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Katji Nordgaard said: I would like to join all my colleagues in congratulating you on this forum. The open and focused discussions yesterday and today have been truly impressive. I am especially impressed by the open-up. I would like to use this opportunity to comment the government on the leadership position in taking and planning cooperation to ensure the national progress and reform and development of this country. It is the only start and there are many challenges ahead. I have experienced from around the world and from other countries coming out from the transition. It shows the need to build strong and competent institutions that is paramount to be able to implement and to monitor reforms.

Singaporean Ambassador Mr. Robert Chua Hian Kong discussed: Singapore is pleased to participate in this forum. We will help to improve the livelihood of Myanmar people and the overall development of the country.

It has been a useful forum to exchange views and to learn about the challenges. As a neighbor and longstanding friend of Myanmar, Singapore has been working together with Myanmar to provide human resources development training for government officials under the Singapore Cooperation Programme. In January last year, we have established the Singapore-Myanmar technical cooperation programme to provide more targeted technical systems and to support Myanmar development and the reform efforts of Myanmar government.

The Union minister met the press after the forum.

MNA

Curriculum Vitae of Madam Pany Yathotou, President of National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

President of National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Madam Pany Yathotou was born on 18 February 1951 in Xienkhouang Province in Laos. She got BA in Banking in Hanoi of Vietnam in 1975.

She served as Director-General of the Foreign Currency Department of Bank of Lao PDR from 1978 to 1979, Director-General of the Economic and Planning Department of Bank of Lao PDR from 1982 to 1983, Director-General of the Investment Department of Bank of Lao PDR from 1983 to 1985, Governor of the Central Bank of Lao PDR from 1986 to 1997. She also served as Member of the National Assembly at 4th Legislature, Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and Chairwoman of the National Assembly Committee on Ethnic Affairs from 1998 to 2002. And she served as Member of the National Assembly at 5th Legislature, Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee, Permanent Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the National Assembly from 2002 to 2005.

She took responsibility as Member of National Assembly at 6th Legislature, Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and Vice-President of the National Assembly from 2006 to 22.12.2010. Madam Pany Yathotou also served as Member of the National Assembly at 6th Legislature, President of the National Assembly Standing Committee and President of the National Assembly from 23.12.2010 to 14.6.2011. She has been serving as Member of the National Assembly at 7th Legislature, President of the National Assembly Standing Committee and President of the National Assembly since 15.6.2011.

Madam Pany Yathotou is married with one daughter. Madam Pany Yathotou and Lao National Assembly delegation will pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future at the invitation of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

NATIONAL

President acknowledges...

(from page 1)

institute a system that ensures equal rights among all ethnic groups, and abides by the principles of non-disintegration of the union and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The international experiences have shown us that it can take several decades before peace building processes can be completed. The conflicts can fluctuate during times when peace is being negotiated. In spite of such condition, we must not deviate from our commitment to achieve lasting peace through dialogue.

The signing of peace agreements and handshakes by leaders alone will not guarantee the successful completion of the peace process. The general public must take part in the peace process. The civil society organizations play a crucial role in disseminating information about agreements and understandings reached among leaders. The government is now trying to create a role for the civil society in the peace process. The Myanmar Peace Center is now making all necessary preparations to work hand in hand with all relevant civil society partners in the peace process.

In dealing with conflict in the Kachin State, I would like to note that my administration has tried to find a peaceful solution since the inception of the conflict. I have called for a ceasefire with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) mainly because we want to fully implement ceasefires throughout the country. I would reiterate that the nation-wide ceasefire asked for by all ethnic groups is a measure which my administration has clearly committed to undertake since the beginning of our term. Our peace building activities will continue until genuine peace is fully instituted in our country. Up to date, we have concluded ceasefire agreements with 10 major ethnic armed groups. The KIA is the only major armed group that has yet to reach a ceasefire agreement with the government.

I also want to highlight that in spite of all the difficulties we are facing, we must take these challenges of nation-, state-, and peace-building activities simultaneously. In trying to create a fully open and democratic society, all of us, both individually and collectively, must tackle these challenges.

If we fail to tackle these challenges, a proper balance necessary for our efforts to create an open society will be lost, which in turn could have negative impact on the reform process. I will always consider civil society groups important partners and will always count on their well-informed and well-thought-out actions in the state- and nation-building process.

I will always welcome civil society organizations as important forces in the state-building process. I would like to request civil society organizations to engage in the state-building activities that take into account the real conditions in the society. My government will relax the requirements for the registration of associations and restrictions on their activities in order to enable political parties and civil society organizations to operate freely.

Similarly, in accordance with democratic principles, we have granted media freedom. I would like encourage the local media to contribute to the democratization process by functioning responsibly.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage civil society organizations to work hand in hand with the government in the areas of state-, nation- and peace-building activities by making positive contribution to the creation of national identity that is in line with the changes, political stability, economic growth and social harmony.

I also would like to invite the participants to make comments or raise questions on issues related to developments in our country.

Chairpersons, executives and representatives from the organizations gave suggestions.

In his concluding remarks, the President said that the Government would fulfill the necessary requirements of social organizations. He invited the contributions of social organizations to the government. Only then all social organizations join hands with the government for ensuring stability and peace and development of the State which the entire people inspire, will the nation achieve success soonest.

Later, the President cordially greeted those present.

MNA

C-in-C meets China's PLA deputy chief of general staff

***Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA of China Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Deputy Chief of General Staff of People's Liberation Army of China Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo at Zeyathiri Beikman here this noon.

The Commander-in-Chief said the visit would improve the friendship between the two armed forces.

The deputy chief of general staff of China's PLA said China endorsed the reconciliation efforts of Myanmar government and Tatmadaw and made clear that it would not support armed conflicts of ethnic armed groups.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the Tatmadaw halted its offensives in Kachin State since 19 January and would help the country restore stability. The Commander-in-Chief and the deputy chief of general staff of China's PLA exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

MNA

NPED issues statement on Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development issued a statement on first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum. The following is the unofficial translation of the statement:-

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw chaired first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in Nay Pyi Taw on 19-20 January, 2012. The forum was attended by Union ministers, region/state economic ministers, MPs from three legislatures, representatives from partners and 57 international organizations, high-level officials from departmental organizations, social organizations, local and foreign NGOs and representatives from private sector.

The Preisdent in his opening speech at the forum highlighted the need to deepen cooperation between Myanmar and development partners in political and economic reforms for people-centered development. He said Myanmar government would initiate reforms in line with Framework on Economic and Social Reform and called on development partners to cooperate in priority areas. He also urged the government, private organizations, civil societies and international development partners to work in cooperation thoroughly and transparently.

Development partners recognized historic significance of the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum and congratulated the President, Union ministers, deputy ministers and all the participants at the forum on their discussions and Framework on Economic and Social Reform.

Development partners and international organizations praised broad undertakings of Myanmar for development, efforts for peace, and implementation of three-stage reforms for quick promotion of democracy, especially importance of continuous efforts for development of democracy culture, the rule of law and national reconciliation based on human rights.

Development partners and international organizations overwhelmingly support Myanmar's efforts for peace-building, political settlement in ceasefire regions and the President's commitment to reach peace agreement in conflict areas.

Priorities for State-building set out in the Framework on Social and Economic Reform, National Comprehensive Development Plan and other official documents were discussed at the forum with an emphasis on the importance of poverty alleviation through agricultural development. Development partners approved major development strategies and priorities of the government including good governance and clean government, private-sector-led development and establishment of inclusive systems. Twelve separate discussions were held simultaneously and suggestions including from ministers, region/state government personnel and local authorities were made on sectoral priorities.

Officials of region/state government and local authorities took part in the discussions and made suggestions.

Development partners approved to prioritize implementation of specific sectors including achievable programmes that can be implemented quickly stated in Economic and Social Reform Framework.

They also approved to lay down strategies and coordinate them in respective sectors to be able to put them at the top of the list of priorities.

Discussions on measures for generating more incomes at home and international aid for development of Myanmar were made.

Development partners welcomed and encouraged goals of Myanmar government in financial allotments for development to be able stand on its feet at certain period.

In the budget allotment, development partners hoped that more financial assistance will go to the key sectors, especially poorly-funded sectors, for development.

They also approved that aid will be used effectively in Myanmar reform processes that will help get more international aid.

In order to formulate international aid management policies and systems for the use of international aid effectively and efficiently, Myanmar government will cooperate with development partners.

Implementation of measures to exchange opinions to be able to carry out the activities of the forum with added momentum was approved.

The forum came to an end after successfully approving the Nay Pyi Taw Accord Effective Development Cooperation.

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has embarked on a far reaching reform programme to transform Myanmar into a modern, developed and democratic nation that improves the livelihood of its people. The Government has high aspirations for people-centred development while staying focused on achievable results. If shall start modestly, but move decisively with international assistance to enlarge capacity and skill development to reduce incidence of poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is enhancing relations with the international community to access knowledge, expe-rience and resources to accelerate its development progress. If recognises its responsibility to its citizens and to its partners to achieve the most it can from this co-operation. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its development partners agree to take concrete actions to make their cooperation more effective. The Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation is a set of localised commitments that take in its foundation Myanmar's unique history, values, governance systems, and socio-economic circum-stances to create a country-specific set of clear, measurable and monitorable actions.

These commitments build on previous discussions between the Government and partners and also reflect the conclusions of the international dialogue on aid effectiveness, including the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. In particular, the Accord has been informed by deliberations at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and takes forward the principles of ownership, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and tran-sparency and accounta-bility, embodied in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The Govern-ment of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar intends that the agreement be embraced and observed by all development partners.

The Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation has been developed in collaboration between the Government and develop-ment partners in a spirits of mutual benefits and accountability. The range of country-level develop-ment effectiveness agree-ments negotiated across the Asian region and globally has informed local efforts. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar intends to move progressively in the coming years towards similar arrengements to promote broader development effec-tiveness, starting with this agreement on effective development cooperation.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar commits to:

· **Continue to deepen consultation on development priorities and plans**

- Develop systems for dialogue and knowledge sharing across all levels of government: national, state, regional and local levels
- Engage strangly with civil society in participatory approaches, including providing greater voice to women, minorities and mar-ginalised people
- Seek and consider the views of development partners

· **Focus on achieving national priorities**

- Develop a culture of democratic practices that recognises human rights and empowers citizens through participatory processes
- Strengthen the rule of law and improve access to justice and to information
- Create an enabling environment for civil society to contribute to policy formulation, budgetary processes and delivery of services at the grass roots level
- Pursue market based, inclusive growth, equi-table and sustainable development with a pro-poor focus to accelerate achievement of the MDGs, including by securing property rights.
- Accelerate peace-building, political reforms and development initiatives to promote reconciliation and national harmony in recent conflict and cease fire areas

· **Enable effective decision making**

- Build and use an evidence base for decision making, including by increasing the quality of statistics and statistical systems
- Integrate capacity enhancing objectives into all development plans and develop appropriate strategies to unleash and develop capacities
- Publish costed and prioritised national, sub-national and sector development plans with specific results frameworks, and reflect national priorities in budget allocations and public policy decisions

· **Further develop coherent and efficient aid management systems**

- Publish, review and streamline regulations for approval and imple-mentation of develop-ment cooperation
- Develop an aid information management system to help inform planning and budgeting and create one framework to monitor government and development partner aid effectiveness performance
- Create systems for regular, nationally-led dialogue with develop-ment partners at the national, sub-national and sectoral/ thematic levels

· **Strengthen public administration to enhance the transparency and effectiveness of government programs and foreign assistance**

- Support the legislative and oversight functions of the Hluttaws and new forms of public participation in policy making
- Clarify and simplify lines of authority and devolve decision making processes while strengthening cross-government linkages and the whole-of-government Coordination
- Strengthen government institutions to deliver core functions effect-ively, and establish benchmarks and feedback systems on government performance to improve efficiency and effect-iveness
- Increase the transparency of budget operations, including through the timely and reliable publication of budget information, including electronic publications
- Strengthen fiduciary management and safe-guard local resources and development coopera-tion from misuse through improvement of public procurement and im-plementation of the anti-corruption law
- Encourage domestic resource mobilization and increase reliance on national resources
- Strengthen social and environmental safe-guards and compliance with their implementation

Development partners commit to:

· **Take the unique local context in Myanmar as the starting point:**

- Collaborate with each other and local and international institutions on diagnostic studies and sectoral reviews
- Build and make greater use of national capacity to collect, interpret, share and use development data, consistently disaggre-gated by gender
- Support South-South cooperation and sharing experience from regional successes, especially within ASEAN

· **Align development assistance with national priorities**

- Align development assistance with national, sub-national and local priorities based on Myanmar ownership, as set out in the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms, the National Comprehensive Development Plan and other official planning documents
- Undertake sustained and efficient dialogue with relevant national counterparts on strategies and programmes
- Consult with civil society organizations, local communities and beneficiaries, especially women, minorities and etc

· **Participate in and be guided by country-led coordination processes**

- Take strategic direction from the conclusions of high level dialogue with the government
- Establish complemen-tary dialogue with and other partners, including the private sector
- Actively support manageable, Ministry-led, sectoral and thematic coordination mech-anisms, organized around Myanmar government structures, avoiding the creation of an excessive number of working groups

· **Use conflict-sensitive and inclusive approaches to support peace and state building**

- Build deep knowledge of conflict situations and consult widely on strategies and programs
- Move quickly but thoughtfully through established structures to provide transparent and equitable assistance in cease fire and conflict affected areas
- Strengthen the Govern-ment's capacity to perform and be accountable for its core functions in conflict-affected areas, and across the nation in managing risk from external shocks and natural disasters
- Strengthen the role of oversight institutions and organizations, including Hluttaws, statutory authorities and participatory processes to empower citizens to engage in policy making and review

· **Focus on maximizing development results for the people of Myanmar**

- Support national and sub-national strategies and programs that are pro-poor and inclusive to accelerate achievement of the MDGs
- Engage with the private sector to understand better and respond to impediments to private sector development and to improve the development impacts of private investment
- Work to build and implement one natio-nally led development results reporting system that includes and encourages joint monitoring and evadua-tion and that integrates targets for gender equality and women's empowerment
- Ensure adequate social and environmental impact assessments are undertaken and ensure compliance with the results in designing and delivering development activities

· **Work with government to strengthen institutions, build capacity, reduce transaction costs and increase aid effectivencess**

-Be fully transparent in developing, designing and delivering assistance, wherever possible through untied aid

- Provide timely and accurate programming and financial information to the Government and other partners
- Provide maximum predictability in future aid allocation for Myanmar, publishing 3-5 year indicative budgets wherever possible
- Ensure that technical cooperation is well coordinated and focused on strengthening natio-nal policies, institutions, and systems and in building local capacity, not substituting for it
- Work through country led programming approaches and wherever possible avoid a proliferation of stand-alone activities and separate project im-plementation units
- Move as quickly as possible to work within Myanmar implemen-tation systems and structures on the basis of sound, jointly-under-taken analysis, identi-fying and rectifying problems in the process
- Find common ground and, wherever possible, speak and act as one, and to that end, simplify consultation channels with Myanmar

Performance Assessment

A joint Government of the Republic of ths Union of Myanmar-Development Partner working group will be formed to prepare a performance the Republic of the Union of Myanmar framework or action plan to guide implementation of this aggrement. This framework will include a manageable number of key indicators of the standards and benchmarks that will be used to assess the extent to which its commitments are being kept. They will be reasonable, achievable and monitorable.

The Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation was presented to development partners by the Minister of National Planning and Economic Development and approved by acclamation at the First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum, Nay Pyi Taw, 20th of January 2013.

Abe speaks with Algerian PM about hostage crisis

TOKYO, 20 Jan — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he has spoken by phone with Algeria Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal, about the hostage crisis at a natural gas complex in In Amenas. The crisis ended on Saturday with a final military assault against Islamist militants who had been holed up at the plant in eastern Algeria.

Sellal told Abe that all operations to rescue the foreign hostages have ended with the remaining hostage takers surrendering. He also said that Algerian authorities are searching for those hostages who are still unaccounted for. Abe said that Japan will never forgive any act of terrorism, and condemned the hostage taking as an extremely vicious one.

He expressed regret over what he described as grave results from the incident, despite Japan's repeated requests to place top priority on protecting the hostages.

The Japanese Prime Minister added that the Algerian government should promptly provide all information it has collected to Japan and other countries affected by the crisis. Sellal said that he will cooperate fully with Japan and issue any necessary orders.

After their telephone conversation, Abe told reporters that his government has received grave news about the fate of Japanese nationals involved in the incident. Abe said that top priority should be placed on protecting human lives. He added that the Japanese government is determined to make its utmost efforts to confirm the fate of all Japanese nationals involved.

NHK

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Joint analysis of 787 flight recorder continues

TOKYO, 20 Jan — Japan's National Transport Safety Board officials are expected to continue analyzing the flight recorder of the troubled *Boeing 787 Dreamliner* jet jointly with US experts.

The All Nippon Airway's *Dreamliner* made an emergency landing at Takamatsu Airport on Wednesday after smoke was detected while flying over western Japan.

Investigators from the US National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration visited the board office in Tokyo on Saturday.

The Japanese and American officials examined the data of the flight recorder at the time of the accident. The main focus is why excessive electricity flowed into the lithium ion battery, causing it to overheat and produce smoke.

The investigators plan to continue analyzing data for electrical currents and voltages of all systems connected with the battery. This will hopefully help them indentify the cause of the problem.

The Transport Safety Board also plans to analyze the contents of brownish soot collected from an exhaust vent of the *787* to make it clear how the substance was produced.

NHK

Skiers perform on man-made Tokyo hill

Man-made snow coats a section of a ski run

TOKYO, 20 Jan — A group of professional and amateur skiers has demonstrated its skills on a giant man-made slope in central Tokyo to promote the city's bid for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The 15-metre high hill at the Roppongi Hills complex was made from about a hundred tons of artificial snow. Eleven skiers, including elementary school children, demonstrated "slopestyle" skiing which will make its debut in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, as an official event.

The spectators cheered as the skiers swished down the slope and performed difficult jumps. A man who came to the event with his child said he was amazed to see such skillful skiing in the middle of Tokyo. The event will be held again on Sunday. —*NHK*

Residents shop at a supermarket in Meishan, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 19 Jan, 2013. Retailers all around the country rushed to take many kinds of sales boosting measures to attract shoppers on the occasion of Chinese Spring Festival that falls on 10 February this year.

XINHUA

Tolls from flood in Indonesia's capital climb to 14

JAKARTA, 20 Jan — A senior official at Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) said on Saturday that fatalities recorded from massive flood in the capital city in the last few days have increased to 14 as two more bodies were discovered by rescue teams.

BNPB Spokesperson Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said one dead body was found on the bank of Ciliwung below a bridge in Kampung Melayu, South Jakarta on Friday afternoon.

"Another body was evacuated from the basement of the UOB Building in Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, early today," he added.

The three-level of basement in the office building was submerged by flood on Thursday. Works to suck out water that trapped in the basement is still underway at the moment.

The agency previously on Friday said that the flood in affecting all five municipalities in the capital city has claimed 12 lives since Tuesday.

The latest two body finding have added the tolls from the flood to 14. He said most of the fatality during the flood was caused by electrocution.

Sutopo said that the massive flood following heavy downpour in the capital city and neighboring areas affected 32 subdistricts and 102 villages in the capital city. It also forced 18,018 people seek refuge.

The Central government and Jakarta administrator had imposed alert emergency status in the capital city in order to facilitate relief aids for the refugees.

The flood had paralyzed government and business activities as more than 50 cm-high of water from flood inundated prominent roads in the capital city, disrupts the transportation.

Xinhua

Philippine Coast Guard sends ship to assist grounded US minesweeper

MANILA, 20 Jan — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has deployed its marine environmental protection vessel to Tubbataha Reef in Sulu Sea to assist the grounded American minesweeper USS Guardian, a senior Coast Guard official said on Saturday.

PCG commandant Rear Admiral Rodolfo Isorena said that BRP Corregidor, whose speed is was 10 knots per hour, has been dispatched by him since Friday. The ship is expected to arrive in the area within 36 hours. On board the BRP-Corregidor are two rescue teams from the Coast Guard Special Operations Group (CGSOG), two teams from the Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM), and a medical team, he said.

Isorena also said that the MEPCOM personnel brought equipment such as oil spill boom, skimmer and oil dispersant chemicals to prevent any oil spill incident. The *USS Guardian,* a 68-metre avenger-class mine counter-measure vessel, had made a port call in Subic Bay earlier this week. It ran aground in the area en route to Puerto Princesa on Thursday morning.

Xinhua

People clear off snow at a parking lot in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 Jan , 2013. Snowfall here relieves the air pollution but affects the local traffic in the city.

XINHUA

Six killed as a building catches fire in Pakistan's Lahore

ISLAMBARD ,20 Jan— At least six people including a police officer were killed and four others injured on Saturday night as a four-storey building caught fire in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, local media reported.

According to the reports, the fire broke out at the third floor of a four-storey building located at the Abbot Road area of Lahore. The fire was so intensive that it quickly engulfed all other storeys of the building and also affected three other buildings located around it.

Police, rescue teams and fire fighters rushed to the site and started rescue work. Rescue chief told media that they shifted six bodies and four injured people to the hospital besides rescuing 50 others who were trapped in the building.

At least 14 fire engines took part in the operation to put off the fire. According to Deputy Commissioner of Lahore Noor ul Amin, the fire erupted due to the electricity short circuit that later covered the whole building. — *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	(Pathein)	PSC
(8)	EP 1	(Kyaukkyi-Mindon)	PSC
(9)	EP 3	(Thegon-Shwegu)	PSC
(10)	EP 4	(Mayaman)	PSC
(11)	RSF 5	(Ondwe)	PSC
(12)	IOR 3	(Tetma)	PSC
(13)	IOR 4	(Pyay)	IPR
(14)	IOR 5	(Htantabin)	PSC
(15)	IOR 6	(Myanaung)	IPR
(16)	IOR 7	(Shwepyitha)	IPR
(17)	MOGE 3	(Padaukpin-Natmi)	PSC
(18)	MOGE 4	(Myintha)	PSC

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

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

4. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and/or improved petroleum recovery basis and the party(s), who desire to enter into the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and/or Improved Petroleum Recovery Contract (IPR) with the Myanma 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 Myanma 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
Myanma 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
Myanma 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 Myanma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

a. Accessories for 33/11 KV sub-power stations — 1 Lot
b. VCB (Studio Complex) for 33/11 KV sub-power station — 1 Lot
c. VCB (Radio Complex) for 33/11 KV sub-power station — 1 Lot
d. VCB (Padaukmyay) for 33/11 KV sub-power station — 1 Lot

2. Open Tenders form are available at the Myanma 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 Myanma 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
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067 79411, 79079, 79135

Algeria ends desert siege with 23 hostages dead

A checkpoint of the Algerian police is seen 10 km from the gas production plant of Tiguentourine in In Amenas, Algeria, on 19 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

ALGIERS/IN AMENAS, (Algeria), 20 Jan—Algerian troops ended a siege by Islamist militants at a gas plant in the Sahara desert where 23 hostages died, with a final assault which killed all the remaining hostage-takers. Believed to be among the 32 dead militants was their leader, Abdul Rahman al-Nigeri, a Nigerien close to al-Qaeda-linked commander Mokhtar Belmokhtar, presumed mastermind of the raid. An Algerian interior ministry statement on the death toll gave no breakdown of the number of foreigners among hostages killed since the plant was seized before dawn on Wednesday.

Details are only slowly emerging on what happened during the siege, which marked a serious escalation of unrest in northwestern Africa, where French forces are ratcheting up a war against Islamist militants in neighbouring Mali. Algeria's interior ministry said on Saturday that 107 foreign hostages and 685 Algerian hostages had survived, but did not give a detailed breakdown of those who died. "We feel a deep and growing unease ... we fear that over the next few days we will receive bad news," said Helge Lund, Chief Executive of Norway's Statoil, which ran the plant along with Britain's BP and Algeria's state oil company. "People we have spoken to describe unbelievable, horrible experiences," he said.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said he feared for the lives of five British citizens unaccounted for at the gas plant near the town of In Amenas, which was also home to expatriate workers from Japanese engineering firm JGC Corp and others. One American and one British citizen have been confirmed dead. Statoil said five of its workers, all Norwegian nationals, were still missing. Japanese and American workers are also unaccounted for.—*Reuters*

Heavy snow to affect flights in Paris airports

PARIS, 20 Jan—Upcoming cold snaps and heavy snow are expected disrupt flights in both airports of Charles-de-Gaulle and Orly on Sunday, according to the Paris airport authority ADP.

Following a wave of freezing weather, 40 percent of inbound and outbound flights at the airports in Paris are expected to be canceled, according to ADP, which advised passengers to check the revised timetable before boarding.

Motorists in Lille, northern France, do battle with heavy snowfall

French civil aviation authority DGAC also suggested airlines to reduce their flights on Sunday from 06:00 am local time (0700 GMT).

French weather agency Meteo France has put 55 departments, including the Ile-de-France (Paris and its suburb), under orange alert and decided to maintain the alert system in these areas till Sunday afternoon based on lasting snowfalls in these areas where the snow is expected to be thick as up to 20 centimetres.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

The cast of Les Miserables will perform at the Oscars, it has been reported.— **PTI**

Les Miserables cast to perform at Oscars?

London, 20 Jan — Anne Hathaway is expected to join Hugh Jackman, Amanda Seyfried and other stars from the award-winning musical, but it's unclear exactly what the performance will involve.

The Daily Mail newspaper has reported Samantha Barks — who plays Eponine — will be leaving her current stage production of Oliver! so she can be part of the show at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

The details are still being finalised in order to fit in with other performances at the Academy Awards ceremony next month (24.02.13), with a number of options being discussed. One would see the cast collaborated for a rendition of one of the musical's big numbers, One Day More or Do You Hear the People Sing.

Another idea is a medley, allowing Anne Hathaway — who stars as tragic prostitute Fantine — to sing part of the iconic I Dreamed A Dream, with other cast members performing snippets of their own big moments from the film.

The decision hangs on the Oscar creative team figuring out the timings of the show, which will also feature Adele singing the title theme from recent 'James Bond' blockbuster Skyfall. However, this could still be incorporated into Academy's tribute to 50 years of the iconic spy franchise. —*PTI*

Prince Harry named world's most eligible bachelor

Washington, 20 Jan — Prince Harry, known for his adventurous and playful lifestyle, has been named the world's most eligible bachelor by an American magazine beating the likes of George Clooney and Jack Nicholson.

Town & Country magazine has named the 28-year-old single British Royal as the world's leading eligible bachelor. "We love him because he's comfortable in his own skin and isn't too stiff or pompous to show it. His wardrobe malfunctions — and coups (how dashing does he look in his Army Air Corps blue beret?) — merely reinforce our impression of Harry as playful, adventurous, a Renaissance man. Sometimes it's good not to be king," the magazine said of the British Royal.

Harry, of course, was on a lot of people's radars last year after naked photos surfaced of a scandalous trip to Las Vegas, the CBS News reported. Harry, beat the likes of George Clooney in a 40-person list that includes a wide variety of celebrity and high-powered men of all ages. Several other royals made the cut: Prince Philippos of Greece and Denmark, Prince Carl Philip of Sweden and Prince Amedeo of Belgium. NBA star Jeremy Lin also snagged a spot on the Town & Country's most eligible bachelor list, as did NFL player Tim Tebow.

Corey Booker, mayor of Newark and actor Jack Nicholson were also on the list compiled by the lifestyle magazine. Patrick Schwarzenegger found himself on the worthy bachelor list, as did Taylor Swift's one-time beau, Conor Kennedy. The magazine describes its list as, "a highly subjective, thoroughly opinionated survey of the princes, politicians, scions, DJs, and billionaires-to-be we consider the most eligible men in the universe."

PTI

Prince Harry beat George Clooney to make it to the top of the list.— **PTI**

Mariah Carey renews feud with Nicki Minaj over eye shadow

London, 20 Jan — Mariah Carey slammed Nicki Minaj after her fellow American Idol judge rejected a contestant for wearing the same colour eye shadow. The two divas feuded on air after the Beauty and a Beat hitmaker admitted she snubbed Stephanie Schimel because she chose the same shade of eye shadow as the star.

Judges Mariah, 42, Randy Jackson, 56, and Keith Urban, 45, praised the 20-year-old hopeful for her rendition of I Dreamed A Dream, with Nicki being the only one of the quartet not to vote her through. Initially, she said: "I thought your voice is pretty, you are pretty, but nothing jumped at me. We have seen such magnetic things today and I don't think you compared to what we have seen today. "I do not think you feel like a star. You are not giving me that thing. I do not feel it." However, when Stephanie was put through the Chicago leg of the show's auditions, Nicki, 30, revealed the real reason for her snub — they were wearing the same colour pink eye shadow. She admitted: "We have a rivalry and that is why I said no." Mariah couldn't believe the rejection, and it sparked a row between the pair.

Nicki Minaj has recently claimed the rivalry has ended since the auditions were filmed.— **PTI**

She commented: "This is what I deal with, this is what I deal with when I come into my job." The singer then tried to calm Nicki down as the feud threatened to reach a boiling point. However Nicki, talking on The Ellen DeGeneres show, has recently claimed the rivalry has ended since the auditions were filmed. She said: "We're fine. I cannot hold a grudge against Mariah Carey ... I don't know if she's gotten over it but I have." — *PTI*

Marion Cotillard named 2013 Harvard University Hasty Pudding Theatricals Woman of the Year

New Delhi, 20 Jan — Marion Cotillard has been named 2013 Harvard University Hasty Pudding Theatricals Woman of the Year. The Academy Award-winning actress will be honoured with a parade and roast, and be presented with a ceremonial pudding pot, at the prestigious US institution on 31 January 2013.

Marion is following in the footsteps of the likes of Homeland star Claire Danes — who took home the accolade last year — 2010 winner Anne Hathaway and 2001 recipient Drew Barrymore in being recognised by the organisation.

The Hasty Pudding Theatricals group will announce their Man of the Year on 8 February, and honour him at a later date. Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the US' oldest undergraduate drama troupe, and annually honour performers who they believe have made a "lasting and impressive" contribution to entertainment.

The 37-year-old French beauty — who has 19-month-old son Marcel with partner Guillaume Canet — won a Best Actress Oscar in 2007 for her role in La Vie En Rose and has recently appeared in films including The Dark Knight Rises, Contagion and Inception. — *PTI*

***The Hasty Pudding Theatricals group will announce their Man of the Year on 8 February, and honour him at a later date.*— PTI**

Michael Jackson's dermatologist hints he is Prince's father

***Michael Jackson, who died in 2009, fathered Prince Michael and daughter Paris with ex-wife Debbie Rowe.* PTI**

London, 20 Jan —Michael Jackson's former dermatologist has hinted in a cryptic Facebook post that he is the biological father of the King of Pop's son Prince. Dr Arnie Klein, who has been mired in bankruptcy and financial woes in recent years, contrasted an old photo of himself with an image of the youngster on the social networking site, reported *Daily Mail*. Klein posted an old picture of himself beneath a photo of 15-year-old Prince Michael with the cryptic tag 'hmmmmm'. The photo appears to be a wry nod to conspiracy theorists who have speculated for years that Klein donated his own sperm to help the late King of Pop start a family.

Jackson, who died in 2009, fathered Prince Michael and daughter Paris with ex-wife Debbie Rowe, who previously worked as Klein's assistant at his practice in Beverly Hills. Jackson's third child Blanket was born by an anonymous surrogate in 2002.

Rowe has never spoken publicly about the identity of the biological father of the children she bore Jackson. However, Klein has previously gone on record to rule out any role in the parenting of Jackson's children.—*PTI*

SPORTS

Bayern Munich and Leverkusen march on in German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 20 Jan — Mario Mandzukic's brace ensured Bayern Munich's 2-0 win over Greuther Fuerth, Leverkusen defeated Frankfurt 3-1 and defending champion Dortmund crushed Bremen 5-0 at the 18th round of Bundesliga on Saturday. Bayern Munich maintain their nine point gap atop the Bundesliga standings following a one-sided affair against rivals and bottom team Greuther Fuerth at Allianz Arena.

From the kickoff Bayern made clear that only three points were sufficient to satisfy their standards. The German record champions let the ball do the work with a ball possession of over 80 percent to frustrate the visitors. Thus Mario Mandzukic converted Bayern's dominance into a tangible reward when he broke the deadlock with 26 minutes played. The Croatian international used Thomas Mueller's cross to slot home from penalty area.

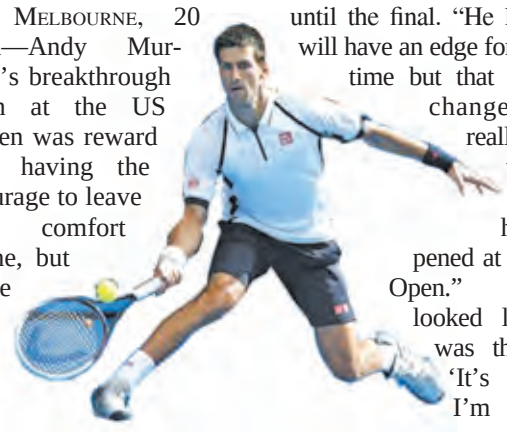
Greuther Fuerth defended deep but was unable to threat Bayern Munich's defence. After the interval the hosts sealed the deal ahead of time when Mandzukic extended his tally to 11 goals at the 61st minute. Toni Kroo's corner-cross found Mandzukic at the near post to head home for the 2-0 victory. Bayern chasers and second placed Leverkusen wrapped three points against stunner team Frankfurt following their 3-1 victory on home soil. The hosts got hold of a better start meanwhile Frankfurt needed some time to establish their strategy.

Leverkusen's Stefan Kiessling and Gonzalo Castro worked out promising opportunities but their efforts where defused by Frankfurt's goalkeeper Kevin Trapp.—*Xinhua*

Djokovic still has edge over Murray

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan—Andy Murray's breakthrough win at the US Open was reward for having the courage to leave his comfort zone, but the player he beat in the final still has the edge over the Briton, according to seven-times grand slam champion Mats Wilander. Wilander said little could be read into Murray's five-set victory over Novak Djokovic at a gusty Flushing Meadows last September, given the Serb appeared to have had a bad day in the office.

"Djokovic does have the edge," Swede Wilander told Reuters at Melbourne Park, where both 25-year-old players have reached the fourth round but cannot meet until the final. "He literally will have an edge for a long time but that can be changed."It's really hard to say what happened at the US Open." Novak looked like he was thinking, 'It's windy, I'm really not enjoying this as much as I should, I'm not playing that well, it's Monday.'

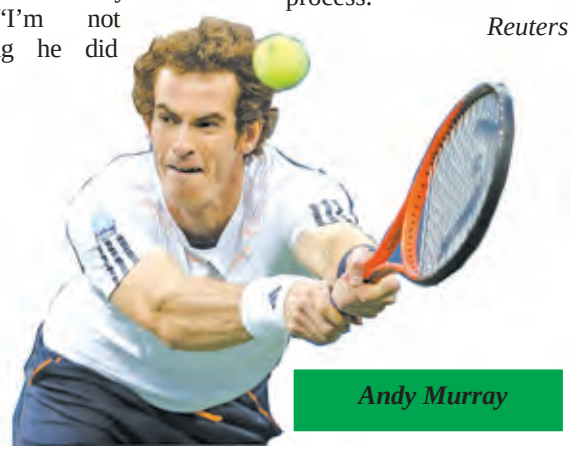


Novak Djokovic of Serbia

"I'm not saying he did this intentionally, but there are matches in your career where you can't cope with how you feel. "I don't know how big a deal that match was... I don't think this final means anything on paper except that Murray has one grand slam."Things were still looking up for Murray, however, having taken on eight-times grand slam winner Ivan Lendl as coach, the 48-year-old Swede said.

While Lendl had not necessarily secured Murray's maiden grand slam, it had certainly sped up the process.

Reuters



Andy Murray

Barca lose 3-2 in San Sebastian to prove they are human after all

MADRID, 20 Jan — FC Barcelona surrendered a 2-0 lead to crash to their first league defeat of the season 3-2 away to Real Sociedad on Saturday in the Spanish top league. Barca were two goals ahead and had missed chances to add a third, before a fine fightback from the home side ended with substitute Imanol Aguirrete scoring the winning goal in injury time. Barca were not helped by having to play the last 35 minutes with a player less after Gerard Pique was sent off for two yellow cards, and paid the price for a lack of defensive tension throughout the game.

Barcelona wasted little time in taking the lead as Leo Messi cut inside and curled home a left foot shot. It was the tenth consecutive league game in which he has scored, equaling a record set by former Barca and Real Madrid striker Ronaldo. The game was only six minutes old when Messi opened the scoring and he should have scored even earlier after wasting a chance when put clean through on goal only to drag his side wide. Five minutes later Pedro Rodriguez hit a curling shot against the Real Sociedad post with Claudio Bravo well beaten, but he was on hand to make it 2-0 midway through the half after Xavi Hernandez's pass set up Dani Alves to slide the ball across the area needing just a touch to send it into the net.

Barca lose 3-2 in San Sebastian to prove they are human after all

Messi could and should have scored a third when his chip from a bouncing through ball bounced back off the inside of the post with seven minutes left in the half and from a possible 3-0, it became 2-1 when Chori Castro was given space on the left to hit a shot across Victor Valdes. , but despite looking as if they could score at any moment, Barca were also looking vulnerable in defense.

If coach Tito Vilanova spoke to his players at half-time, however, the message didn't get home and Pique earning himself a second yellow card ten minutes after the break with a needless foul. Javier Mascherano into the game, but one of his first actions was to deflect another Castro pass past Valdes to level the score. —*Reuters*

Blackhawks spoil Kings' coronation with easy win

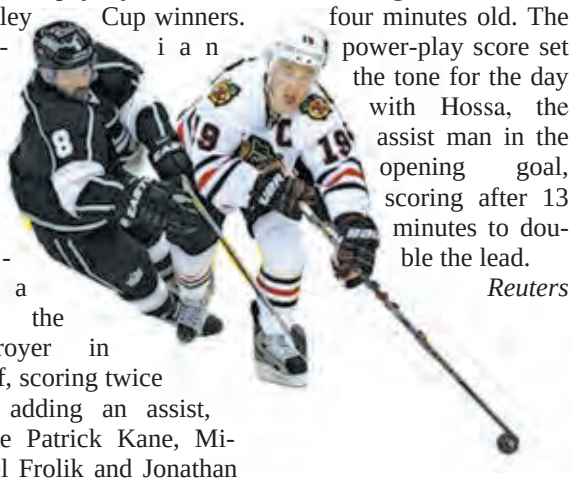
LOS ANGELES, 20 Jan — The Chicago Blackhawks spoiled the Los Angeles Kings' opening day party when the visitors eased to a 5-2 victory over the Stanley Cup champions as the strike-shortened NHL season finally got underway on Saturday.

Confronted by a hostile Staples Centre crowd already whipped into frenzy after the pre-game unveiling of the championship banner, Chicago quickly put a lid on the fervor with three unanswered goals in the opening period.

The Kings looked the rustier of the teams after the lengthy labour dispute reduced the 82-game season to 48 contests and were made to pay by the 2010 Stanley Cup winners. Marian Hossa was the destroyer in chief, scoring twice and adding an assist, while Patrick Kane, Michael Frolik and Jonathan Toews also added goals for Chicago. Rob Scuderi and Jordan Nolan replied for Los Angeles. Given the lengthy pre-game ceremony perhaps the Kings started a little flat, although they were not looking for excuses.

"You have to get used to getting knocked down and getting back up," Kings 2012 playoff MVP and goalie Jonathan Quick said. "It's a special moment for the team and fans, but everyone knew what we were here to do and try to win a hockey game and unfortunately we weren't able to do that." Kane grabbed the honor of the season's first goal when he slapped the puck home with the game less than four minutes old. The power-play score set the tone for the day with Hossa, the assist man in the opening goal, scoring after 13 minutes to double the lead.

Reuters



Chicago Blackhawks Jonathan Toews (R) fights for the puck with Los Angeles Kings Drew Doughty during the first period of their NHL hockey game in Los Angeles, California, on 19 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Vegas eager to hit PGA Tour jackpot again

LA QUINTA, (California), 20 Jan—Returning to the California desert for this week's Humana Challenge is the perfect place for Jhonattan Vegas to be as he strives to add a second PGA Tour victory to his already impressive career resume. Two years ago, the Venezuelan claimed his first title on the US circuit in only his fifth start, recovering from a faltering finish to beat Americans Bill Haas and Gary Woodland in a nerve-jangling playoff at this pro-am celebrity event.

Jhonattan Vegas of Venezuela

Lingering tendonitis in his shoulder hampered his 2012 PGA Tour campaign, making Vegas even more eager over the coming months to replicate at the very least the success he enjoyed in his rookie season."

Being here gives me a lot of confidence to just keep on going and keep looking for that second tour victory," Vegas told *Reuters* on Saturday as he reflected on the memories of his 2011 Bob Hope Classic triumph.

Reuters

GENERAL

LAMP-POSTS SUBSTITUTED: ***Skilled workers led by District/Township Electrical Engineer U Han Win Naung substitute old lamp-posts with 10-m concrete posts on 10 January as part of maintenance for 33-kv power grid and safety of electricity in Kengtung of Shan State (East).***
MYANMA ALINN

Stallings storms five ahead at Challenge

LA QUINTA, (California), 20 Jan —Scott Stallings capitalized on a pair of eagles to surge five strokes clear of the field with a sizzling display of "conservatively aggressive" golf in the third round of the Humana Challenge on Saturday.

One shot off the pace overnight, the 27-year-old American fired a nine-under-par 63 on the Nicklaus Private course at PGA West, one of three venues hosting the tournament renowned for its low scoring in the California desert.

Bidding for a third victory on the PGA Tour, Stallings eagled the par-five 13th and eighth after starting out at the 10th to take command with a 22-under total of 194 in the pro-am celebrity event.

"I feel good," Stallings told reporters after scrambling well in a round that also included five birdies. "I played well. I stayed aggressive. I've been smart when I got out of position. "I guess you can say it's conservatively aggressive. Like number eight today, I hit a really good drive and had eight iron," he said of his second eagle.

"But just because I had eight iron to a par-five, I fired it in the middle of the green, had a 20-footer and was happy to make it." Former British Open champion Stewart Cink, who has struggled for consistency over the past four years, carded a 66 on the Palmer layout to share second place with fellow American Roberto Castro (69), co-leader overnight with rookie James Hahn. Also at 17 under with Cink and Castro after another ideal day for scoring with hardly a breath of wind in the sun-drenched Coachella Valley were Americans Charles Howell III (67), John Rollins (64) and Charley Hoffman (67).

Scott Stallings of the US tees

Little-known American Brian Stuard was a further stroke back after shooting the best round of the week, a 62 on the Palmer course, putting him among a group of eight including compatriot Kevin Streelman (66) and South Korean Bae Sang-moon (64).

Twice former champion Phil Mickelson flirted with the cut for much of the day but eventually made sure he would qualify for Sunday's final round after completing a six-birdie 66 to finish at 11-under 205.—*Reuters*

Photo taken on 9 Jan, 2013 shows a flowering palm tree at Singapore Botanic Gardens. This kind of palm trees normally have a life expectancy of 30 to 80 years. It only blossom once in its life and die after producing the seeds. The palm at Singapore Botanic Gardens has been lived for 80 years and recently blossomed with about 24 million flowers.
XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-1-13 09:30 am ~ 22-1-13 09:30 am) MST

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MYANMAR TV

(21-1-2013, Monday)

:00 am
1. Paritta By Mingun Sayadaw
7:15 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song
7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song
7:50 am
4. Health Programme
8:00 am
5. Song Of National Races
8:15 am
6. Cute Little Dancers
4:00 pm
7. Martial Song
4:05 pm
8. Dance Variety
4:15 pm
9. Musical Programme
4:30 pm
10. 2013 University Entrace Examination (Chemistry)
5:00 pm
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:15 pm
12. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
5:25 pm
13. Myanmar Language
5:40 pm
16. Teleplay (Health)
6:00 pm
17. Evening News
6:15 pm
18. Weather Report
6:20 pm
19. Sing & Enjoy
6:50 pm
20. TV Drama Series
7:00 pm
21. News
7:15 pm
22. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
23. News
9:00 pm
24. Cartoon Series
26. "Road to 27 th SEA GAMES" (Liaison Officer)
10:00 pm
27. News
28. India Drama Series

"Rookie" Fisher makes Challenge cut after strong finish

LA QUINTA, (California), 20 Jan—Britain's Ross Fisher stormed home with a birdie-birdie finish to make the cut right on the number in the third round of the Humana Challenge on Saturday and was delighted to qualify for the final round on his PGA Tour 'debut'. The 32-year-old Englishman, competing in his first PGA Tour event as a full member, rolled in an 18-footer at the par-three 17th and then two-putted at the par-five 18th to complete a five-under-par 67.

"It was a good, solid day," a beaming Fisher told Reuters after mixing seven birdies with two bogeys in dazzling sunshine on the Palmer Private course at PGA West to post a 10-under total of 206 in the pro-am celebrity event. "I played good. I was three under through nine, made a sloppy bogey on 10 really but came straight back. I hit it to four feet on (the par-five) 11 but missed it for eagle so I was kind of kicking myself there. "I gave myself a lot of chances coming in. I just couldn't quite get the ball to the hole."

Fisher, who booked his place on the 2013 PGA Tour by tying for second in the tour's qualifying school at La Quinta, had to end his round on a strong note after a careless bogey at the 14th put him three strokes outside the projected cutline. "I really had to dig deep to make it," he said after going birdie-par-birdie-birdie over his last four holes.

Ross Fisher of England

"To finish birdie-birdie to make it is obviously very pleasing. "I'm just happy to make the cut in my first PGA Tour event as a member, on my PGA debut I suppose. A PGA Tour rookie at 32, as they call it. I don't know if I quite agree with that but it's nice to make the cut."

Reuters

Ferrer cruises into Australian Open quarter-finals

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan—Fourth seed David Ferrer used all of his cunning and exploited Kei Nishikori's nagging knee injury to advance to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open with a 6-2 , 6-1 , 6-4 victory on Sunday.

Japan's Nishikori, who had entered the tournament with a knee injury, needed to have his left leg re-strapped in the second set of the two hour, 10-minute match, and his normally fluid movement appeared to be slightly hampered.

David Ferrer of Spain celebrates defeating Kei Nishikori of Japan in their men's singles match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 20 Jan, 2013—REUTERS

Baseline specialist Ferrer took full advantage of the 16th seed's injury, working him around the court and waiting for the 23-year-old to make one of his 65 errors, though the Japanese number one did put up some resistance in the third set.

The Spaniard will next play the winner of the fourth round encounter between eighth-seeded Serbian Janko Tipsarevic or 10th seeded compatriot Nicolas Almagro in the quarter-finals. —*Reuters*

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The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 21 January, 2013

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets local people of Natogyi, Myingyan townships

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called on ward/village admini-strators to resolve the difficulties of people within legal framework while striving for development of own ward/village with goodwill as he met locals, townselders, departmental personnel and ward/village administrators in Natogyi and Myingyan townships yesterday.

The Speaker on his tour elaborated on functions and assistance of the Hluttaws and government to fulfill public aspirations, guarantee fundamental rights of citizens and bring about regional development.

He urged the locals to openly make known their difficulties and wishes, vowing to take prompt actions in coordination with local government and line ministries. Local people, community elders and personnel concerned openly reported on obstacles against and requirements for socio-economic improve-ment of respective townships. The Speaker coordinated essentials.

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Maung Maung Thein and U Zaw Myint Pe, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung, deputy ministers and departmental personnel accompanied the Speaker on his tour.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets locals at Myingyan Town Hall.

MNA

Forum introduces Myanmar to donor community

NLM today interviewed three more participants of the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum at MICC:

Edward Anderson, Program Manager, Myanmar of the Asia Foundation

***NLM**: As this is a forum involving a wide array of topic, which is your priority topic?*

Anderson: Actually for me, our topic is very interesting. I am particularly interested in the media environment and governance in Myanmar and all of the changes, all of the very positive changes that are underway in your country now.

***NLM:** What is your point of view on this forum?*

Anderson: I think this is a wonderful idea, this is the first opportunity, and the government in Myanmar has to introduce itself to the donor community and from the donor community changes itself the government of Myanmar. This is a very good change of idea. The atmosphere is friendly I think that the tune of discussion is very positive and constructive and I hope to see more dialogues like this in the future. I comment the government of Myanmar for taking the initiative to do this forum. Thank you.

Angsana Sihapitak, Deputy Director-General of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency

***NLM:** We would like to have some of your comments on your view on this meeting? Can you give me your comment about the meeting?*

Sihapitak: This meeting! I think that this meeting is very fruitful for all of stakeholders and partners. Because I hope that all parties come and share information and also to learn about Myanmar and also this forum is something that is an opportunity for us, you know.

NLM: Do you think that in the future we Myanmar can improve everything?

By: *Tin Maung Than and Aung Kyaw Kyaw*

Sihapitak: All of 100 percent surely because according to the potential of the people and the national reform. Now Myanmar is not alone. And ASEAN members go together hand in hand with it.

NLM: So will we be enjoying fruitful results in the future?

Sihapitak: Yeah! You can attract foreign direct investment. You can reduce the bad impact on the people. We can share our experience. So you can meet the target. That is a good sign. Thank you very much.

Barbara Manzi, Head of Office of UNOCHA Myanmar

***NLM**: I would like to have some of your comment about this forum?*

Manzi: I think this meeting is an extremely interesting and timely event that brings together the whole family of the government and the development funds. For me as the person of the organization dealing with the humanitarian aids, is extremely important field that convergence between humanitarian aids and development knowing that Myanmar is prone to disasters such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes. You have such situations in Rakhine and Kachin that

development gained. So it is extremely important that the disaster management, the early quickly look into at the terrible events. So in health, agriculture and social services this forum is making sure that we limit the impact of those terrible events. It is extremely important. I am really glad that this deal has been discussed. It has been discussed in different section. So I am looking forward to continue working between the government as my organization has done until now. We need to work together. Thank you.

Kyaw Gabar-2 Garage, Tai Kitchen Restaurant opened in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Mayor U Thein Nyunt attended the opening of Kyaw Gabar-2 Garage and Tai Kitchen Restaurant in Floral Garden at Bawgathiri Bus Terminal in Pyinmana, here, this morning.

Floral Garden is home to perennial flowery plants which are grown the length and breadth of the nation. Visitors can view various kinds of orchid species and beauty of landscaping.

Next, the Union minister inspected tarmacking of streets in Bawgathiri ward in Pyinmana and installation of lamp posts and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Korean National Assembly Speaker and wife arrive at Yangon

YANGON, 20 Jan— At the invitation of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, a goodwill delegation led by Mr. Kang Chang-hee, Speaker of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and wife arrived here by air this evening.

Speaker Mr. Kang Chang-hee and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw In-ternational Relations Committee Secretary U Ko Ko Tun, Yangon Region Hluttaw Legislation Com-mittee Chairman U Hla Tun, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae-Yong and officials.—*MNA*

***Speaker of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Mr. Kang Chang-hee being welcomed at the airport by officials.*—MNA**