

Do not hesitate to request budget for projects of “bare necessities”, says Speaker



Pyithu Hluttaw session in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The parliament will not turn down the request of budget for projects of “bare necessities”, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session.

In response to the proposal of U Aung Thaung of Taungtha Constituency on scarcity of irrigation,

drinking and utility water in arid areas, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said his ministry would join the Ministry of Border Affairs to sink artesian wells in arid zone as the A&I ministry has larger machinery which could sink up-to-1000-ft artesian wells while the latter which is responsible for greening of

arid zone has smaller-scale machinery.

U Aung Thaung said rural population in arid zone is experiencing shortage of water as the lakes and wells are not in working condition due to natural disasters and draughts.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay said 3607 water

supply projects included in national comprehensive development plan would be implemented with foreign aids.

He said 5211 water supply projects being implemented from 2011-2012 FY to 2015-2016 FY would profit the population of 2.79 million.

“The proposal could

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

- For all the national races to perpetuate the Union and to cultivate the Union Spirit
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

be made possible by respective ministries like A&I, respective region/state DAC,” U Win Oo of Yebyu Constituency said.

“It would be an effective drive for the people in arid upper Myanmar,” U Saw Hla Tun of ChaungU Constituency commented on the proposal.

U Aung Thaung opted to accept the documentation of his proposal as he found the actions of the respective ministry are “pleasing”.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (24-1-2013)

Haka	1°C
Putao	2°C
Loilem	2°C
Heho	3°C

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of continuation of rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.—MNA

Farms reclaimed in Nay Pyi Taw to go mechanized farming

Transformation to mechanized farming is a prerequisite for agricultural development. To convert conventional acre-plots to mechanized hectare-plots is one of the work programmes to implement for ensuring quick win.

The traditional farmland has such weak points as uneven size of farming plots, and no production roads which result in unnecessary

production costs. In addition, it also contributes to low quality of crops.

As mechanized farming can reduce significantly the time, it enables double- and triple-cropping patterns, increasing the incomes of farmers which means increase in national income and high GDDP index.

We visited 3000-acre advanced mechanized farm in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

recently and interviewed some personnel from Irrigation Department.

U Aung Thu Kywe Staff Officer (Civil) Irrigation

Q: How many persons previously owned the farmland on which mechanized farming is being implemented?

A: 177 owners in Area No.1, 426 in Area No.2, 239 in Area No.3 and 135 in Area No.5. But, some of them didn’t even an acre of farmland.

Q: There will be exact record of their ownership, right?

A: Yes, but only Land Records Department can say exactly. Our responsibility is just to undertake earthworks, construct intake and drainage facilities and production roads.

Q: How many workers are working here and

machinery?

A: Roughly over 500. All of them are from this village and surrounding ones. There are 18 backhoes, and three bulldozers.

U Zaw Wan, Staff Officer (Civil) Irrigation

Q: Are the original owners are pleased with the project?

A: They want it with strong eagerness. Some of the parts were left vacant in the past because they thought nothing could be grown there. Now, you can see how thrive the sunflowers are! They are quite happy as production roads also serve as inter-village roads. Even the land price has gone up.

U Lin Lin Soe, Staff Officer (Civil) Irrigation

Q: Would you please name some programmes for convenience of farmers?

Byline & Photo: Yamanya-Thway Mon

A: We have formed an organization called “Farmer’s Friend” to bridge between us and farmers. Two persons for every channel of Ngaleik Dam, and 16 in total. Their main responsibility is to inform us the difficulties and inequality in irrigation water distribution to us. We will take care if we can and report to the upper level if we can’t. If we could focus on, there will be such organizations nationwide.

Q: When did the project start?

A: 17 November, 2012.

Q: And the scheduled date for completion?

A: The schedule date is around mid-March, 2013.

Q: How many acres of farmland have been

reclaimed in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area?

A: Alyinlo-369 acres, Aungchantha-288 acres, Tegyigon-100 acres, Chaing Village- 40-acre farm and 50-acre one, Medi-110 acres, Yan Aung Myin-73 acres, Kyargu-110 acres.

As global countries are striving for food security, Myanmar is also implementing rural development and poverty alleviation scheme as a national objective. And the scheme is bound for success with concentrated and collaborative efforts of the government, businessmen and farmers.

Myanma Alinn: 18-1-2013

Trs: TTK



LOCAL NEWS



Free medical treatment given in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 24 Jan — Talks on health education was held in conjunction with the ceremony to give free medical treatment to local people at People's Hospital in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region on 19 January.

A specialists team led by Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Zin Mar Soe of Insein General

Hospital performed free health care services in cooperation with a medical team led by the head of Yangon North District Traditional Medicine Department.

They provided 690 patients with medical treatment. Patients who need to receive surgical treatment were transferred to Insein Hospital. — Kyemon

Overtaken car hurt two passengers in Bago

BAGO, 24 Jan — A Hilux carrying passengers bound for Yangon plunged

into the police islands. U Tin Win, 65, of Tamway Township suffered a head



off the road and overturned at a place between mile post Nos (39/2) and (39/3) in the area of Inndakaw Police Station in Bago Township at about 1 pm on 22 January.

The passenger car veered right off the road and turned over after crashing

injury and U Ah Than an injury to his waist in the car accident. Inndakaw Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver and conductor who fled the scene and investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

Woman dies after her motorbike hit by car

MANDALAY, 24 Jan — A motorcyclist was pronounced dead in the fatal collision between a Pajero and a motorbike on Pakokku-Mandalay motorway between East and West Auck-O villages in Yezagyo Township on 20 January.

The victim is a 50-year-old woman called Daw Mu.

She got a serious injury to her head before she was dead. The road accidents are frequent on the road that passes through between the two villages. Witnesses said the deadly crash occurred when the motorcyclist tried to cross over the road while the car was coming.

Kyemon

Saloon collides with stationary truck in Toungoo

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — A Toyota saloon at breakneck speed crashed into the a stationary twelve-wheel truck near mile post No (147/1) on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway in Mingyi Nyo ward of Toungoo at about 2 pm on

22 January.

The incident caused by reckless driving left four people on the saloon fatally injured and they were transported to 1000-bedded hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

Kyemon



New SE-ME-WE-5 Internet link to be built in late Y 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — Installation of Internet link, SE-ME-WE-5, will be carried out by the end of the year 2013. An agreement on installation of Internet link with China Unicon was reached in December 2012.

Installation of inland fiber line from Muse to

Chaungtha will be built first, aiming to contribute towards better Internet connection as the SE-ME-WE-3 is being old.

It is estimated that installation of SE-ME-WE-5 will cost US\$ 35 to 40 millions.

Kyemon

Salvage of sunken motorized boat in progress

YANGON, 24 Jan — Ngwezin Toe motorized boat loaded with goods bound for Myeik capsized and sunk in the Hline River at Bayintnaung pontoon bridge No (1) in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region at about 4.30 am on 16

January.

Various kinds of commodities on the boat had already been salvaged on that day and works have been underway to salvage the sunken motorized boat since 21 January.

Kyemon



Photo shows car piling up in which three vehicles were involved occurred near Customs Department (Head Office) on Strand road in Kyauktada Township at about 10 am on 21 January. The car crash occurred when the driver of the Van driving from Kyauktada Township to Latha Township along the road stopped with a squeal of the brakes, leading the domino effect to the two small trucks behind his car.

KYEMON

Yangon-Taungup-Thandwe passenger bus accident claims 14 lives

SITTWAY, 24 Jan — A fatal car accident happened to an express passenger bus of Aung Thitsar Yangon-Taungup-Thandwe bus line near Salu village, 20 miles from Taungup, at about 2.30 am on 23 January. Fourteen passengers were pronounced dead in the tragic road accident.

The express bus carrying 45 passengers plunged down into the valley at the downward turn of Naypu Hill after its brake failed, leaving 14 passengers including driver U Zaw Min Naing, 40, and a bus conductor dead and others wounded. Among passengers who were involved in the fatal accident, 33 with

serious injuries are being hospitalized at Taungup Hospital and the remaining injured given medical treatment at Thandwe Hospital.

Witnesses said that most of the survivors from the tragedy were fatally wounded and they were lucky to escape death although the bus plunged headlong into the deep valley.

Tatmadawmen, members of police force, the Taungup Township administrator and responsible persons of the bus line and social organization members rushed there and searched and picked up the survivors.

Kyemon

Book Fair on 26 January in Yangon

YANGON, 24 Jan — Pwint, New Tiger, Mya Nanda, Win Nyinaung, Good News, Seikku Cho Cho, Seikku Thit, Parami, Innwa, Eindwinhmu, Global Alin, Bawa Thekkatho, Einthu Shwe Ma, Sar Nadi, Saw Oo, Nagapyan, Ohn Saw, Myawady, Sein Moe Yan, Pyinnya Beikman, Family Magazine and Pitikat will be among the book shops which will be kept open at the book fair.

Popular Journal, Dynasty, Ngar Doh Sarpay, Quality Publishing House, Pyone, Yoke Pyaung, Zun

will organize a books fair and prize-giving ceremony for reading and writing skill competition in cooperation with Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association from 26 to 28 January on the ground floor of Tawwin Centre from 26 to 28 January.

Kyemon

WORLD

Clinton forcefully defends handling of Benghazi attack



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testifies on the September attack on US diplomatic sites in Benghazi, Libya during a hearing held by the House Foreign Affairs committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on 23 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday forcefully defended her handling of the September 11 attack on the US mission in the Libyan city of Benghazi and denied any effort to mislead the American people.

The attack by armed militants that killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans threatens to

stain Clinton's legacy as secretary of state and could cast a longer shadow should she decide to make a White House run in 2016.

By turns emotional and fierce, Clinton choked up at one point in six hours of congressional testimony as she spoke of comforting the Benghazi victims' families and grew angry when a Republican accused the Obama administration of misleading the country.

"With all due respect, the fact is that we had four dead Americans," Clinton said angrily as she testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, an appearance delayed more than a month because of her ill health.

"Was it because of a protest, or was it because of guys out for a walk one night who decided they'd go kill some Americans? What difference, at this point, does it make?" she said, making chopping motions with her hands for emphasis.

"It is our job to figure out what happened and do everything we can to prevent it from ever happening again."

During the morning Senate hearing and a later session in the US House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats pointed fingers at each other, with Republicans accusing Clinton's State Department of mismanagement and Democrats defending her.

Reuters

Venezuela's vice president says he's target of assassination plot

CARACAS, 24 Jan—Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro said unidentified groups had entered the country with the aim of assassinating him and the head of the National Assembly as President Hugo Chavez recovers from cancer in Cuba. Maduro provided no proof of the claim, made at a rally on Wednesday to mark the end of a dictatorship in the OPEC nation 55 years ago, but he said action would be taken shortly.

"For several weeks we've been following groups that have infiltrated the country with the aim of making attempts on the life of (Assembly head) Diosdado Cabello and my own," Maduro told a crowd of red-shirted "Chavista" supporters.

"They will not manage it against either of us... Don't be surprised by actions that are taken in coming hours and coming days. Criminals infiltrating our country can't ask for mercy."

Chavez named Maduro as his preferred successor

before he went to Cuba in early December for surgery, his fourth operation in 18 months for an undisclosed form of cancer in his pelvis that was first diagnosed in mid-2011.

Chavez has not been seen nor heard from in public since then. Venezuela's government says his condition is improving after he suffered multiple complications caused by the 11 December surgery.

Officials say he is in "good spirits" but no date has been set for his return home. Maduro said he and the Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez would travel to Havana on Wednesday to see Chavez.

Uncertainty over the 58-year-old president's fragile health has raised the specter of political instability in the deeply polarized South American country of 29 million people.—Reuters



Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro (L) and Venezuela's National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello (R) greet supporters during a rally to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the collapse of the last Venezuelan dictatorship in Caracas on 23 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

US, Africa say Mali action counters growing Islamist threat

DIABALY/SEGOU, 24 Jan—The United States and African leaders threw their full diplomatic weight on Wednesday behind a campaign to expel Islamist rebels from Mali, as French air strikes harried the al-Qaeda-allied fighters in their strongholds.

For nearly two weeks, French jets and helicopters have been hitting carefully selected targets around rebel-held Malian towns such as Gao and Timbuktu, while African troops gather for a planned ground offensive against the Islamist forces.

Last week's bloody seizure of a gas plant in neighbouring Algeria by

Islamist guerrillas opposing the French action in Mali—in which at least 37 foreign hostages were killed—heightened fears in Africa and the West that Mali's north could become a launchpad for international attacks by al-Qaeda.

After halting a surprise Islamist offensive southwards towards Mali's capital Bamako, French ground troops and Malian army soldiers backed by French armoured vehicles are securing locations recaptured from the rebels in the last few days.

At one of these, Diabaly, a town of mud-brick homes 350 km (220 miles) north of Bamako, jubilant residents

welcomed foreign reporters and showed them munitions abandoned by the fleeing Islamist fighters, including several six-foot long shells.

Voicing US backing, Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton described the internationally-backed intervention in Mali as a response to "a very serious, ongoing threat" posed by the regional affiliate of al-Qaeda and its local allies.—Reuters



A convoy of French military vehicles drive on a road outside Markala, Mali, on 22 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Syrian opposition warns of Kurdish-Arab civil war in northern region

DAMASCUS, 24 Jan—A Syrian opposition group at home has warned of a Kurdish-Arab civil war due to the raging battles between Syrian Kurds and armed rebels in northern Syria, at a time when the Human Rights Watch blamed the rebels of infringing upon minorities' properties.

The National Coordination Committees, the main opposition group inside Syria, said in a statement on Wednesday that the northeastern region of Syria has been witnessing

"painful incidents" and "dire consequences" that could eventually lead to a Kurdish-Arab civil war due to the ongoing fights to control posts and areas in that slice of Syria.

The statement came against the backdrop of the simmering violence that has engulfed the border town of Ras al-Ein in Syria's northeastern Province of Hasaka. The rebels, streaming from neighboring Turkey, have been pushing to control that strategic Kurdish-dominated town,

but fighters of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) have so far kept them from storming the town.

Scores of people have been killed due to the fights there, amid reports that the rebels are using great firepower in the area in order to push in.

Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Syria, making up around 15 percent of the country's 23-million population. Most of them are Sunni Muslims and live in a geocultural region in

northeastern Syria. They have been complaining about discrimination and harassment by the Syrian government.

In its statement Wednesday, the National Coordination Committees stressed that "there are local and foreign parties that are pushing toward this collision (between the Kurds and Arabs) to achieve the goals, ambitions and agendas that do not serve the national interest of Syria."

Xinhua

US drone kills six suspected al-Qaeda members in Yemen

SANAA, 24 Jan—At least six suspected al-Qaeda members were killed in a US drone strike in northern Yemen on Wednesday, local sources said, in an escalating campaign in which at least 20 Islamist militants have died this week. The United States never comments on strikes by its pilotless aircraft, which it has used to track down militants in Yemen for years. The Yemeni government tolerates such strikes but usually does not comment on the US role in specific incidents.

Washington has scaled up action against al-Qaeda in Yemen, where the group exploited widespread anti-government unrest in 2011 to seize swathes of territory in the southern part of the

country, before being driven out in a US-backed offensive in June last year. The sources said the drone strike targeted a vehicle travelling in rural areas near the capital Sanaa.

"The vehicle was totally destroyed and the corpses were burned beyond recognition," one source told Reuters. US drones have launched almost daily raids on suspected al-Qaeda militants in Yemen since Saturday.

Shoring up stability and security in Yemen is a priority for the United States and its Gulf Arab allies because of its location next to the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, and to shipping lanes, and because it is home to one of the most active wings of al-Qaeda.—Reuters



Women wear masks due to air pollution while sightseeing the Palace Museum in Beijing on 23 Jan, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Samsung Galaxy S IV codenamed 'Altius' to go on sale in April

MUMBAI, 24 Jan —The countdown to the Mobile World Congress (MWC) is on with just a month left to go. And over the past few days, rumours surrounding Samsung's next line of devices are beginning to churn out pretty fast. The latest one, as reported by Samsung prominent blog SamMobile indicates that the Galaxy S IV has now been codenamed "Altius" and is expected to go on sale in April.

The blog mentions that Samsung is indeed planning to "ship the Altius starting from week 16, which sim-

ply means on 15 April". It goes on to say that the Korean manufacturer is likely to announce the device at a special mobile unpacked event at MWC or maybe sometime in March in London or New York.

Furthermore, the blog claims that earlier rumours suggesting that the smartphone will support wireless charging are in fact real. The company plans to sell a separate dock and a back cover with wireless charging capabilities for the device. The wireless charging kit is expected to be made available a couple of

weeks later after the Galaxy S IV goes on sale.

This means that the successor in the Galaxy S line will have a removable back cover, just like company's current flagship device the Galaxy S III.

An earlier report mentioned that Samsung plans on using an alternate technology based on resonant magnetic coupling that is different from the electro-



magnetic induction found in the current wireless chargers.—PTI

Into deep space: second US firm takes aim at mining asteroids

CAPE CANAVERAL, 24 Jan — A team of entrepreneurs and engineers unveiled plans on Tuesday for a space mining company that would tap nearby asteroids for raw materials to fuel satellites and manufacture components in orbit.

Deep Space Industries, based in Santa Monica, California, said its inaugural mission is targeted for 2015, when it would send a small hitchhiker spacecraft called "Firefly" on a six-month expedition to survey an as-yet-identified asteroid.

The 55-pound (25-kg) satellite, about the size of a laptop computer, would be launched as a secondary payload aboard a commercial rocket carrying a communications satellite or other robotic probe.

About 1,000 small asteroids relatively close to Earth are discovered every year. Most, if not all, are believed to contain water and gases, such as methane, which can be turned into fuel, as well as metals, such as nickel, which can be used in three-dimensional printers to manufacture compo-



Officials from Deep Space Industries announce their plans for the world's first fleet of commercial asteroid-prospecting spacecraft at the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica, California, on 22 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

nents, David Gump, chief executive of Deep Space Industries, said.

Gump is a co-founder of three previous space and technology start-ups, including Astrobotic Technology, which is focused on exploration and development of lunar resources.

"There is really nothing in the business plan that Deep Space Industries is pursuing that cannot be done with technology research already accomplished in laboratories across the planet," said John Mankins, a for-

mer NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory manager who is the start-up company's chief technical officer.

"The technology may not have been used in space for the exact purposes that we propose, but the fundamental technologies are really at hand," Mankins said.

Company officials, who unveiled their plans at a press conference at the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica, California, that was also webcast, did not comment on their financial backing except to say they were

looking for investors.

Deep Space Industries is the second company to unveil plans to mine asteroids, rocky bodies of various sizes that orbit the sun. So far about 9,500 asteroids have been found in orbits that come near Earth. Small fragments of asteroids regularly pass through the planet's atmosphere, lighting up the night sky as they incinerate and occasionally surviving to become meteorites.

Last year, Planetary Resources, a Bellevue, Washington-based company backed by high-profile investors including Google executives Larry Page and Eric Schmidt and advisers like filmmaker James Cameron, announced a programme that would begin with small, low-cost telescopes to scout for potentially lucrative asteroids. Firefly, as well as a follow-on line of planned asteroid sample-return satellites called Dragonfly, would be based on miniature research spacecraft known as CubeSats that are built from commercially available, off-the-shelf electronic components.—Reuters

Yahoo snaps up social news start-up Snip.it

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Jan —Yahoo Inc said on Tuesday it has bought "social news" start-up Snip.it, the latest acquisition to be announced under Chief Executive Marissa Mayer.

Snip.it, a Pinterest-like service that allows news consumers to clip, organize and share articles, was founded in 2011 by Ramy Adeeb, previously an investor at Khosla Ventures.

In a 2012 interview, Adeeb, an Egyptian native, told Reuters he conceived his start-up idea during the recent Egyptian revolution, when he wanted to share articles about Middle East politics but found Twitter to be inadequate because most

of his interactions with his Twitter followers were related only to tech in Silicon Valley.

Terms of the deal, which was first reported by tech blog AllThingsD, were not disclosed.

A former Google executive known for her interest in Silicon Valley start-ups, Mayer took the helm at Yahoo in July and has sought to revitalize the web property by snapping up fresh talent and young companies.

In a company blog post, Snip.it said it would shut down its current service but work on bringing "social news" to Yahoo, without providing details.—Reuters



A Yahoo logo is pictured in Rolle, 30 km (19 miles) east of Geneva, on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Microsoft may invest up to \$3 billion in Dell

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan — Microsoft Corp is in discussions to invest between \$1 billion and \$3 billion of mezzanine financing in a buyout of Dell Inc, CNBC cited unidentified sources as saying on Tuesday.

Private equity outfit Silver Lake Partners is trying to finalize a bidding group to take the world's No 3 PC maker private, and has opened discussions with potential equity partners, sources familiar with the matter have said.

Dell also has formed a special committee to take a close look at any potential deal on the table, multiple sources with knowledge



of the matter told Reuters. If successful, it would be one of the largest corporate buyouts since before the global financial crisis.

Microsoft, which accelerated its foray into computer hardware in 2012 with the launch of the Surface tablet, will provide the capital in the form of mezzanine financing according to CNBC, which is a hybrid of debt and equity.

PTI

RIM sets stage for clients to run BlackBerry 10 devices

TORONTO, 24 Jan — Research In Motion has released a new system to allow its biggest customers to use its new line of BlackBerry 10 smartphones on their own networks, paving the way for the 30 January launch of the make-or-break devices.

RIM said on Wednesday that the new device management system — BlackBerry Enterprise Service 10 (BES 10)— is now available to government agencies and corporate cli-

ents. The system lets clients support both corporate-and employee-owned devices and provides a single platform to manage BlackBerry, Android and Apple's iOS-based devices.

The BlackBerry smartphones, powered by an all-new operating system, are pivotal to the future of RIM, which has ceded market share to Apple Inc's iPhone and devices powered by Google Inc's market-leading Android operating system.

RIM is now betting that its re-engineered new line of touch-screen and keyboard devices will help it win back consumers and market share.

The fate of the new smartphones could well be determined by the reception from RIM's major clients, many of whom have, so far, only stuck by RIM because of the strong security features that BlackBerry devices offer.

The new mobile device management system builds

on RIM's core strength of security, but it offers a range of innovations that allow it to cater to the latest needs of IT departments, said Peter Devenyi, RIM's senior head of enterprise software.

"We definitely anticipate that (enterprise) customers will be making the switch to BB10 rapidly," said Devenyi, describing the feedback from government agencies and the business community as remarkably positive.—Reuters



A BlackBerry device is shown in front of products displayed in a glass cabinet at the Research in Motion offices in Waterloo on 14 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Kidney tissue created from iPS cells

TOKYO, 24 Jan — Researchers in Japan say they have for the first time efficiently converted human iPS cells into ones that can grow into kidney tissue.

The success was reported by a group led by Associate Professor Kenji Osafune of Kyoto University's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application.

Osafune's team is focusing on the in vitro regeneration of kidney and other organ tissues from human induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells.

The team tried various combinations of 50 types of proteins and compounds to produce what is known as intermediate mesoderm, from which kidney cells are derived.

Those proteins and

compounds are known to induce differentiation of human iPS cells into various cells. The team says the combination of proteins Activin A and BMP-7 with specific compounds was found to be effective.

It says the combination helped differentiate iPS cells into intermediate mesoderm at a rate of about 90 percent.

The group also says it has created kidney tubular-like tissue by culturing the intermediate mesoderm with embryonic mouse kidney cells.

Osafune says the success is a first major step leading to regenerative medicine. He says research on kidney regeneration has made little progress so far because the organ has a complicated structure.—NHK

Products made by Johnson & Johnson for sale on a store shelf in Westminster, Colorado on 14 April, 2009. REUTERS



WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — Johnson & Johnson may sell or spin off its slow-growing \$2 billion-a-year diagnostics business, the company said on Tuesday when it reported quarterly earnings.

The diversified healthcare company said it may sell the Ortho Clinical

Diagnostics business — whose products include equipment for laboratory diagnostics and blood transfusion screening — or

turn it into a stand-alone company.

The decision comes as drugmakers are shedding businesses and cutting costs due to overseas price controls and pressure on payments from insurers and the government. Pfizer Inc, for instance, is spinning off

J&J mulls sale of diagnostics unit

its animal health products business, and Abbott Laboratories has split off its drugs unit.

Debbie Wang, an analyst with Morningstar, said the J&J diagnostics unit "is a slower grower, and if you're not one of the leaders, it's very difficult to compete in that area." Les Funtleyder, a fund manager at Poliwogg, said the company is wise to consider exiting this low-tech diagnostic business.

J&J should target the more high-tech, high-profit molecular diagnostics business, which entails sophisticated genetic analysis used by physicians to tailor treatment to individual patients, he said. This is becoming more of a mainstay in medical treatment, especially in cancer, where numerous gene mutations make patients vulnerable to

disease.

"If you look five years down the road, we are going to see molecular diagnostics and gene sequencing converge," Funtleyder said in an interview at the J&J analyst meeting in New York. He added that gene sequencing — a process that looks for certain genes, and gene mutations especially, that predispose a person to certain diseases — will become the main determinant of how physicians treat patients. Funtleyder said he thinks J&J should consider acquiring companies like Illumina Inc or Life Technologies Corp, both engaged in genetic analysis.

But Andy Busser, a fund manager for Symphony Capital in New York, thinks moving into molecular diagnostics may not be likely.—Reuters

Yen bounces after BOJ disappoints; Aussie slips



Japanese 10,000 yen bank notes and coins are displayed on 3 March, 2006. REUTERS

SINGAPORE/SYDNEY, 24 Jan — The yen pushed higher against the dollar on Wednesday after the Bank of Japan's monetary easing announced the previous day fell short of some expectations for faster, more aggressive action.

The BOJ, under intense political pressure to lift Japan out of recession, said on Tuesday it would double its inflation target and switch to an open-ended commitment to buying assets next year.

While the move to end years of economic stagnation was the bank's boldest action yet, it had been widely leaked to the media and fell short of

lofty market expectations for an immediate substantial stimulus boost.

"Raising the inflation target was significant but the increase in easing doesn't match the enormity of the challenge," said Gareth Berry, G10 FX strategist for UBS in Singapore.

Under the BOJ's new open-ended pledge, the size of its asset buying scheme is set to increase in 2014 at a pace that will be about a third of the increase planned in 2013 under its existing asset buying program, Berry said.

The dollar fell 0.5 percent to 88.28 yen. That came on the heels of the

dollar's 1.1 percent drop on Tuesday, its biggest one-day fall versus the yen since May.

The greenback, which hit a 2-1/2 year high of 90.25 yen on Monday, is still up about 11 percent compared to a trough hit in mid-November.

A trader for a Japanese bank in Singapore said he was bullish on the yen at the moment, looking for a further corrective bounce in the Japanese currency.

"If dollar/yen does test below 88.00 handle tonight, think 86.80 would be (the) objective," the trader said.

The euro fell 0.6 percent to 117.52 yen, pulling away from a 20-month peak of 120.73 yen reached on Friday.

Still, analysts see the yen weakening over the medium- to longer-term, based on expectations that the BOJ will remain under pressure to inject more stimulus into the economy.

Reuters

IBM's shines with fourth quarter, 2013 outlook

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — IBM, the world's largest technology services company, gave a better than expected 2013 outlook after a solid fourth quarter that analysts say has more to do with Big Blue's smooth execution than a vibrant tech spending environment.

Companies had been widely expected to hold back on IT purchases in December in part because of worries about the so-called US fiscal cliff. Automatic tax increases and spending cuts would have been triggered had Congress not made a deal to avert the cliff and could have pushed the weak US economy into recession.

But International Business Machines Corp said on Tuesday that its quarterly results beat forecasts and it plans to achieve earnings of at least \$16.70 a share for the full year, above analysts' consensus forecast of \$16.57.

disclose the locations of the store closings.

Some of the 300 stores are reaching the end of their leases and others are being closed based on overall performance, Dish spokeswoman Danielle Johnson said. The company currently has about 800 stores across the country.

Dish, the second-largest US satellite TV company, bought the failed Blockbuster LLC video rental chain in a bankruptcy auction in 2010.—Reuters

While some analysts said IBM's earnings may be a sign of an improved tech spending environment, others said the strong results were specific to IBM's business model.

"IBM is better posi-

and what IBM calls smarter planet, which aims to improve areas such as traffic, power grids and food production.

Sterne Agee analyst Shaw Wu agreed, saying the success appeared to be



A worker is pictured behind a logo at the IBM stand on the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 26 February, 2011.—REUTERS

tioned in a tough environment than most tech companies are," said Cindy Shaw, managing director at Discern.

IBM made a bold strategic move a decade ago when it bought PriceWaterhouse's consulting business and then decided to exit the PC business, betting its future was in finding solutions to business problems with the help of software and technology.

That strategy appears to have paid off.

"What IBM does better than anyone, with the exception of Accenture, is solving problems and I am not talking about taking out some costs, but really driving revenue," Shaw said.

In addition, she said, IBM was strong in "hot growth markets" such as data analytics, cloud computing, emerging markets

more specific to IBM than the industry in general. "The results show that the IBM advantage and business model — vertical integration of hardware and software — is difficult to replicate," he said. "IBM has been doing this the longest and customers are very accustomed to it. They have a much stronger offering and brand name."

As a result quarterly net income rose 10 percent to \$6.1 billion, or \$5.39 a share from \$4.71 a year earlier. Revenue dropped 1 percent to \$29.3 billion due to the sale of its retail business in the third quarter.

Analysts had expected the Armonk, New York-based company to report net income of \$5.95 billion, or \$5.25 a share, on revenue of \$29.05 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Reuters

Dish to close 300 Blockbuster stores, 3,000 jobs may be lost

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Dish Network Corp plans to close 300 Blockbuster stores in the United States in the coming weeks and could lay off as many as 3,000 employees, a move that comes days after the DVD rental firm's UK unit went into administration.

Dish is trying to shed unprofitable Blockbuster outlets as online retailers like Amazon. Com Inc and download sites like Apple Inc's iTunes eat away at Blockbuster's business

model. The potential job cuts represent about 40 percent of Blockbuster's US workforce of 7,300 people.

"We continue to see value in the Blockbuster

brand and we will continue to analyze store-level profitability and, as we have in the past, close unprofitable stores," Dish said in a statement. The company did not



The sign in the lobby of the corporate headquarters of Dish Network is seen in the Denver suburb of Englewood, Colorado on 6 April, 2011.—REUTERS

WORLD

Colombian police seize 3.8 tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 24 Jan—Colombian police on Tuesday seized more than 3.8 tons of cocaine in the northern city of Cartagena, authorities said. The drugs were found in multiple pharmaceutical containers under the cover of fake documents, said National Police chief Jose Roberto Leon.

The drugs were believed to belong to the drug ring of Los Urabenos, as the symbol with three axes was found on packages. The drugs were assumed to be delivered to Los Zetas, a drug cartel in Veracruz, Mexico. The drugs were worth more than 100 million US dollars on the black market, officials estimated.

The police now offer a reward of about 56,818 US dollars for the capture of Dairo Antonio Usuga David, alias Othniel, a leader of Los Urabenos. Leon said the Colombian police have seized about eight tons of cocaine this year.—Xinhua



A model presents a Dodge car during the Houston Auto Show in Houston, the United States, on 23 Jan, 2013. The show, which runs from 23 to 27 January, celebrated its 30th anniversary with the largest display of vehicles in its three decade history, featuring the latest vehicles from the world's top automakers in a wide variety of styles and price ranges.—XINHUA

UN humanitarian chief calls for more aid to Syrians

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Jan—The UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Valerie Amos, said on Wednesday that ordinary people are paying a terrible price for the failure of the international community to agree on steps to resolve the political crisis in Syria.

Speaking to reporters in Davos, Switzerland, Amos, who is also the UN emergency relief coordinator, said that despite the insecurity and limited access, UN agencies and humanitarian partners have reached millions of people with essential relief supplies, UN deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey said



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov holds a Press conference at the Foreign Ministry in Moscow on 23 Jan, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Austria hope to build bilateral ties at CELAC summit in Chile

VIENNA, 24 Jan—Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann will take part in the EU-CELAC (European Union — Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Summit in Chile on the weekend, where he hopes to build upon economic ties with the region.

Joining Faymann will be Austrian State Secretary for the Foreign Ministry Reinhold Lopatka, where they will take part in the main conference as well as conduct bilateral talks, primarily centred on the development of economic

relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as environmental issues.

Faymann said Wednesday European direct investments in Central and Latin America made up 43 percent of total investments in the region, that bring with it a responsibility for Europe and European companies, “both in terms of environment protection and social balance.” He added that environmental technologies and green energy would also be topics of discussion, and said Austria had many internationally-renowned in-

dustrial leaders in those fields.

Lopatka will be present in Latin America ahead of the summit, where, together with Vice-President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani, he will visit Peru, where he will seek to establish contacts. He told the Austria Press Agency that Austrian exports to Peru had risen 100 percent in recent years, and said he expected a similar figure for Chile. He also hopes to use the summit as an opportunity to conduct bilateral talks with representatives from Uruguay, Cuba, and Haiti.—Xinhua

All 13 dead in SW China coal mine blast

GUIYANG, 24 Jan—All the 13 miners trapped by a coal mine blast in southwest China's Guizhou Province were confirmed dead, rescuers said Thursday, seven days after the accident.

The last body was retrieved at 7:30 am Thursday after rescuers cleaned 381,000 cubic metres of gas and 1,400 cubic metres of coal out of the shaft at Jinjia Coal Mine, said a spokesman with the accident rescue and relief headquarters.

The accident happened

around 5:30 pm on 18 January, trapping 13 at a shaft of the coal mine in Panxian County, Liupanshui City. High density of gas in the shaft had hampered rescue before the bodies were recovered.

With annual production capacity of 1.8 million tonnes, Jinjia is a state-owned coal mine operated by the Guizhou Panjiang Clean Coal Co Ltd. An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

Xinhua



A rescuer leaves after a rescue operation at the Jinjia Coal Mine in Panxian County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 23 Jan, 2013. All the 13 miners trapped in the Jinjia Coal Mine after a coal and gas outburst were confirmed dead, rescuers said on 24 Jan, seven days after the accident.—XINHUA

Brazil's embassy in Mali to stay open

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan—Brazil's embassy in Mali, where the government forces and militants are engaged in clashes, will stay open, Foreign Ministry spokesman Tovar da Silva Nunes said on Wednesday. The state-run news agency Agencia Brasil quoted Nunes as saying that there have been no orders from the government to close the embassy, though several

countries, including Japan, have temporarily closed their embassies in Mali due to the worsening security situation in the West African country.

Mali has been split into two since April, 2012, after the al Qaeda-linked rebels seized the north. France swept to the aid of the ill-equipped Malian army on 11 January, as the rebels made a push south towards the capital Bamako. The international campaign against the Mali rebels mounted after 37 hostages including European, American and Japanese nationals were killed last week in rescue operations in an Algerian gas plant.

Al-Qaeda-linked ter-

rorists who claimed responsibility for the hostage taking in Algeria, which neighbours Mali, said they carried out the kidnapping in retaliation for the French offensive in Mali.

They also said they wanted to abduct a group of Western workers to northern Mali to hold them for ransom. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Wednesday that “We cannot permit northern Mali to become a safe haven (for rebels).” US military planes have helped to ferry French soldiers and equipment to Mali. A coalition force from the West African nations is also moving into the troubled country.

Xinhua



Houses with thatched and steeply slanting roofs, built in the style known as gassho-zukuri, are lit up for tourists in the snow-blanketed village of Shirakawa in Gifu Prefecture on 19 Jan, 2013. The area has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. KYODO NEWS

White House: Allen's NATO nomination to go ahead

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—The White House on Wednesday said it would go ahead with the NATO nomination of John Allen, currently US Commander in Afghanistan.

The announcement came after the Defence Department cleared Allen of misconduct. White House spokesman Jay Carney said during the regular press briefing that the Pentagon's “investigation of that matter is now complete and we welcome its finding. And therefore, we intend for the nomination to proceed,” urging the Senate to consider it “in a timely matter.”

Allen was suspected of having inappropriate correspondence with Tampa socialite Jill Kelley, who was involved in the scandal that prompted the resignation of former CIA Director David Petraeus.

During an investigation of Petraeus, the FBI uncovered messages between Allen and Kelley, who served as a liaison between the civilian society and US Central Command in Tampa, which was commanded by Allen during the time of the exchange. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta ordered a formal inquiry. The Pentagon's inspector general determined recently Allen had not violated military prohibitions against conduct unbecoming of an officer.

The investigation prompted the White House to place on hold Allen's nomination to become the supreme allied commander in Europe, the top military post of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Allen is scheduled to relinquish command in Afghanistan early next month.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Self-reliant supply of electricity launched in PyinOoLwin Township

PYINOOLOWIN, 24 Jan—Supply of electricity is one of the functions to develop social economic life of the rural people.

On 12 January, a self-reliant supply of electricity was launched in Ywathaya and Kayinsu villages in Hsinlan Village-tract of PyinOoLwin Township.

Chairman of the power supply committee U Ko Ko

explained the tasks of the committee.

Townselder U Bo Kay spoke words of thanks. Next, Commander of the local station Brig-Gen Aung Lin Dway pressed the button to launch supply of electricity.

The power supply facility was provided to 410 houses of the village, spending K 70.9 million.

Myanma Alinn



Cultivation of long staple cotton demonstrated

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A demonstration on cultivation of late-monsoon long-staple cotton was held on 1.5 acres of model plot in Thabyebin

Village of Zeyathiri Township on 15 January.

Officials of Industrial Crops Development Department explained

cultivation of long staple cotton through good agricultural pattern and benefits from cultivation.

MNA

India plans to build Agricultural Research Department in Myanmar

YANGON, 24 Jan—With the aim of developing agricultural tasks in Myanmar, the Agricultural Research Department is under construction in the Yezin Universities campus with the assistance of India.

India is projected to send experts to the department for conducting trainings on academic and research works to the trainees. The department will be facilitated with lab apparatuses, equipment and research materials.

On completion, the department will admit B.Ag. graduates from Yezin University of Agriculture for pursuing further studies and conducting research works. At present, about 200 students are learning at the University of Agriculture.

India is providing assistance of agricultural equipment worth US\$ 10 million for development of Myanmar's agricultural sector.

These machinery are 300 40-HP tractors, 150

110-HP paddy threshers, 228 13.5-HP power-tillers and other farming equipment.

Since 1988, India is putting its investment in

Myanmar. So far, India is standing at 13th position in the investor countries in Myanmar.

Myanma Alinn

New school buildings put into service



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Due to allotting fund by Ministry of Education in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, a ceremony to open two school buildings were held at No. 16 Basic Education High School in Kyitaung Village-tract of

Zeyathiri Township on 18 January.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Paing Soe, Nay Pyi Taw Education Officer U Myint Zaw and Zeyathiri Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun formally

opened the school buildings.

Next, the Nay Pyi Taw Council member spoke on the occasion.

The Ministry of Education funded K 90 for two school buildings.

MNA

School Family Day, prize presentation for outstanding students held in Salingyi

SALINGYI, 24 Jan—The School Family Day was held in conjunction with the prize presentation for out-standing students at Myezun Basic Education Primary School in Salingyi of Sagaing Region for 2012-2013 academic year on 18 January.

At first, Township Education Officer U Htaung Ti extended greetings.

Headmaster U Kyaw Swe explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Shield donor Daw Moe Than (retired Assistant Director) of No. 2 Basic Education Department presented prizes to



outstanding students. Township level officials awarded the students who secured prizes in the

township level contests and track and field events.

Present on the occasion were the township education officer, assistant township education officers, Headmistress Daw

Khin Soe Yi of Salingyi Basic Education High School, school heads of 10 BEPSs, parents, members of School Board Trustees and students, totalling over 350.—Hein Tazear

Plans to choose players for U-16 team

MANDALAY, 24 Jan—Myanmar Football Federation manages participation of age-wise football teams of the country in the international football

tournaments.

It is planned to constitute the U-16 football team.

For the team, tentatively selected players will be selected from the youth players from Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Shan State at first.

A sports trials for the U-16 team were held at Mandalay Football Academy on 19 and 20 January.

Myanma Alinn

Maintenance of bridges, building supervised in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win visited new wooden bridge across Mawya Creek on Zigon-Shwephala Road in Zigon Township in Thayawady District on 16 January.

He also met with local people in Kazingyi Village-tract.

During his inspection tour, the Chief Minister looked into renovation of Sanaingta suspension bridge on Zigon-Thitnapha Road, new school building of Basic Education Middle School of Thitnapha Village and maintenance of Sanaing village suspension bridge and Kantali suspension bridge.—MNA

International Recognized Pencak Silat Referee and Coach Refresher Course commences

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Myanmar is making strenuous efforts to achieve victory in the coming XXVII

SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar.

In so doing, referee and coaching courses have been conducted in respective sports events one after another.

On 18 January, the International Recognized Pencak Silat Referee and Coach Refresher Course, jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, was opened at Sports Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

“In this course, the international technical delegate from the International Pencak Silat Federation is providing

training on advancement of technical and laws. Now, the training course is a pace for enhancement of Pencak Silat sport in Myanmar in the future and securing the glitter future in the nation,” said Union Minister for Sport U Tint Hsan at the opening ceremony.

At present, five staff officers and technical officers of the Sports and Physical Education Department, five GC referees, 14 from Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, three from Ministry of Commerce, nine from Ministry of Defence and one from Ministry of Home Affairs are attending the training course.

Myanma Alinn

Buddha Pujaniya of ancient Mya Hninzi Pagoda 19-23 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The first Buddha Pujaniya of ancient Mya Hninzi Pagoda will be held in Zalaung (North) Village in Ottarathiri Township from 19 to 23 February.

In addition, the 28-Buddha-statue-conveyance ceremony will be held to Taungnyo, Lewe and Pyinmana from 21 to 23 February.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 January, 2013

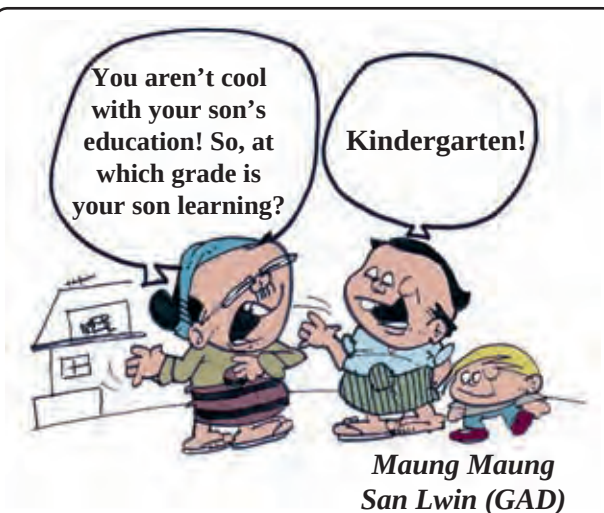
Fight against corruption an urgent priority

Today, the world is moving at a faster pace and speed, and that we all must work hard day and night to keep abreast of changes and developments. The clock has been set for prosperity. If we move in top gear, we sooner or later will surely reach the goal set by the new government, for all the people are looking forward to better quality of life through elbow grease.

Myanmar and its development partners have agreed to take concrete actions to make their cooperation more workable and effective. The new government and its people now have the chance to prove themselves in a formidably difficult role while enhancing relations with the international community to access knowledge, experience and resources to accelerate its development process. Accordingly, the administration must be getting rid of corruption and irregularities which are impediments to the emergence of good governance and clean government in order to win the trust of international community.

The fight against corruption and irregularities in the country, which is still in early stage of democracy, is both an urgent priority and a long-term project which demands perseverance and resolution. But the government with the official formation of an action committee against corruption is committed to realizing the goal of ending the unprofessional acts.

When the country is in the midst of a major push to move forward to a democratic nation, it is a high time for all of us to try our utmost to be physically strong and morally upright. And, we all are to strive to make much headway in all spheres in a spirit of mutual benefits and accountability to ensure the high aspirations for people-centred development.



Maung Maung
San Lwin (GAD)

25 people abducted by KIA in Waingmaw Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A 15-member of KIA Battalion-30 arrived near Shangaw Village in Waingmaw Township at about 2.30 pm on 22 January and abducted 16 gold miners according to the

State government. Likewise, ten members of KIA also arrived at Lwekyaw Village in Waingmaw Township at 8 pm on 23 January and took nine people—seven men and two women—away from their homes.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets committee chairs, commission members

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met committee chairs and commission members at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw complex here this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were deputy speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Speaker delivered an opening speech and

the committees and the commission elaborated on progress of works.

The meeting was brought to an end by the concluding remarks of the Speaker.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets committee chairs and commission members.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives reps of ZTE Corp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Vice-President of G&E marketing of China's ZTE Corporation

Mr Yu Shaowei at the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Hall here this noon.

The meeting focused on extension of ZTE's investments in Myanmar

and technological aids of the corporation.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee Member

U Maung Maung Soe, Hluttaw Rights Committee Member U Aung Hsan and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Myanmar-Czech trade cooperation discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a Czech delegation led by Mr. Martin Kuba, Minister for Industry and Trade of Czech Republic, at the Ministry of Commerce, here, this noon.

During the meeting,

the Union Minister said that the two countries had had good relations since many decades, but lack of trade activities. The two governments and organizations are to cooperate in promoting the trade sector, calling for sharing experience of Czech

Republic's development gained.

Czech Minister, for his side, said that forming joint committees, assuring capacity building, inviting Myanmar trainees to workshops including making investments in Myanmar are to be carried

out for further cementing relations between the two countries.

It was attended by the deputy minister for Commerce, departmental heads and Czech deputy minister for Industry and Trade, high ranking officers and entrepreneurs.—MNA

ASTA Pharma breaks into Myanmar market

YANGON, 24 Jan—ASTA Pharma, a Vietnamese medicinal company for livestock, has arranged to penetrate into Myanmar market, with a launch for distribution of its medical products next month.

ASTA Pharma which produces more than 250 medical products for treatment of different diseases that fish, cash, poultry and cattle can catch during different growth phases in their lives, will launch its sales next month through three distributors in Myanmar.

"We think that the price of the high quality medicinal products from ASTA Pharma are reasonable, lower than other medical products

in local market," a local distributor said.

Its products deal with diseases caused by bacteria, saving many animal's lives and its experiences in Vietnam's livestock industry which started 20 years ago would be helpful to many farmers' businesses, said Ngo Tan Sam, General Director of ASTA Tag Group. ASTA Pharma ranks in top five biggest companies in Vietnam that produce medicines for animals (fish, shrimp, poultry and cattle). The products are exported to many countries in the region and the world including Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, etc.

By Aye Min Soe



Regional development undertakings gaining momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The upgrading of Monywa Basic Education High School (affiliated) was held along with opening of new school building in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region on 19 January, attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye.

Well-wishers contributed K 25 million to the fund of the school and the region chief minister, personnel computer, notebooks and sports gear. The RC type two-storey school building cost K 117 million. The region chief minister met locals from

Seikpumpyang and Nara-hoe villages and presented notebooks, sports gear and publications for the villages. He then attended the opening of new school building of Sapadwin Village Basic Education Post-Primary School.

The region chief minister attended the groundbreaking ceremony of Thidagu Philanthropic Sangha Eye Hospital in Kyunhla Township on 20 January. He then met locals at Pinde Village in Kanbalu Township and also in Pintha and Chatgyi villages.

MNA

Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, Union Level Departments meet

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The work coordination meeting (2/2013) between the Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and Union Level Departments took place at the Committee Hall-17 of the Hluttaw Complex, here at 1 pm today. Chairman of the Com-

mittee U Aung Tun asked Hluttaw representatives to inform and cooperate closely with the committee to make the work process move faster.

The members from group No.7 of the committee and responsible persons from the ministries largely dealt with starred questions.—MNA

NATIONAL

59th Myanmar medical conference held

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The 59th Myanmar Medical Conference kicked off at Strand Hotel in Mawlamyine yesterday morning, attended by Union Health Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint and Chairperson of Myanmar Medical Association (central) Dr Kyaw Myint Naing.

The Union Minister speaking on the occasion called for collaborative efforts of the other ministries, social organizations and people for fruitful public health care service delivery. He also stressed the need for a special focus on reduction of mother and child mortality rate and prevention against avoidable diseases.

The Union Minister,

the state chief minister and guests looked round pharmaceuticals and medical equipment booths. The Union minister also visited Mawlamyine Nursing and Midwifery training School and construction site of extended ward at Waw Township People's Hospital in Bago Region.

MNA

Laotian delegation visits Bagan, Nay Pyi Taw



President of Lao PDR National Assembly Madam Pany Yathotou observes Lacquerware.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The visiting Laotian delegation led by President of Lao PDR National Assembly Madam Pany Yathotou visited Bagan Ancient Cultural Region yesterday.

The delegation visited Shwezigon, Bu, Ananda and Thabyinyu and Lawkananda pagodas as well as Lacquerware

Arts College and U Ba Nyin Lacquerware Manufacturing.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and wife Daw Myint Myint Thein hosted a dinner to the Laotian delegation at Aureum Palace Hotel.

The delegation visited Bagan Archaeological Museum and Thiri Zeya

Bhumi Bagan Palace this morning. The delegation then came here and visited Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Gems Museum and 500-acre educative farm in Pobbathiri Township.

They also visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and made cash donation for the pagoda.—MNA

Union Attorney-General meets UNDP Resident Representative, International law experts

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received an International law experts delegation led by UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Ashok Nigam at the office of the Attorney-General of the Union, here, yesterday.

During the meeting, Mr. Ashok Nigam said that they were there to discuss about holding a workshop on flourishing of justice by UNDP Myanmar and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union. The Attorney-General of the Union for his part said that the workshop would surely be a historic event and the

first time not only for the country but for UNDP, expressing his pleasure to meet them. Mr. Ashok Nigam said that it is the first time for UNDP to hold the workshop in the regular country programme of Myanmar, and that the organization would keep on supporting the legislative system of Myanmar.

MNA

Deputy Home Affairs Minister meets UNDP Country Director

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint received UNDP Country Director

Mr. Toyli Kurbanov and party at his office, here, this afternoon. They discussed bilateral cooperation at the meeting.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organizations to organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Myint Than Director-General Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	Director-General Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
(b) Dr Myint Thein Director-General Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	Director-General Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Sein Than	Director-General Office of the Supreme Court of the Union
(b) Dr Kyaw Zin Thant	Director-General Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Health
(c) Professor Dr Win Myat Aye	Rector University of Medicine (Magway) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health

Drugs seized in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Before the departure of Malikha Boat from Sittway to Buthidaung at 7: 30 am today, U Indačara (a) U Tun Aye Kyaw, 38, son of Maung That Shey and U Than Hlaing (a) U Maung

Lone, 37, son of U Tha Seit aboard the boat were seized along with one homemade revolver, 26 assorted ammo, one 91 MM grenade, one 9 MM magazine, one CDMA-450 mobile phone and one

package of WY stimulus tablets containing 49600 pieces.

The seized things are being kept in Sittway local police station. Actions are being taken against the drug smugglers.—MNA

KIA attacks military column, police outpost

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—50 KIA troops attacked a military column on security duty along Myitkyina-Bhamo motor road near Kantawyan village for about half an hour yesterday afternoon, according to the Ministry of Defence.

Two KIA members threw in a grenade into Mashikahtaung bridge police outpost in Phakant this afternoon, killing one police.—MNA

The map shows attacks of KIA at military column, police outpost.

Map of Phakant



Laiza-bound civilian car turned back

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Authorities turned back a civilian vehicle bound for KIA stronghold Laiza at Dotphoneyan of Kachin State this afternoon to avoid

“unnecessary losses”.

Five activists including Ko Nay Myo Zin of Myanmar Social Development Network were destined to the battling area.

Security forces reasoned with them to turn back on account of insecurity and threats of mines planted by KIA groups.—MNA



Photo taken on 23 Jan, 2013 shows the rime view in a park in Brussels, Belgium, after a heavy fog with low temperature.—XINHUA

Thousands of Venezuelans march in support of Chavez

CARACAS, 24 Jan—Thousands of supporters of Venezuela's ailing President Hugo Chavez flooded the streets of the capital Caracas on Wednesday in support of their leader, who has been hospitalized in Cuba for over a month.

Chavez's followers set out from three different locations to converge in the downtown area's 23 Jan district, in honour of Democracy Day.

The cheering supporters wore the signature red color of Venezuela's ruling

United Socialist Party and carried banners that read "We are all Chavez."

Wednesday's rally is the second of its kind this year. Chavez was reelected to another six-year term on 7 Oct, but was unable to attend his inauguration on 10 January as he is convalescing in Havana from a fourth cancer operation conducted on 11 December.

The missed inauguration was turned into a mass celebration of Chavez's government, with thousands of his supporters

streaming into the streets and leaders of friendly governments traveling to Caracas to express their solidarity. His government has decided to postpone the swearing in till his condition improves, and the decision was upheld by the Supreme Court of Justice.

Venezuela's opposition forces, however, claim the move is unconstitutional and have been campaigning to have the president of the National Assembly name an interim leader.

Xinhua

Eight Algerian soldiers injured in gas field siege

ALGIERS, 24 Jan—Eight Algerian soldiers were injured during a siege on a gas field facility in In Amenas of southern Algeria to rescue 790 workers detained by an armed group, the defence ministry said in statement on Wednesday.

The statement carried by the official APS news

agency said "eight soldiers were slightly injured according to a final figure (of the hostage rescue operation)," adding that "the majority of them have resumed service." Last week, the Algerian Special Forces stormed three days in a row a gas field facility to rescue the abducted workers, including

134 foreigners of 26 nationalities, detained by an armed group of 32 militants. The operation, which ended on Saturday, left 37 hostages and 29 militants killed and arrested three militants, while five people are still missing, according to Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal.—Xinhua

US imposes fresh sanctions on key criminal groups

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—The Obama administration on Wednesday imposed fresh sanctions on three key transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) operating in Asia and Europe.

The Department of Treasury targeted this time four members of the Camorra, one of Europe's largest criminal organizations; the Inagawa-kai, the third largest clan within the Japanese Yakuza criminal network; and an individual providing support to a key member of the Brothers' Circle, a large multi-ethnic Eurasian criminal network.

The move freezes all of their assets under US jurisdiction and bars American citizens from doing business with them.

"The individuals designated today are key members of criminal organizations who engage in serious crimes around the world," said David Cohen, under secretary of Treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence.

"Treasury will continue to target additional members and supporters of these groups, as well as other significant TCOs, as we systematically expose their criminal operations and protect the US financial system from their illicit activity," he said in a statement. President Barack Obama identified Camorra, Yakuza and Brother's Circle as TCOs in July 2011 along with Mexico's Los Zetas.—Xinhua

Indian committee submits report on stronger rape laws

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan—An Indian judges' committee on Wednesday submitted a report on how to amend criminal codes to deliver harsher punishment of rapists, after the horrifying gang rape which took place last month in the Indian capital.

The committee headed by former chief justice JS Verma, set up to suggest ways to make rape laws stronger in the country, submitted its report and hoped it would be taken up seriously in the coming parliament session.

"This is just the beginning of the change," said justice Verma, adding that the first step is to stop sexual harassment against women. The 16 December gang rape shook India after a 23-year-old woman was brutally killed by six thugs on a moving bus in south Delhi.

Many have called for death punishment for the rapists as Indian law does not give capital punishment to rapists and a majority of rape cases remain unsolved in courts.—Xinhua

5.2-magnitude quake hits Hokkaido, Japan

HONG KONG, 24 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale jolted Hokkaido of Japan at 21:34:32 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 59.50 km, was initially determined to be at 43.1448 degrees north latitude and 145.7090 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

US House passes debt ceiling extension bill

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—The US House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill to extend the debt limit through the middle of May, buying a bit more time for the overarching budget debate.

The bill, which cleared the House by a 285-144 vote, would suspend the 16.4-trillion-dollar debt ceiling until 19 May, allowing the federal government to issue debt and pay bills before that date.

The measure, initiated by the House Republicans, will temporarily defuse the default crisis, and at the

same time set a timeline for the next phase of budget wrangling.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid said the chamber would immediately move to advance the legislation to the White House, and the White House has indicated it won't block the bill. White House spokesman Jay Carney welcomed the vote of the House to approve the bill, and reiterated that the Obama administration would have preferred a longer-term extension of the debt authority to avoid continued uncertainty over this issue.—Xinhua



Swans swim on a lake in the Yellow River wetland in Pinglu County, north China's Shanxi Province, on 23 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

Israeli election star Lapid turns down possible centre-left union

JERUSALEM, 24 Jan—Israeli rising political newcomer Yair Lapid, whose party Yesh Atid has become the second largest in Israeli politics after Tuesday's elections, said on Wednesday that he would not form an obstructive bloc with the centre-left.

Lapid gave a short statement outside his Tel Aviv residence on Wednesday, in light of rumours and speculations which started to surface amid the election's results. "We're not going to build an obstructive bloc with Hanin Zoabi," Lapid said, referring

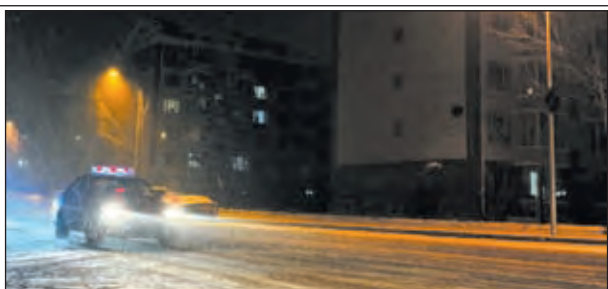
to the controversial Arab Knesset member from the Balad Party.

Lapid responded to a speech made by Labour Party leader Shelly Yachimovich, who called upon Lapid to form an obstructive bloc with the centre-left parties as the only way to remove Benjamin Netanyahu from the prime minister's position. "The results of the elections are clear and we must follow through on them," he added, referring to the shift to the centre that was shown in the results.

He also acknowledged the victory of Netanyahu,

who addressed the topics of costs of living and inequality in the Israeli society on Tuesday night in his speech after the elections, hinting at a future partnership with him. "I'm grateful to the thousands of activists and volunteers who helped us get to where we are, and we will make sure to fight for the things that are on the agenda for the middle class, like decreasing the high costs of living and fighting for an equal share of the burden in the Israeli society, which I'm glad PM Netanyahu took notice of," Lapid summed up.

Xinhua



A vehicle runs on the snow-covered street in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 23 Jan, 2013. A blue alert for cold wave has been issued by local meteorological observatory on Wednesday. Multiple places in Jilin will witness a seven to ten centigrade's temperature drop on 24 January.—XINHUA

REGIONAL



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd from L) and economic and fiscal policy minister Akira Amari (3rd from R) attend a meeting of Cabinet ministers concerned on the government's monthly economic report at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 23 Jan, 2013. Amari submitted the report, in which the government revised upward its basic assessment of the Japanese economy for January for the first time in eight months.

KYODO NEWS

Two more Japanese hostages confirmed dead in Algeria

TOKYO, 24 Jan— The Japanese government on late Wednesday confirmed that two more Japanese nationals were killed in the hostage crisis in Algeria, raising the Japanese death toll in the crisis to nine and leaving one still missing.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga released the confirmation at a Press conference, saying

the government will take every measure to find the whereabouts of the Japanese who remains unaccounted for.

The two victims, along with other seven that confirmed dead on Monday, were employees of Japan Gasoline Company (JGC), which has a total of 17 Japanese nationals working at the gas plant seized

by Islamic militants in the North African country.

The JGC confirmed earlier that seven out of the 17 people are in safe condition.

An aircraft of the Japan's Self-Defence Forces left for Algiers, the capital of Algeria, to bring the dead and the seven survivors back to home.

Xinhua

Afghan forces discover explosive-laden bus in Kabul

KABUL, 24 Jan—Security forces discovered an explosive-laden bus in Afghan capital Kabul and thus foiled possible terror attack in the war-torn city on Wednesday.

“Acting upon intelligence report, our security personnel intercepted a bus in 5th precinct of Kabul city early today morning discovering 40 bags containing 20,000 kg explosive object and thus thwarted terrorist attacks,” a security official said while showing the contraband to journalists.

Three persons have been arrested in this regard and all are Afghans, the official added.

The discovery of explosive device took place just two days after Taliban deadly attack on Kabul Traffic police where eight people including five attackers were killed and over a dozen others sustained injuries when a squad of suicide bombers stormed Kabul traffic headquarters on Monday.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 23 Jan, 2013 shows an embroidery work at China Plum Blossom Art Center in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province. The China Plum Blossom Art Center with the theme of plum blossom will be officially open to the public in February this year.—XINHUA

CPC official calls for positive role of religion in development

BEIJING, 24 Jan—A high-ranking official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has encouraged the religious circle and followers to play a positive role in China's modernization drive.

Calling them a “positive force” in promoting economic and social development, Yu Zhengsheng, a Standing Committee member of the Political

Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said efforts are needed to make religion conducive to national development and the improvement of religious adherents' material and spiritual lives.

Yu made the remarks during his visits to major national religious groups in Beijing from Monday to Wednesday.

“Among our people, it remains secondary whether

they would not attend the event.

The BASL since November launched a string of protests against the impeachment of former Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake and have steadfastly maintained that her removal was illegal and undermined the independence of judiciary.

“This is another step towards tyranny. People who should have fought the impeachment did not do so and this is the tragic result,” BASL member and lawyer Srinath Perera told reporters after the ceremony.

Media had turned out in droves for the event but only the state media were

allowed inside.

Meanwhile the United States on Wednesday expressed concern over threats and attacks against lawyers and members of civil society organizations in the aftermath of the controversial impeachment.

The US Embassy here said it is disturbed by the series of threats and attacks against legal defenders, civil society organizations and activists who have spoken out on recent events. Sri Lanka has faced a barrage of criticism from the Britain, Commonwealth and other international organizations for its removal of Bandaranayake earlier this month.

Xinhua

Drug addicts hold bank staff hostage in Cambodia for drug

PHOM PENH, 24 Jan— Two drug addicts armed with a pistol have been holding two local bank staff hostage since Tuesday evening in the bank, demanding “drug, not money”, police confirmed on Wednesday evening. The incident happened at Aclada Bank's branch in Arak Thnort commune in Stung Trang district of Kampong Cham Province, about 124 kilometers east of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

“The perpetrators are drug addicts, they are taking

the two bank staff hostage in the bank's building to demand drug,” Touch Mey, deputy police chief of Arak Thnort commune, told Xinhua over the telephone.

He said that at the start on Tuesday evening, three bank employees were taken hostage, but one managed to escape on Wednesday morning and reported to police. “The police surrounded and broken into the building, but could neither arrest the suspects nor rescue the hostages because they had led the two male hostages

into a cashier room, which is equipped with double safety locks,” he said. “We dare not to break the locks to enter the room because we are concerned that the suspects will kill the hostages.” The suspects kidnapped them for drug, not for money because the bank on Wednesday afternoon arranged about 57 million riel (14,250 US dollars) to give to the kidnappers in order to exchange for the release of the hostages, but they did not take the money, but demanded for drug instead.—Xinhua



A student is seen relaxing in the waiting hall of the Hefei Train Station in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 23 Jan, 2013. Hefei witnessed a student travel peak as winter holidays started in recent days.—XINHUA

Philippine president signs law promoting welfare of domestic workers

MANILA, 24 Jan— Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III has signed a law that promotes the welfare of household workers, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said that Aquino inked Republic Act No 10361 or “An Act Instituting Policies for the Protection and Welfare of Domestic Workers” on 18 January this year.

“The law will take effect 15 days after its publication in the print version of the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation,” she said in a text message to reporters.

The law provides the setting of a minimum wage and other benefits for some two million domestic workers in the country.

Xinhua



Yu Zhengsheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, visits Chinese Taoist Association in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

they choose to believe or not to believe in religion, or which religion they chose to believe in. The common goal of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is primary,” he said.

He also urged the religious groups to pay attention to organization building and personnel training, and to discover more positive elements in religious doctrines.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (021)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (021) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Acrobats of the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe perform in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 23 Jan, 2013. Twenty-five acrobats of the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe made their debut in Johannesburg on Wednesday night. They are here to attend the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and South Africa, and also the upcoming Chinese lunar New Year.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FU KANG SHAN VOY NO (107)

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

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

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

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(For: Domnien Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated 25 January, 2013.

Search for missing plane in Antarctica

WELLINGTON, 24 Jan—A search is under way in Antarctica for a missing plane with three Canadians on board, New Zealand rescue authorities said on Thursday.

An emergency locator beacon from a Twin Otter plane flying from the South Pole to the Italian base in Terra Nova was activated late on Wednesday in the northern end of the Queen Alexandra Range.

A search by a US National Guard Hercules failed to spot the plane, and a second flight over the area was planned, the NZ Rescue Coordination Centre said. Weather conditions in the area were said to be poor, with low cloud and strengthening winds.—Xinhua

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For Mitsubishi Electric Corporation.
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
#1508-1509, 15th Floor
Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 25 January 2013

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U Than Maung, Advocate
For OJI HOLDINGS CORPORATION,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Room 1508-1509, 15th Floor,
Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 25 January 2013



Train derails in Arkansas, US

HOUSTON, 24 Jan—At least 30 train cars derailed in Arkansas, a southern state in US, on Wednesday, but no injuries were reported, authorities said.

The accident happened near Williford, in the north-east of the state Wednesday morning, closing the main rail line between Springfield and Memphis until late Wednesday, local media reported.

Three of the cars carried hazardous chemicals, but did not leak after the derailment, according to the reports.

The cause of the accident is still being investigated.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 13 Jan, 2013 shows a view of the Huangshan Mountain, a tourist resort in Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province.—XINHUA

Somali militants threaten to kill Kenyan hostages

NAIROBI, 24 Jan—Somalian Al-Shabaab militants who kidnapped two Kenyan civil servants a year ago have threatened to kill them unless Kenya releases all prisoners held on terrorism charges.

In a statement posted on the militants' Twitter account Wednesday night, the al-Qaeda-allied group gave Kenya, which launched a military campaign in southern Somalia in October 2011 to pursue militants blamed for insecurity in the country, three weeks to release the prisoners.

"The Kenyan government must release all Muslim prisoners held on so-called terrorism charges in Kenya. The Kenyan government must secure the release of Muslims extradited to Uganda for terrorism charges," Al-Shabaab said in the message.

The insurgents have

also released a video of the two Kenyans, who were seized from the frontier county of Wajir, claiming "the video carries an important message from the prisoners, and Kenyan government is advised to pay close attention to the pleas of the POWs (prisoners of war)."

"The release of the prisoners is unconditional and must be made public," it posted on Twitter. "Kenyan government has three weeks, starting midnight 24/01/2013 to respond to the demands of HSM (Harakat Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen) if the prisoners are to remain alive," it warned.

"Following the expiration of this period, all the Kuffar Kenyan prisoners who appeared in the recent video will be executed," Al-Shabaab said.

The threats came barely a week after the militants

executed French intelligence agent Denis Alex in retaliation for a botched French operation to free him. Kenya has heightened security around the country, with security agencies at an unprecedented state of alert after recent reports Al-Shabaab planned attacks against the East African nation and foreign interests in the country.

The militant group has also come under pressure from African Union peacekeepers, which have pushed them out of the Somali capital Mogadishu and from Ethiopia.

Al-Shabaab is known in the areas under its rule and is believed to have links to al-Qaeda. The group has also blocked some international aid workers from accessing parts of Somalia suffering from drought and famine.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Dated: 17th January, 2013

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

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

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

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	PSC B2	(Zebyutaung-Nandaw)	PSC
(2)	PSC C1	(Indaw-Yenan)	PSC
(3)	PSC H	(Taungoo-Pyinmana)	PSC
(4)	PSC J	(Mawlamyine)	PSC
(5)	PSC K	(Yamethin)	PSC
(6)	PSC M	(Kyaukpyu)	PSC
(7)	PSC O	(Patheingyi)	PSC
(8)	EP 1	(Kyaukpadaung-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	(Pyaw)	IPR
(14)	IOR 5	(Htantabin)	PSC
(15)	IOR 6	(Myanaung)	IPR
(16)	IOR 7	(Shwepyithar)	IPR
(17)	MOGE 3	(Padaukpin-Natmi)	PSC
(18)	MOGE 4	(Myintha)	PSC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Violinist Vanessa-Mae rehearses for a new role — Olympic skier



Violinist Vanessa Mae is seen performing on stage during a concert in Prague in this 25 Sept, 2008 file photograph. Vanessa-Mae has put music on hold for a year and is rehearsing for a new role—skiing for Thailand at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in February 2014, she said in an interview on 19 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 24 Jan—Violinist Vanessa-Mae has put music on hold for a year and is rehearsing for a new role—skiing for Thailand at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in February 2014.

Vanessa-Mae, 34, is in training with the aim of competing in at least five internationally recognized events to qualify for the giant slalom and possibly the slalom at the Sochi Olympics.

"People are surprised when they see me skiing—a classical violinist, Oriental, who has lived in the city all her life," Vanessa-Mae told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"But it has been my dream to be a ski bum since I was 14. This is something I am determined to do."

The violinist is a British citizen but she also holds a Thai passport. She was born in Singapore to a Chinese mother and a Thai father but she was brought up in England when her mother remarried a Briton.

Vanessa-Mae, whose full name is Vanessa-Mae Vanakorn Nicholson, would be only the second

Thai to compete at a Winter Olympics if she qualified.

Academic Prawat Nagvajara represented Thailand in cross-country skiing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics.

"I wanted to compete for Thailand because there is a part of me which I have never celebrated—being Thai," said Vanessa-Mae.

"My father, like most Thais, has never skied but he's really excited about me doing this as is the Thai Olympic Committee."

Vanessa-Mae started skiing at the age of 4 but music has always been her priority. She made her international professional debut aged 10 and made her mark on the world stage when she broke from tradition and became known for her sexy, glamorous style and for mixing classical music with pop.

Her first techno pop-style album, "The Violin Player," was released in 1995 and reached No 11 in the UK albums chart and she has not stop touring since, although she has not released a new album since 2004.—Reuters



Goldie Hawn tries not interfere in Kate Hudson's life

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan—Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn try not to interfere in Kate Hudson's relationship with Matt Bellamy.

Kurt has been in a relationship with Kate's mother Goldie for 30 years and although the trio are

extremely close, Kurt says they don't offer advice unless Kate asks for it.

He explained: "We stay out of their way, obviously. But if we find ourselves talking about each other and how we feel about each other, we stand

up and we say, 'Wait this is important!' 'I'm not going to lie about something like that, and we try not to stick our nose in where it doesn't belong, but if we sense that perhaps there is something that someone wants to talk about, I think we're open enough to say a little something if it's right and appropriate.' Although he and Goldie have been together for so long, Kurt

doesn't have any tips for how Kate and Matt—who have an 18-month-old son named Bingham together—can emulate them. He added to People: "I don't know what secrets there are, and like any couple that's been together for 30 years, we've experienced many, many different angles and avenues of our relationship."

PTI

Kurt has been in a relationship with Kate's mother Goldie for 30 years and although the trio are extremely close, Kurt says they don't offer advice unless Kate asks for it.—PTI

SPORTS

S Williams down, Federer survives at Australian Open



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after scoring during his men's singles quarterfinal match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during 2013 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 23 Jan, 2013. Roger Federer won 3-2.

XINHUA

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Veterans Serena Williams and Roger Federer got tested in Wednesday's Australian Open quarterfinals. Federer passed and Serena failed. Tournament-favourite Serena Williams was eliminated by 19-year-old fellow American Sloane Stephens, which is the biggest upset of the tournament as the 29th seed rallied to overcome Williams 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 to reach her career first Grand Slam semifinals. Williams appeared to hurt her lower back while attempting to pull up short of the net during the eighth game of the second set, which forced the 15-time Grand Slam champion to call for a trainer after the ninth game.

Stephens won the

second set when Williams, serving slower than usual, was broken. Williams also had her service broken in the final game of the match. The match was billed as a showdown pitting the future of American tennis against the most accomplished player of the present generation. Stephens will play defending champion Victoria Azarenka in the semifinals. The defending champion overcame some early jitters to beat

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus celebrates after winning the women's singles quarterfinal match against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 23 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA



Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 6-1.

After dropping serve in a long fourth game which went to deuce 10 times, Azarenka recovered to dominate the rest of match against unseeded Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam winner who was floating dangerously in the draw with a No.75 ranking as she recovers from a knee injury. Azarenka broke Kuznetsova's serve in the 11th game of the one hour 17

minutes match and then held her own service in the next game to win her third set point when Kuznetsova netted a backhand. 17-time Grand Slam winner Federer marched five sets to beat seventh-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 to reach his tenth consecutive Australian Open semifinals. Tsonga unleashed a barrage of brilliant shot-making to level the match at two sets apiece. After being forced into a deciding fifth set, the 31-year-old Swiss maestro captured the decisive break at 2-1. After wasting four match points in the ninth game, the 17-time Grand Slam winner served it out three hours 34 minutes. He will play US Open champion Andy Murray in the semifinals, who advanced in straight sets earlier Wednesday over unseeded Jeremy Shardy of France.

Xinhua



Andy Murray of Britain celebrates after winning his men's singles quarterfinal match against Jeremy Chardy of France at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 23 Jan, 2013. Andy Murray won 3-0.—XINHUA

Roma beat Inter in Coppa Italia semis first leg



ROME, 24 Jan—Roma beat Inter 2-1 in the first leg of the Coppa Italia semi-final at home on Wednesday. Roma dominated the first half with Alessandro Florenzi opening the scoring at the 13th minute and Mattia Destro adding a second 20 minutes later. Rodrigo Palacio pulled one back for

Inter moments before half-time, putting Inter right back in the mix going into the second leg.

Roma head coach Zdenek Zeman was left to rue his side's wasted opportunities in the first half, claiming they could have scored more goals. "In the first half we used up a lot

of energy and ran out of steam a little. We tried to score more goals, but were unable to do it. "We have an advantage and will try to increase it in the second leg. We did everything right in the first half and it could've ended 4-0 with no complaints," he said.

His Inter counterpart Andrea Stramaccioni insisted his side's chance to reach the final is quite open despite the loss in the first leg. "We must compliment Roma, who built their victory in the first half, but the qualification is wide open and we will play everything in the 90 minutes at San Siro," he said. The two sides will play the second leg on 17 April.

Xinhua

Gaborik hat-trick spurs Rangers to victory over Bruins

NEW YORK, 24 Jan—Marian Gaborik completed his hat-trick with an overtime game-winner as the New York Rangers recorded their first victory of the season with a 4-3 triumph over the Boston Bruins on Wednesday.

Gaborik tipped in his own shot just 27 seconds into the extra session as the Rangers celebrated in front of their home crowd and avoided losing their first three games of a campaign in 14 seasons.

Prior to his winning contribution, Czech winger Gaborik had helped New York forge a 2-0 lead with a pair of goals in the first period.

After the Bruins (2-0-1) had rallied to tie the

game in the second, Taylor Pyatt restored New York's lead before Nathan Horton forced overtime with his snapshot at 15:37 in the third.

New York (1-2-0) gained a degree of revenge with the win after suffering a season-opening defeat to Boston on Saturday.

Reuters



New York Rangers right wing Marian Gaborik (L) scores the game-winning goal against Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask (C) in front of Bruins defenseman Johnny Boychuk in overtime period action during their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York on 23 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Cincinnati awarded 2015 MLB All-Star Game

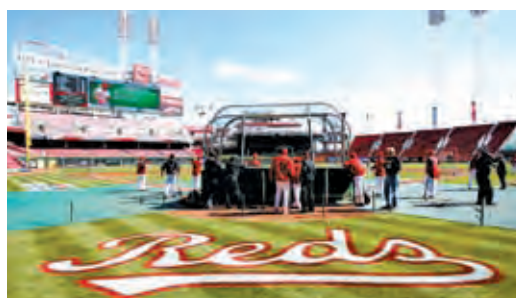
TORONTO, 24 Jan—The Cincinnati Reds have been awarded Major League Baseball's (MLB) 2015 All-Star Game, which will mark the first time in 27 years the city will enjoy the economic boost the event provides.

It will mark the fifth time Cincinnati has hosted the annual game, which pits American League and National League All-Stars against each other to determine which gets home field advantage for that season's World Series. "I am very

pleased to award the 2015 All-Star Game to the Reds and the great fans of Cincinnati," MLB Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement.

"The Midsummer Classic will be a remarkable opportunity to celebrate Cincinnati's rich baseball tradition, which parallels the history of the national pastime itself." The game promises an economic boost for the Cincinnati economy as last year's All-Star Game in Kansas City had a \$60 million economic impact.

Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park, which sits alongside the Ohio river, opened in 2003 and set its all-time attendance record when 44,599 fans attended a 2010 playoff game.



The 2013 All-Star Game will be played at the home of the New York Mets and the 2014 Midsummer Classic will be in Minneapolis, home of the Minnesota Twins.—Reuters

Cincinnati will host 2015 All-Star Game.
REUTERS

Buffon extends Juventus contract

ROME, 24 Jan—Italian international goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon extended his contract with Juventus by two years through to 2015, the Italian giants confirmed on Wednesday.

"Buffon has extended his deal with the club for two further years through to June 2015. Juve will always be home for him," said the club chairman Andrea Agnelli in a news conference.

The 34-year-old Buf-

fon joined Juve from Parma in 2001 and has spent 12 seasons in the Turin-based side. Even when Juventus were relegated to the second division following the match-fixing scandal, Buffon chose to prove his loyalty by sticking with the team and pacing Juve back to Serie A.

Juventus are topping the league table with a 5-point advantage after 21 rounds of this season.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Transportation services discussed in Myawady

MYAWADY, 24 Jan—Myawady Township Bus-line Control Committee held the coordination meeting on transportation at the hall of District General Administration Department on 16 January.

Deputy Commissioner of District GAD U Than Swe made a speech. Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Myint discussed traffic rules.



Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan reported on matters related to transportation.

Responsible persons of bus lines participated in the discussions.

Myanma Alinn

Croatia end French hopes of world title hat-trick

ZARAGOZA, (Spain), 24 Jan—France's hopes of becoming the first nation to claim a hat-trick of successive world handball titles were dashed with a 30-23 quarter-final defeat to familiar rivals Croatia on Wednesday. Hosts Spain also advanced to the last four with a 28-24 defeat of Germany, where they were joined by Denmark, 28-26 winners over Hungary, and surprise package Slovenia, who edged Russia 28-27.

Friday's semi-finals in Barcelona will see Spain take on Slovenia while Croatia lock horns with Denmark. The Croatians, who won their only world

title in 2003, led from start to finish against an aging French team, the contest decided by superb goalkeeping from Mirko Alilovic and playmaker Domagoj Duvnjak's game-leading nine goals. "All the credit must go to the players who showed a lot of heart... we dedicate this victory to everyone in Croatia who supported us," coach Slavko Goluzza told the country's national television.

"We have suffered so much against the French down the years, they are a fantastic team and some of their stalwarts, who will undoubtedly quit after this

tournament, have fully earned their international retirement. "This is a fantastic achievement and we are now looking forward to the semi-final clash with Denmark, which will be another mountain to climb and we will need to dig deep into whatever resources we have left to reach the final."

In sharp contrast to their French peers, Spain's veterans turned back the years and produced a majestic performance to beat plucky Germany after raising their intensity in the final quarter against younger, more inexperienced opposition. "It has been tough, harder than we expected but we could not let this moment pass us by with our home crowd at this venue," goalkeeper Jose Manuel Sierra, 34, told Spanish television. "Although we were two goals down at halftime, we were convinced that we could turn the game around," left-back Alberto Entrerios, 36, added.—Reuters



Croatia end French hopes of world title hat-trick.

Bolt eyes three golds at world championships

LONDON, 24 Jan—Triple London Olympic champion Usain Bolt is injury free and eyeing three gold medals at this year's world championships in Moscow in August. As part of his preparations, the Jamaican 100 and 200 meters world record holder will run the longer sprint at the Bislett Games Diamond League meeting in Oslo on 13 June.

"The aim for 2013 is the IAAF World Championships in Moscow in August. My goal is to win three gold medals and repeat my Olympic Games success," Bolt said in a news

release on Wednesday. "My preparations have been good this fall. I am injury free, working hard and everything is going according to plan. I hope to come to Bislett prepared and ready to run a great race."

Bolt won gold in the 200 meters and 4x100 relay at the 2011 worlds in Daegu but was disqualified from the 100 final for a false start. His training partner and compatriot Yohan Blake went on to take the title. Bolt gained a measure of revenge when he beat Blake to retain his Olympic 100 and 200 meters titles at the

London Olympics. He also anchored the Jamaicans to a world record of 36.84 in the 4x100 relay. The



Jamaica's double Olympic champion sprinter Usain Bolt strikes a pose while inaugurating a Puma store in Barcelona on 23 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Diamond League series of 14 meetings starts in Doha on 10 May.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-1-13 09:30 am ~ 26-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Arts 13 Myanmar (Part-2)
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Consequences of Misdeeds"
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * Pleasant Place for Pleasure
- * News
- * World War II Spitfire Planes Excavation Project
- * Healthy Dragon Fruit for Beneficial Investment
- * News
- * MeNMyTravel(Episode-1) PyinOoLwin
- * News
- * Increasing Population in Yangon City & Its Affordable Housing Project
- * Miss People Style Competition 2012
- * News
- * Talk A Lot
- * Myanmar Movies "Mischievous Destiny"

MYANMAR TV

(25-1-2013, Friday)

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| <p>7:00 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw <p>7:20 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. MFF BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 (Live) (ACE VS Linsdown) <p>8:15 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Musical Programme <p>8:20 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MFF BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 (Live) (UPT Vs Motion Pictures Asiayone) <p>9:15 am</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Morning News <p>3:50 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. MFF BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 (Live) (Yangon City Vs Royal Land) <p>4:50 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Song Of National Races | <p>4:55 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Myanmar Leaguage <p>5:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Documentary <p>5:30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. India Drama Series <p>6:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Evening News <p>6:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Weather Report <p>6:20 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Amazing World <p>7:15 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. TV Drama Series <p>8:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. News 16. Weather Pattern in January and old Season Phenomena 17. Musical Programme 18. Documentary (Myanmar Development Co. operation Forum (Part-1)) <p>10:00 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. News 20. Nostalgia to Myanmar Cultural Arts |
|---|--|

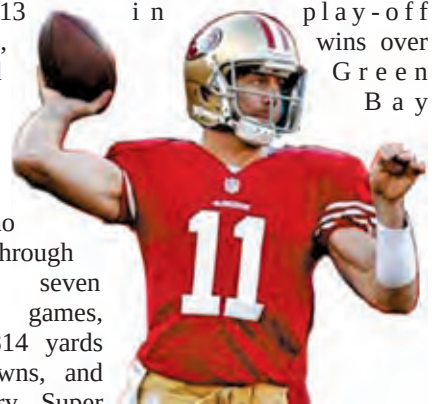
"Bittersweet" feeling for cast aside 49ers quarterback Smith

MIAMI, 24 Jan—San Francisco quarterback Alex Smith lost his starting spot to Colin Kaepernick after getting injured in week nine and while the former top draft pick is happy to be going to the Super Bowl he admits to having mixed feelings about being a back-up. Smith won plaudits last season after throwing for 3,144 yards and 17 touchdowns and leading the 49ers to the NFC Championship game where they lost to eventual Super Bowl winners the New York Giants.

After an equally strong start to the current

season, where he had thrown for 1,737 yards in nine starts with 13 touchdowns passes, Smith suffered a concussion against the St. Louis Rams. In stepped Kaepernick, who led the 49ers through the remaining seven regular season games, throwing for 1,814 yards and 10 touchdowns, and to a 3 February Super

Kaepernick's masterful performances in play-off wins over Green Bay



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Alex Smith throws the ball during the fourth quarter of their NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals in San Francisco, California on 30 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Bowl showdown with the Baltimore Ravens in New Orleans. "I would be lying if I said it wasn't a little bittersweet," Smith told the San Jose Mercury News on Wednesday.

"Yes, I want to be out there. It's what you work for coming into the season. That was the mindset, the goal for me." Despite Smith's swift return to full health, 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh decided to stick with 25-year-old Kaepernick, who impressed with his mobility, poise and arm strength. It was a controversial decision, a risky move in the eyes of many, but few would argue that Harbaugh made the right choice after

and Atlanta. Smith said injuries were part and parcel of the game and back-ups only get the chance to shine when the starter goes out. "It's the nature of sports. He got an opportunity, stepped up and made the most of it," he added. "That's the deal. That is how I get my start in college. It was no different. The guy in front of me got hurt and I got my first start."

Kaepernick has certainly taken his chance and Smith says he has shown his qualities in abundance. "No question, you see the playmaking ability on the practice field. You saw it in pre-season. The thing I'm shocked by is the consistency," he said.

Reuters

KIO/KIA urged to accept President's invitation and come to negotiation table: MPs



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint attends regular session of sixth Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—U Win Naung of Yangon Region Constituency No (5) seconded the proposal of U Khet Htein Nam from Kachin State Constituency No (1) urging the Union government to adopt firm principles which can help build mutual understanding to be able to bring about internal peace.

He called for negotiation between the leaders of two sides at the table to establish internal peace, voicing his concerns for current plight of Kachin State where schools are torn and businesses are ruined.

Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Col Aung Kyaw said all the previous peace talks between the government and KIO/KIA came to vain because of the latter's over-focus on political dialogue rather than the international practice of ceasefire first and political

dialogue second, adding that the government has been providing shelter to 32434 internally displaced persons in 11 townships and sub-townships in Kachin State. The humanitarian assistance in the form of cash and kind from the President, Kachin State government, Ministry of Border Affairs, Relief and

Resettlement Department, government departments, social organizations, Red Cross Society, and parliamentarians amounted to K6,737,476,797.

The Constitution states in its Section 339 that "The Defence Services shall lead in safeguarding the Union against all internal and external dangers." Thus, that Tatmadaw protects the people from attacks of KIO/KIA is in compliance with the Constitution, concluded Col Aung Kyaw.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (4) asked whether public transportation plans has been drawn up for development of urban transportation system and the State would take a leading part in standardizing the bus lines and developing mass transportation infrastructure. Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeya Aung replied that Yangon Region

government and Japan International Cooperation Agency have signed an agreement for that and feasibility study was initiated beginning of this month and it would be phased over 20 months. Once the findings come out, the project would be implemented depending on investment and source of finance.

He added that the State is playing a leading role in drafting public transportation plan and Public Transport Authority was formed on 7-1-2013 to make better the mass transportation system in Yangon.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Member U Son Dok Kyint read the committee report on Myanmar Citizens Investment Bill sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. The Amyotha Hluttaw session continues tomorrow.—MNA



Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Col Aung Kyaw.—MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency No 3.—MNA

South Korean National Assembly Speaker and party conclude visit



Speaker of ROK National Assembly Mr KANG Chang-Hee being seen off at the airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and officials.—MNA

YANGON, 24 Jan—The delegation led by Speaker of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Mr. KANG Chang-Hee and wife who were in Myanmar at the invitation of Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw

Thura U Shwe Mann left here by air yesterday evening.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy

Speaker U Tin Aung, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae-Yong and departmental officials.—MNA

Union Education Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye received Lead-Teacher of Pre-Collegiate Programme of Diplomatic School Dr Dorothy Guyot at his office

on 22 January morning.

The meeting focused on improvement of English language skills of students of doctorate courses at Yangon and Mandalay Universities.

He also met officials of AEON company of Japan and discussed and donation of school buildings for Basic Education Primary Schools in Myanmar.

MNA

Censorship division dissolved

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Today's cabinet meeting approved the dissolution of Press Scrutiny and Registration Division which censored the

publications in Myanmar.

The division under the Printing and Publishing Enterprise has stopped functioning since 20 August, 2012 to pave ways for freedom

of press. Copyrights and Registration Division will be formed under Information and Public Relations Department.

MNA

Economic zones to be established in Yangon

by Arkar Hein

Yangon, the commercial city of Myanmar, is being transformed into a metropolis. A new economic zone will be established in Yangon as housing projects are developing to redefine urbanization in Yangon area.

"Strategic plans will be drafted to transform Yangon into metropolis. Priority projects will be designed in details in 2014. Pilot surveys would be conducted in March and September," an official of

Yangon City Development Committee said.

Yangon City Development Committee is designing economic zones in Yangon. The designing process would be completed in coming February.

To regenerate Yangon, economic zones will be set up near Myanmar Convention Centre and Vitoria Hospital in Mayangon Township. Myainghaywun Garden at eight mile junction will be transformed into a economic

zone.

Condos, hotels, company offices and super markets will be established in the economic zones. The drafting of economic zones by YCDC with the support of Japanese aids organizations will be completed by coming February.

Myanma Alinn: 23-1-13
Trs: HKA

