

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indian President, Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2013, His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, and His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.—MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Governor-General, Prime Minister of Commonwealth of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2013, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Laotian National Assembly President

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led

by President of the National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic Madame Pany YATHOTOU at the Credentials Hall of the

Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Chairperson of

Amyotha Hluttaw Economic and Commerce Committee Daw Nann Ni Ni Aye and departmental heads.

At the call, they held comprehensive discussions on further cooperation in Mekong river security, sooner completion of Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

MNA



President of the National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic Madame Pany YATHOTOU holds talks with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives President of the National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic Madame Pany YATHOTOU.

MNA



Shangri-La resumes Yangon twin tower construction

The number of businessmen visiting Myanmar is soaring alongside with the influx of tourists to the Southeast Asian country which has opened up to the outside with the dramatic politic, economic and social reforms. The construction of a serviced apartment Shangri-La Residence, aimed at foreign residents who are doing business in Myanmar, has resumed and set to finish in 2013.

The lakeside twin tower on landmark Kandawgyi Lake is being built by Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Group on the land of 15 acres. The 21-storied building will have 240 rooms plus gymnasium, swimming pool, gourmet shop, deli shop

and playing ground.

Daw Yin Mar Nyo, Marketing and Sale Director of Yangon's Traders Hotel a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based consortium said, "Our country is one of the best places for tourism business. Now is high time for hotel industry related to tourism. Along with the boom of tourism industry,

Article: Tha Nyan (Yankin)

Shangri-La Group is flexing its muscle around the world, extending hotels and resorts. We are also extending our operation in Myanmar."

The group started the construction in 1997.

It is also running Traders Hotel and establishing

Traders Square beside the hotel in the busiest economic district of Yangon.

Shangri-La Group has 76 hotels and resorts around the globe.

Myanma Alinn; 23-1-13

Trs: HKA



Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee hands over newly-built Dhammayon

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— The consecration for Buddha Image and handing over ceremony for Dhammayon took place at the religious building here this morning. The State Ovadacariya Pyinmana Mahawithutayama Zegon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kavisara and Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt attended the ceremony.

Bhaddanta Kavisara and Sayadaws consecrated the Buddha Image. The

Union minister and congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw and donated offertories.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Oo handed over the documents on Dhammayon to Shwekyarpin ward administrator U Kyaw Aung.

The newly-built Dhammayon was constructed with K 82.5 million contributed by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The Union Minister then met locals from nine villages in Shwekyarpin ward at the Dhammayon and attended to their needs.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

National Culture and Fine Arts Universities Council meets



YANGON, 25 Jan — National Culture and Fine Arts Universities Council meeting (1/2013) was held at the meeting hall of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) on 21 January. It was attended by Chairman

of National Culture and Fine Arts Universities Council Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin and directors-general, rectors, scholars and guests.

The Union Minister

delivered an address and those present held discussions while the rectors presented 18 proposals on academic matters. The Union Minister and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA

9 mm rounds found in drain in Sangyoung Township

YANGON, 25 Jan — Fourteen rounds of ammunition were found while dredging a drain in Linn Loon (North) ward of Sangyoung Township, here, on 22 January. U Win

Myint Kyaw, a cleaner of YDCE, found 14 rounds of ammunition while dredging a drain for proper flow of water on Tharawun 2nd Street in the ward and he informed of his finding to the ward

administrator.

The cartridges belong to 9 mm pistol. The administrator handed over them to Police sub-inspector Zaw Zaw of the township Police Station.— Kyemon

Ferry bus plunges down into drain in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 25 Jan — A ferry bus of the University of Computer Studies plunged down into a drain at the corner of Nyaungdon Road and Nawaday street in ward-3 of Hlinethaya Township, here, at about 4.40 pm on 21 January.

The ferry carrying 30 students of the University of Computer Studies driven by Moe Lwin, 45, skidded out of control and plunged down into the drain. Officials of the township rushed there

and helped the victims and there were no injuries in the car accident. The driver and

the bus-conductor went away from the scene.

Kyemon



MPDA to organize book fair, literary talks on 31 January in Yangon

YANGON, 25 Jan — Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association will organize book fair and literary talks at National Theater on Myoma Kyaung Street, here, from 31 January to 3 February.

Different kinds of journals, magazines and bookshouses like Su Pyaeson, Today, Unity, Sarpay Lawka, Gangaw Wutyi, Thiha Yadana, Alinkar Wutyi, Shwe Minthamee, Thitsar Mandaing, Pyinnya Shin,

Manaw Pyu, Yan Aung, Pyae Son, Tin Shwe, Yar Pyae, Thuriya and Duwum will take part in the book fair.

Literary talks will be given daily at the National Theater where Ledwinthar Saw Chit, Dr Khin Swe Myint (Myanmarsar) and Ma Sandar will give talks on 31 January, Maung Sein Win (Padigon), Saya Ko and Than Myint Aung on 1 February, U Phone (Datu), Lin Theik Nyunt (Myanma Myay) and Ju on 2 February

Local and foreign investment basic course in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Kayah State Road Transportation Minister U Chit Hla delivered an address at the opening of local and foreign investment basic course held at the office of Union Solidarity and Development Party in Naungyar (A) ward in Loikaw on 21 January.

Next, Director Daw Khin Lay Tin of Directorate of Investment and Companies

and Chit Oo Nyo, Kyaw Win and Pe Myint on 3 January.— Kyemon

Availability of clean, safe water a key to promotion of health, lifestyle of people

YANGON, 25 Jan — Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe accompanied by region ministers, departmental officials and Chief Representative Mr. Masahiko TANAKA of JICA (Myanmar) visited Kayan Sluice Gate in Thanlyin Township of Yangon South District, here, on 22 January.

The chief minister oversaw irrigation water storage capacity of the dam supplied by Zaungtu, Kodokwe, Salu and Shwe Laung dams and measures for ensuring 30-mile radius greening of Yangon.

Next, the chief minister inspected progress of installation of machines at the power station of

Kayanchaung river water pumping project near Yone Thabye Kan Village in the township, Shwehlay sluice gate at the area bordering Kayan Township and Kawa Township of Bago Region, construction of Kayan-Maungma road, Maungma-Shwe Hlay road and Oakpo bridge and Ye Mon bridge.

In the afternoon, the chief minister attended the Symposium for the Applied Research Study on Arsenic in Drinking Water, Myanmar, jointly-organized by Water Resources Utilization Department and Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), at Art Hall of Yangon University and spoke on the occasion.

He called on departmental officials, responsible persons of INGOs and NGOs and experts to seek effective ways and means for giving health education to rural people who are enjoying contaminated water as drinking water, saying that availability of safe and clean water is a key to promotion of health and lifestyle of the people. Then, a paper-reading session followed. Prof. Dr Myo Thwe and writer Theikpan Hmu Tin extended greetings and Director-General U Kyi Htut Win of the department explained study on drinking water contaminated with arsenic before the session.

MNA

Cash and sports gear for Myanmar Track and Field

YANGON, 25 Jan — A ceremony to present cash and kind by Htoo Foundation and AGD Bank for Myanmar Track and Field sports to achieve success in the 2013 XXVII SEA Games which will be held in Myanmar was held at YUSC in Hline Township, here, on 21 January.

Executive Director Daw Yamin Lwin of Htoo Foundation presented K 100 million to the federation through MTF Vice-President U San Tun.

Next, Deputy Managing Director U Thet Lwin Shwe of AGD Bank presented sports gear for instructors and athletes through U Tun Myint and an athlete.— Kyemon



Photo shows an undisciplined vehicle on the wrong side of the road after overtaking other car at the traffic light near Insein Garden in Insein Township of Yangon North District on 22 January morning.— KYEMON

Drunken man hit by train

YEDASHE, 25 Jan — A man lost his leg in the train accident while crossing over the railroad at a place between mile post Nos (191/12) and 191/13) in ward-1 of Swa in Yedashe Township at about 11.15 am on 20 January.

U Thein Aung, 47, drunken road user, was

knocked down by a cargo train entering the station at low speed driven by U Aung Kyaw Soe of Toungoo while he was crossing over the railroad. The man lost his right leg and suffered injuries to his left leg and left arm in the train accident. He was rushed to Swa Station Hospital.— Kyemon



Photo shows an overturned Hilux on Bago-Yangon motorway near 10th-Mile in the area of Indakaw Police Station in Bago. The Bago-Nyaunglebin-Yangon passenger car driven by Po Htaung skidded out of control and overturned on 22 January.— KYEMON

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WORLD

Afghan bombing helped shape Panetta's views on women in war



US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta speaks about a suicide bombing near a NATO base, during a joint news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the Presidential Palace in Kabul on 13 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—Three years before he lifted the US military's ban on females in front-line combat, Leon Panetta grew acutely aware that women in senior positions were already risking—and losing—their lives when a would-be informant blew himself up at a CIA base in Afghanistan.

Panetta was CIA director at the time of the December 2009 attack in Khost, Afghanistan, and two women — including one who headed the CIA base — were among the seven Americans killed.

A senior aide cited it among the experiences that helped shaped Panetta's thinking about women in

war even before he took over the Pentagon in 2011, and inherited the difficult job of writing condolence notes to the families of fallen troops—men and women.

More than 150 women have died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001, and nearly 1,000 have been wounded.

"Every time I visited the war zone ... I've been impressed with the fact that everyone — everyone, men and women alike — everyone is committed to doing the job," Panetta told reporters on Thursday.

Panetta took an important step toward making more opportunities available to women last year, with an initial move to open around 14,000 additional jobs to women but leaving more than 230,000 off-limits. At the time, the aide recalled

Panetta being unsatisfied, asking privately "why can't we do more?"

Panetta on Thursday credited the military's top brass for putting forward the proposal this month to lift the ban on women in front-line combat roles. An OK from the generals and admirals was crucial buy-in that would be necessary for the proposal to work. The integration will be gradual, through 2016, and it's unclear which roles may remain off-limits.

Panetta said he also regularly spoke with President Barack Obama on his efforts to provide more opportunities to women.

A senior administration official said Obama had privately encouraged Panetta to take the step but had stayed out of internal Pentagon deliberations.

Reuters

Senate changes its rules to ease gridlock

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—The Democratic-led US Senate changed its rules on Thursday in a bid to ease partisan gridlock blamed for turning the chamber into a legislative graveyard.

Senators approved the changes on bipartisan votes of 78-16 and 86-9. The changes fell far short, however, of what many Democratic reformers wanted. They preserved the right of minority Republicans to block votes on legislation with procedural roadblocks known as filibusters.

But the revisions drew praise from President Barack Obama, who said in a statement, "Too often over the past four years, a single senator or a handful of senators has been able to unilaterally block or delay bipartisan legislation for the sole purpose of making a

political point.

Sixty votes will still be needed in the 100-member chamber to end a filibuster—despite calls by some Democrats to reduce the figure to as few as 51.

In exchange, Republicans will no longer be able to stop senators from beginning consideration of a bill—provided both sides are given votes on at least two amendments.

Rule changes would also expedite consideration of low-level presidential nominations, reduce debate time before some votes and require filibustering senators to make objections known.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, drafted the rule changes after weeks of negotiations.—Reuters

Europe urges citizens to leave Libya's Benghazi

TRIPOLI/LONDON, 25 Jan—European countries urged their nationals to leave the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Thursday, with Britain citing a "specific and imminent" threat to Westerners days after a deadly attack by militants in neighbouring Algeria. Officials declined to give details, but Britain has warned of a growing militant

threat in North Africa, which Prime Minister David Cameron has called a "magnet for jihadists".

The call to leave Libya's second largest city irked Libyans keen to win foreign investment to rebuild a fractured infrastructure and boost the oil industry after the revolution which toppled Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

"We are now aware of a

specific and imminent threat to Westerners in Benghazi, and urge any British nationals who remain there against our advice to leave immediately," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Similar warnings came from Germany and the Netherlands. They followed the deaths of at least 38 hostages in an attack on Algeria's In Amenas gas complex near the Libyan border, and the start of French military operations in Mali. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle described the situation in Benghazi, cradle of the uprising against Gaddafi, as "serious and delicate".

"The warning was made because of a series of bits of information. We have our reasons, but I would not like to speak of details. Security is the most important thing," he told reporters during a visit to Lisbon.—Reuters



Passengers wait to board a plane at Benghazi's Benina international airport after warnings from European countries urging their nationals to leave the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on 24 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Italy's Monti steps into Monte Paschi scandal



Outgoing Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti addresses the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on 23 January, 2013.—REUTERS

MILAN, 25 Jan—Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti weighed in on the scandal surrounding Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena on Thursday, rejecting suggestions that the authorities had failed to spot large trading losses threatening the bank.

Already in need of a 3.9 billion euro bailout, Monte dei Paschi this week revealed loss-making derivatives

trades that could cost it as much as 720 million euros (US\$956 million), lurching center stage in a crucial general election campaign.

Seizing on the bank's historical links to the centre-left PD party, centre-right and far-left politicians canvassing for votes on 24-25 February have accused the PD of mismanaging the bank and have criticized Monti for using taxpayer

money to save it. The PD is leading in opinion polls.

"Monte Paschi is worse than the Parmalat case. They tried to save Monte Paschi with an amount equal to what Italians have paid for (housing tax) IMU," centre-right MP Stefano Saglia said in a note on Thursday.

Monti responded: "I don't think there is an issue of (regulatory) oversight." Speaking at a news conference on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos he added that he was ready to discuss the issue in parliament.

Monte Paschi said its board was shocked by how its situation was being used by politicians for campaign motives before the elections.

"The board ... is bewildered for how superficially the issue of recapitalization of the bank is being treated," the bank said. "The situation is completely under control".—Reuters

US man who aided Mumbai plotters sentenced to 35 years in prison

CHICAGO, 25 Jan—David Headley, an American who admitted scouting targets for the 2008 militant raid on Mumbai and later agreed to testify against the plotters to avoid the death penalty, was sentenced on Thursday to 35 years in prison.

The sentence, handed down by US District Judge Harry Leinenweber, was the maximum sought by federal prosecutors.

The attacks killed more

than 160 people, including six Americans. Headley, a 52-year-old US citizen of Pakistani descent, admitted videotaping sites that were targeted by the Mumbai attackers.

He was arrested in 2009 and pleaded guilty to 12 charges, including conspiracy to bomb places of public use and commit murder and plotting an attack on a Danish newspaper.

After entering his plea

in 2010, Headley cooperated with US investigators and foreign intelligence agencies to avoid the death penalty and extradition to India, Pakistan or Denmark, agreeing to testify in foreign judicial proceedings, the government said.

In a memorandum filed with Judge Leinenweber earlier this week, the government said "there is little question that life imprisonment would be

an appropriate punishment for Headley's incredibly serious crimes but for the significant value provided by his immediate and extensive cooperation." Last week, Judge Leinenweber sentenced Pakistani-born businessman Tahawwur Rana to 14 years in federal prison for providing support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the group blamed for the Mumbai attacks.

Reuters



The landing site that US citizen David Headley located for the Pakistani militants who carried out the 2008 assault on Mumbai, is seen in this undated handout photo provided by the US Attorney's office.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Adelie penguins: cool, efficient killing machines

TOKYO, 25 Jan — Fish of the Antarctic, be very afraid. There's an unlikely stealth predator on the loose — Adelie penguins.

Forget their ungainly waddling on land or comical bobbing at the ocean's surface. As soon as these penguins dive into the icy Antarctic ocean, they become calculating, efficient killing machines, say Japanese researchers.

"You could say the penguins have an amazing stealth mode," said Yuuki Watanabe, a researcher at Japan's National Institute of Polar Research. "They're great at sneaking up on their prey and taking them unaware."

Watanabe this week released footage recorded in December 2010 showing a bird's eye view of a hunt for fish and small crustaceans called krill, captured using a small video camera strapped to the backs

of more than a dozen penguins.

"The krill wiggle their bodies about, they clearly make an attempt to swim off at full speed and escape," Watanabe said of his findings, published in the US-based Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this week.

"But that doesn't make the slightest difference to the penguins. They just gobble up the krill that are trying to get away and swallow them whole." Using the "penguin cams," which were set to automatically switch on when

a penguin entered the water and shoot for 90 minutes, Watanabe and his team were able to capture the secrets of penguins on the hunt.

Additional information came from two accelerometers strapped to each bird that measured its head and body movements to calculate how fast it devoured its prey. "We didn't really know if the penguins caught krill one-by-one. I'd thought that maybe they just got into their stomachs when they were after some other prey," Watanabe said. "But when we saw the footage it turned out the penguins were doing just that, eating

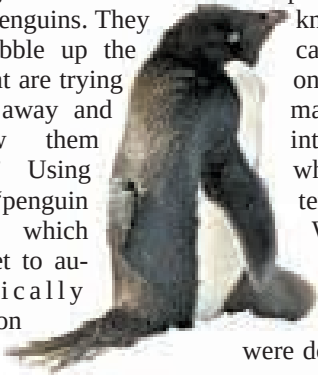
these tiny little creatures one after the other."

Not only that, the penguins didn't swim randomly but hung poised on the edge of the ice until a thick swarm neared, then swooped into the water. Footage showed a penguin zooming under the ice and then deeper, its head snapping rapidly up as it fed.

The krill killing-rate was both fast and efficient. The penguins gobbled an average of two krill per second when the krill were clustered in swarms, a much faster rate than under general hunting conditions when the penguins consumed about 244 krill in roughly 90 minutes. "I was so happy when I got the footage of a penguin going straight into a swarm of krill and gorging itself," Watanabe said.

Penguin research completed, Watanabe now aims to repeat the same exercise with sharks. —Reuters

An Adelie penguin carrying a video camera on its back stands in Langhovde, Antarctica on 7 Jan, 2012, in this handout photo released by Japan's National Institute of Polar Research's Assistant Professor Yuuki Watanabe on 23 Jan, 2013. —Reuters



ITC to review Apple patent complaint against Samsung



Apple's iPhone (L) and Samsung Galaxy Note are displayed at a shop in Tokyo on 31 Aug, 2012. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — A US trade panel that specializes in patent disputes will review a potentially key decision in the patent fight between Samsung Electronics and Apple Inc over smartphones and tablets.

The panel, the International Trade Commission, also sent part of the dispute back to judge, who ruled in October that Samsung, the world's top maker of smartphones, infringed four Apple patents but did not violate two others. The full commission said on Wednesday it would review the judge's decision, and asked the agency judge to take a second look at portions of two patents where he had found that Samsung infringed.

One of the patents in

question allows the use of a headset with the smartphone while the other allows the device to show an image on a screen with a second, translucent image over it. Apple had filed a complaint in mid-2011, accusing Samsung of infringing its patents in making its Captivate, Transform and Fascinate smartphones, as well as the Galaxy Tablet.

Apple is waging war on several fronts against Google, whose Android software powers many of Samsung's devices. The battles between Apple and Samsung have taken place in some 10 countries as they vie for market share in the booming mobile industry.

The case at the International Trade Commission is No. 337-796. —Reuters

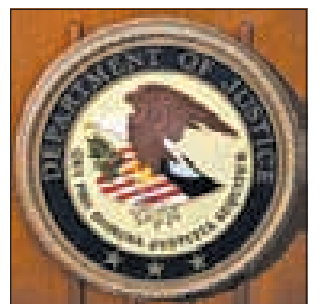
US authorities charge three over "Gozi" computer virus

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — Three foreign nationals have been charged with creating and distributing a computer virus that infected more than a million computers around the world, including some operated by the US space agency, US prosecutors said on Wednesday.

The defendants were charged with running a cybercrime ring that released the so-called Gozi virus, which prosecutors said was one of the most financially destructive computer viruses in history.

The virus infected at least 40,000 computers in the United States, authorities said. It was used to access personal bank account information from computer users and steal millions of dollars from customer accounts globally, according to papers filed in US District Court in Manhattan.

The defendants — Dennis Calovskis, 27, a Latvian; Nikita Kuzmin, 25, a Russian; and Mihai Ionut Păunescu, 28, a Romanian — were charged with a variety of counts, including conspiracy to commit computer



The Department of Justice logo is seen on the podium during a news conference on the Gozi Virus in New York on 23 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

intrusion and conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

They ran a "modern-day bank robbery ring that required neither a gun nor a mask," Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara said at a news conference.

Kuzmin, who helped create the virus, pleaded guilty in May 2011 and has been cooperating with the investigation, said George Venizelos, assistant director-in-charge for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's New York office.

The investigation is still "very much ongoing," Venizelos told the news conference.

Reuters

HTC M7 to be announced on 19 February ahead of MWC



NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — Everyone's eyeing HTC's second full-HD device that is expected to come out soon. How soon? Well, according to Twitter user @flapic, the HTC M7 could be launched at an event in London on 19 February.

Until now, we were hoping to see the device at the Mobile World Congress scheduled to take place between February 25-28. But if HTC plans to launch it a week earlier at a separate

event, it is likely to garner more attention.

The HTC M7 has been rumoured for quite a while now, with recent ones indicating the possible look and feel of the device. It's also been spotted running on the company's latest and yet-to-be-made official Sense 5.0 UI. Earlier this month, leaked images of the smartphone showed the HTC M7 running Sense 5.0 and of what perhaps might be the new lockscreen. An

earlier image posted by Pocketnow depicted that HTC may have gotten rid of the ring and introduced a swipe-based gesture instead to unlock the screen.

More recently, a render of the device surfaced online, which seemed to be a part of some animation clip instructing new owners on how to install the SIM card in their smartphone.

Earlier rumoured specifications of the device indicate a 4.7-inch full-HD display, making it an incredible 468ppi. Other alleged specs include a 1.7GHz quad-core Snapdragon processor with 2GB RAM, 32GB of internal storage, 12-megapixel rear camera and a 2-megapixel one in the front.

Initial rumours, however, were suggestive of a 5-inch full-HD display and a 13-megapixel camera. But seems like the Taiwan-

ese manufacturer is keeping the 5-inch screen exclusive to its first 1080p device, the HTC Butterfly.

htc-butterfly-white.jpg Speaking of the Butterfly, a White variant of the device is expected to go on sale on Thursday in China and has already received 400,000 pre-orders within 24 hours, reports Unwired View via MIC Gadget. This version has been priced identical to the red and black variants already available in the country at 4,799 yuan.

The J Butterfly was launched in Japan in October last year and is the first full-HD smartphone of the world with the device sporting a huge 440ppi display. Other features of the HTC J Butterfly include 1.5GHz Qualcomm S4 Pro quad-core processor, 2GB RAM and 16GB internal storage. PTI

SanDisk's modest revenue forecast prompts talks of sell-off

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — Chipmaker SanDisk Corp's modest revenue outlook disappointed investors looking for a recovery in memory chips widely used in smartphones and tablets, sending its shares down 4 percent. Like other memory chipmakers, SanDisk has been hurt in recent quarters by a drop in prices for NAND flash chips used in smartphones, cameras, storage drives and tablets to store data such as movies and photos.

The company's quarterly results on Wednesday beat analysts' expectations and Chief Executive Sanjay Mehrotra told analysts on a conference call he expects improved NAND pricing this year, giving SanDisk's stock a brief boost.

But the company's revenue forecast for the first quarter fell short of Wall Street's estimates, prompting a selloff.

SanDisk estimated revenue in the March quarter of \$1.225 billion to \$1.3 bil-

lion. Analysts had expected \$1.372 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

SanDisk said its fast-growing solid-state drive

business accounted for 10 percent of fourth-quarter revenue. Chief Financial Officer Judy Bruner said solid-state drives would be SanDisk's biggest



growth driver this year, followed by embedded applications. —PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Bird flu studies, halted over terrorism fear, to resume



A member of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) culls a rooster in a poultry farm infected by H5N1 bird flu virus at Bode in Bhaktapur on 15 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 25 Jan — Scientists around the world declared an end on Wednesday to a moratorium on researching mutant forms of the deadly H5N1 bird flu that had raised international biosecurity concerns.

Announcing their decision to resume what they say are risky but essential studies of the avian flu strain, the scientists said the work would only be carried out in the most secure sites in

countries that agree it can go ahead.

That will allow work to start again in key laboratories in the Netherlands and elsewhere but not yet in the United States or US-funded research centres, pending further safety and security guidelines there.

Scientists voluntarily halted research on H5N1 transmission a year ago due to fears that information about how to create potentially

dangerous viruses could be used for bioterrorism.

Flu experts said they have recognized those fears and worked hard to calm them, and now it is time to push on. They say the studies are essential for a deeper understanding of H5N1, which many fear could one day spark a lethal pandemic in humans.

"We want the world to be better prepared than we currently are when an H5N1 virus causes a pandemic," said Yoshihiro Kawaoka of Tokyo University, a leading researcher on avian flu.

"We understand the risks associated with our research and we take every precaution to conduct H5N1 virus experiments safely."

He told reporters on a teleconference the research would boost efforts to develop global flu "biosurveillance", early warning systems, as well as better flu drugs and vaccines.

Reuters

Mitsubishi recalls 14,700 electric cars globally over brakes

TOKYO, 25 Jan — Mitsubishi Motors Corp (7211.T) said it would recall about 14,700 electric vehicles (EV) globally due to a brake problem unique to the electric-motor powered cars in one of the biggest callbacks involving the new generation of eco-friendly cars.

Mitsubishi Motors said that in Japan it would recall nearly 3,400 i-MiEV electric vehicles, as well as more than 2,400 MINICAB-MiEV vehicles.

Overseas, mostly in Europe, it said it was recalling about 8,900 i-MiEV vehicles. Some of those are sold as PSA Peugeot Citroen's (PEUP. PA) iOn and C-Zero, though Mitsubishi declined to say how many.

The EV recall by Mitsubishi is small compared to recalls of conventional petrol-driven vehicles which have numbered in the millions, though it accounts for nearly half of their overall

i-MiEV and MINICAB-MiEV production.

Electric vehicles are struggling to make inroads into the autos sector despite a big push by the Obama administration to boost sales, as the green cars often fall short of consumer expectations especially in running distance.

"This is a matter of one part, and it's too much to apply the issue to say there is something wrong with electric vehicles," said Tatsuo Yoshida, a senior

analyst at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities in Tokyo. "The cause of the problem is identified and there were no accidents. But the problematic part is the brake, an important part for safety, and that means Mitsubishi Motors' quality check procedure is too weak."

The recalled vehicles may carry an improperly shaped or damaged electric pump, which sends air to the brake booster, the Japanese automaker said.—Reuters



Mitsubishi Motors Corp's vehicles and a passer-by are reflected on an external wall at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 20 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS

Hyundai posts surprise profit drop as won dulls winning edge

SEOUL, 25 Jan — Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS), ranked fifth in global sales with affiliate Kia Motors (000270.KS), posted a surprise quarterly profit drop as a stronger Korean won dented its overseas earnings, sending its shares falling the most in three weeks.

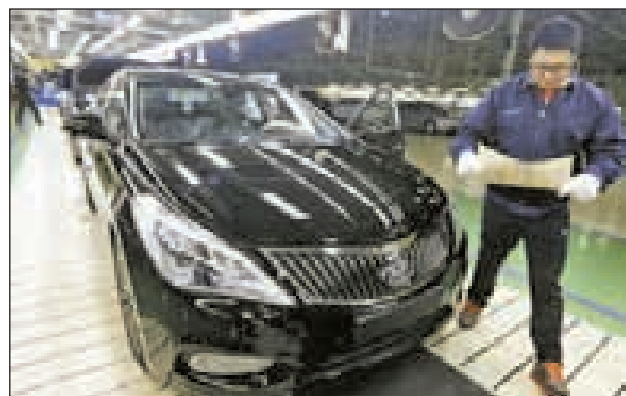
The won rose almost 8 percent against the dollar last year, its biggest gain since 2009, cutting the value of Hyundai's overseas revenue in local currency terms and hurting the carmaker's price competitiveness abroad. To make matters worse, the yen eased by 11 percent, handing Hyundai's competitive edge back to its Japanese rivals.

The profit decline came even as Hyundai Motor sold a record 1.23 million vehicles in the fourth quarter. The company, which have enjoyed years of strong growth by offering stylish, yet affordable models such as

the Sonata and Elantra, will face pressure to unroll new models to revive growth and lean even more on the China

at GS Asset Management.

"With no major new cars planned this year, it'll be very challenging year



Labourers work at an assembly line of Hyundai Motor's plant in Asan, about 100 km (62 miles) south of Seoul, on 22 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

market—the sole bright spot on the horizon.

"With the yen seen weakening further, while the won is set to keep rising, Hyundai's ability to overcome worsening external factors will be put to the test this year," said Lim Hyung-geun, a fund manager

for Hyundai," Lim said, adding that he has already offloaded some of his Hyundai Motor shares.

"It's not yet a true global leader like Samsung Electronics (005930.KS) which can resiliently overcome adverse currency moves."

Hyundai Motor's Chief Financial Officer Lee Won-hee warned that the won's gains will accelerate in the second half, but said their effects will be limited as the company counters the impact of the strengthening currency by moving more production overseas.

The company's profit was also hit after Hyundai set aside 240 billion won (\$225.10 million) to cover

the cost of compensating customers for overstated fuel-economy claims on some cars sold recently in the United States and Canada, Lee told reporters after the earnings announcement on Thursday.

Hyundai and affiliate Kia said they would help drivers pay for the additional fuel costs. Analysts projected provisions of about 300 billion won to 400 billion won.

Shares in Hyundai Motor extended their losses on Thursday after the disappointing results, ending 4.6 percent lower, versus the wider market's .KS11 0.8 percent fall.

Hyundai posted a 1.89 trillion won (\$1.77 billion) net profit for October-December, missing a consensus forecast of 2.15 trillion won in a Reuters poll of 15 analysts.

The decline, down 6 percent from 2 trillion won a year earlier, was the first profit fall since Hyundai Motor switched accounting rules in 2011.

Hyundai aims to increase its US sales by 4.4 percent this year, while its Europe sales would fall 6.5 percent, CFO Lee said. By contrast, its Europe sales grew 10.2 percent last year while US sales increased 8.9 percent.

Reuters

Netflix in surprise holiday-driven profit, shares jump 35 percent

NEW YORK, 25 Jan—Netflix Inc surprised Wall Street on Wednesday with a quarterly profit after the video subscription service added nearly 4 million customers in the United States and abroad, sending its shares 35 percent higher in after-hours trading.

The dominant US video rental and streaming company had warned three months ago a letter to investors that it was likely to see a loss for the October to December period, attributing it to startup costs for its expansion into Scandinavia. But Netflix underestimated the impact of the busy holiday season, when sales of tablets, phones and Internet-connected TVs helped boost subscriptions even as the company faced competition from companies such as

Hulu and Amazon.com Inc.

Netflix reported \$8 million in net income for the fourth quarter, or 13 cents per share. Revenue rose 8 percent to \$945 million from the same quarter a year earlier. "We just saw tremendous growth over the holidays," Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said in an interview.

The company also forecast it will add 1.7 million members in the first three months of 2013, though it predicts net income will be "relatively flat" due to declining DVD profits and higher global operating costs.

Shares of the company surged 35 percent to \$139.80 in after-hours trading. They closed at \$103.26, up nearly 6 percent before its earnings announcement.—Reuters



The headquarters of Netflix is shown in Los Gatos, California on 20 Sept, 2011.—REUTERS

Barclays to cut at least 70 jobs in Asia investment banking

HONG KONG, 25 Jan—Barclays Plc (BARC.L) is firing at least 70 people from its Asian investment banking division, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday.

A spokesman for the bank declined to comment.

The cuts form part of a firm-wide strategic review initiated by Chief Executive Antony Jenkins, who took over in August after the departure of Bob Diamond when the bank was fined for interest-rate rigging.

Reuters

WORLD



Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang, who is also head of the food safety commission under the State Council, presides over the commission's fifth plenary meeting in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Obama nominates chiefs for SEC, consumer financial protection body

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Thursday announced new nominees to lead two federal agencies in charge of oversight of the financial industry, a move following the recent reshuffle of the new administration. In his announcement made at the White House, Obama said he had selected Mary Jo White to serve as chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Ms White was experienced at prosecuting large-scale, white-collar crimes in complex securities and financial institution fraud, according to Jay Carney, the White House Press Secretary.

The SEC plays a central role in fighting against wrongdoing that is related to sophisticated financial products. In the fiscal year ending 30 Sept, 2012, it filed 734 enforcement actions and collected more than 3 billion US dollars in

penalties and disgorgement under the leadership of previous chair Mary Shapiro, who resigned in December.

The US president also renominated Richard Cordray to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a federal body funded by the Federal Reserve and tasked with protecting consumers when they use financial products such as mortgages and credit cards.

Obama made a recess appointment of Cordray to the post in January 2012, as Republicans repeatedly blocked the nomination previously and demanded the agency be transformed into a commission as a way to check the clout of Democrats. After Cordray taking the post, the CFPB has functioned to its full swing and released a series of rules governing credit card companies and mortgage servicers. Both nominations still need the Senate's confirmation.—Xinhua

Clinton announces new foundation to expand students exchanges with China

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton on Thursday announced the creation of the 100,000 Strong Foundation to expand opportunities for US students to learn Chinese and study in China.

The new foundation is a nonprofit organization housed at the American University in the capital, with the mission to strengthen the US-China strategic relationship through study abroad.

"I am happy today that we are launching a permanent, independent, nonprofit organization focused not only on our goal of 100,000 American students in China

by 2014, but on strengthening the students exchanges for years to come," said US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton at the press conference.

Clinton noted that people-to-people exchanges will contribute to the "consequential relationship" between the United States and China, a relationship now with "the most pressing challenges and the most exciting opportunities."

With the government-to-government relations "obviously essential", she said people-to-people ties will "determine the quality of the relationship for the future."

Xinhua

John Kerry warns of disaster in failed Middle East peace efforts

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — US Senator John Kerry, awaiting his confirmation as the country's next secretary of state, warned on Thursday of "disastrous" consequences in the event of an eventual failure to make peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Addressing a hearing on his nomination at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the veteran lawmaker argued for moving forward the moribund peace process.

"We need to try to find a way forward, and I happen to believe that there is a way forward," said Kerry, whose quick confirmation by the Senate has been widely expected.

"But I also believe that if we can't be successful, the door, window, whatever you want to call it to the possibility of a two-state solution could shut on everybody, and that would be disastrous in my judgment," he warned.

Reiterating his commitment to Israel, Kerry said he will "not stand back from my understanding of the plight of the Palestinians and others who are caught up in the swirl of this." President Barack Obama made the two sides sit down together for direct talks in Washington in early September 2010, but the talks broke down weeks later due to Israel's refusal to renew a freeze on

settlement building in the West Bank. Declaring that Obama "is deeply committed to a two-state solution," Kerry rejected speculation about the president's commitment to the peace process in his second term that started on Sunday.

"I think a lot of it is simply wrong, blown out of proportion," the senator said, noting "The president understands the stakes and the implications in the Middle East."

Kerry said he has "a lot of thoughts" about confronting the challenge of peacemaking in the region, but refused to give details.

"I'm not going to say anything that prejudices our ability to try to get a nego-



Senator John Kerry testifies at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to become the next Secretary of State on Capitol Hill, in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 24 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

tiation moving in the appropriate way, in the appropriate manner. And I'm not even going to go into what that is," he said.—Xinhua

Yemeni gov't says AQAP No 2 leader dies of injuries

SANAA, 25 Jan — The Yemeni government on Thursday said the second-in-command of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Saeed al-Shihri, had died of injuries he sustained from an airstrike in November last year, the state Saba news agency reported.

"As part of anti-terrorism efforts by the Yemeni government in coordination with its international partners, the security services managed to carry out an airstrike on 28 Nov 2012 in (Yemen's) northern province of Saada, which resulted in injuring Saudi national Saeed al-Shihri, and later he died of his wounds," Saba said, citing an official statement by the country's Supreme Security Committee.

"The slain terrorist al-Shihri has been buried in an undisclosed location," it said without giving further details.

The AQAP has yet to

confirm it.

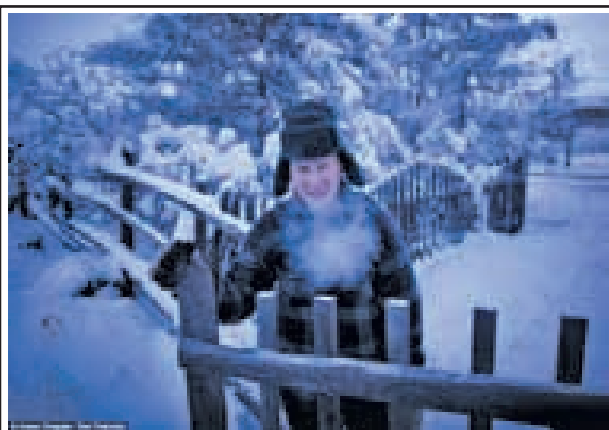
On 10 Sep, 2012, the Yemeni government announced the killing of al-Shihri in a military operation in the southeastern province of Hadramout, but he appeared on 22 October in a video message to deny the government allegations.

Al-Shihri, a Saudi national and AQAP's No 2 leader, was the main target of several military raids over the past months.

Al-Shihri had served a prison term in the US military prison in Guantanamo before he was deported to Saudi Arabia, where he fled to Yemen along with other hundreds of Saudi wanted militants to form the AQAP in January 2009.

The AQAP, known locally as Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law), took advantage of a political upheaval in 2011 in Yemen to take over several towns of the southern restive regions.

Xinhua



According to media agencies, Oymyakon village in Russia is labelled as the coldest place in the world, in which the average temperature is -50 degree centigrade in January, while the minimum temperature could reach -71.2. Mobile phone signal could cover the whole village, but mobiles are still not able to be accessed due to the strong cold snap.—XINHUA

Mexican drug boss sentenced to seven years in US prison

MCCALLEN, 25 Jan — A top figure with a Mexican drug cartel was sentenced to seven years in a US prison on Thursday after pleading guilty to immigration and weapons charges.

As part of a plea deal, Jose Luis Zuniga Hernandez, 44, admitted he was a leader of Mexico's brutal Gulf Cartel, a drug gang that authorities say has smuggled countless tons of narcotics into the United States.

US Border Patrol agents arrested Zuniga Hernandez, known as "El Wicho," in October 2011 near Brownsville, Texas, where he was sentenced on Thursday by US District Judge Andrew Hanen.

Prosecutors said Zuniga Hernandez was in charge of the cartel's operations in Rio Bravo and Matamoros — two Mexican border towns key to the drug trade.

In court documents, prosecutors said Zuniga Hernandez paid \$57,000 for a diamond, gold and ruby-encrusted. 38-caliber handgun. After he was arrested, he attempted to bribe one of the agents with the jewel-encrusted gun, according to court records.

The agent declined the offer. In addition to the prison term, Judge Hanen ordered Zuniga Hernandez to pay a \$10,000 fine.

The Gulf Cartel has battled its former paramilitary arm, known as Los Zetas, in northeast Mexico since they split in early 2010.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has vowed to curb the drug violence that raged under his predecessor, Felipe Calderon, who launched an offensive against drug cartels when he took office in late 2006.

Reuters



People gather around a police van damaged following a blast outside a hospital in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 24 Jan, 2013. At least six people including three policemen were killed and seven others were injured on Thursday evening in a twin bomb blast incident that hit Pakistan's southern port City of Karachi, local media and police said.

XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Sports contests mark Kayah State Day in Loikaw



LOIKAW, 25 Jan—The boat race, fishing contest, Kayah wrestling and greasing pole contest and other sports contests were held in commemoration

of the Kayah State Day which falls on 15 January at Naungya Kantha Lake in Loikaw on 12 and 13 January.

Other various festivities and sports contests were held

on a grand scale at Kayah State Sports Ground.

Local people joyfully participated in the sports contests.

Myanma Alinn

Fire breaks out in Myothit Township

MYOTHIT, 25 Jan—A fire broke out at the house of U Maung Myint in Magyigongyi Village

in Myothit Township of Magway Region at 12.15 pm on 15 January. The local people in harmonious

efforts fought the fire with traditional fire extinguishers and totally put out the fire at 12.30 pm.—*Myanma Alinn*

Stimulant tablets seized in Lashio

HSIPAW, 25 Jan—Members of Lashio Anti-Drug Special Squad of Shan State (North) together with witness searched a van driven by Ko Aung Kyaw Htoo from Shan Cherry bus line from

Muse to Lashio near Bonmon plantation on Lashio-Muse Union Highway at 10 am on 17 January. The authorities seized 25 packets each containing 2000 WY brand pink stimulant tablets from the bag of Ma

Rashida Bibi, totalling 50,000 weighing 4.5 kilos worth K 100 million.

So, Lashio Police Station No 2 filed a lawsuit against Ma Rashida Bibi, 46 under the law.—*Myanma Alinn*

Sand sculpture show was held at Maungmagan Beach in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 19 and 20 January. Photo shows sand sculptors create a model of national leader General Aung San in sand.

MYANMA ALINN



Child care course opened

MAGWAY, 25 Jan—Magway Region Social Welfare Department and Save the Children jointly organized the child care course that concluded at Pre-Primary School on 1st Street in Magway on 19 January.

Head of Magway Region SWD Daw Khin

Khin Pyone made a speech on the occasion. The course lasted two days from 18 to 19 January. The course was aimed at broadening horizon of the award administrators to know rights of children and to participate in the child protection tasks.

Myanma Alinn

School Family Day marked in Labutta

LABUTTA, 25 Jan—As a triangle relationship among teachers, parents and students, the School Family Day was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Labutta on 20 January.

At first, students

sang the song to open the ceremony. Next, Acting Township Administrator U Pyae Phyo Maung and officials presented prizes to outstanding students for 2012-2013 academic year.

Myanma Alinn

Residences fumigated in Mingala Taungnyunt Township

YANGON, 25 Jan—As part of efforts to take preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever, ward administrator U Kyaw Zin Oo, members of social organizations and local people participated in the sanitation and fumigating on 14 streets in Thabyegon Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon Region on 19 January.

Thabyegon Ward of the township is home to over 29000 people of over 3000 households.

The ward has three Basic Education High Schools.



Myanma Alinn

The local authorities and departmental officials plan to fumigate there to be free from dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Myanma Alinn

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

Illegal timber, logs seized in Bago Region

TOUNGGOO, 25 Jan—Staff and workers of Forest Department led by Assistant Director of Tounggoo District Forest Department seized seven logs of teak weighing 2.33 tons on Thagara-Koebin Road in Yedashe Township on 13 January.

Staff of Gyobingauk Township Forest Department and members of Myanmar Police Force also seized 2.634 tons of

ironwood and other 0.2192 ton in Block 51 of Bawbin forest reserve on 14 January.

Likewise, staff of Bago Township Forest Department seized one Nissan truck loading five logs of ironwood weighing 2.3174 tons driven by U Tin Htay Aung in Minlan Ward of Phayagyi Ward in Phayagyi forest area on 16 January. Action was taken against him under section 42(b) of

Forest Law.

Similarly, staff of Gwa Township Forest Department and workers from West pathein Timber Extraction Region seized 18.6146 tons of sawn timbers and log from two places of Block 55 in Gwachaung protected public forest on 12 January. The seized timbers were handed over to Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

Myanma Alinn

Drunk driver turns over Hino

TATKON, 25 Jan—A Hino driven by Ko Aung Soe turned over at Ottarathiri Junction, north of Tatkon Township, at 2.35 pm on 18 January, leaving 33 passenger injured.

The injured from Okshitgon and Thaphangyaung villages were warded at Tatkon Township Hospital (100-bed).

Due to drunkard driving, the car could not be controlled in the incident.

Myanma Alinn



New library building opened in Machanbaw

MACHANBAW, 25 Jan—A ceremony to open the new building of library was held in Namkham Village of Machanbaw Township in Putao District in Kachin State on 15 January.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tin Myo Aung, Staff Officer of Township Planning Department U Soe Myint Aung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Nan Zae Fon Hsan, Village Administrator U Khaw Khun Thing Hsan and townselder U Yaw Hset formally opened the new building of the library. After that, wellwishers donated one book shelf and K 80,000, 150 publications worth K 250,000 to the library through Chairman of the library committee.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 26 January, 2013

Educate girls and women

The shrinking economy sent girls' infant mortality soaring and more females were abused or starved, said a report by Plan International and the Overseas Development Institute, adding that the proportion of baby girls who died when the economy shrank rose five times faster than the proportion of baby boys who died.

Gender inequality is a global social problem. Fortunately, this problem is not so serious here in comparison with fellow countries. Though there is no apparent glass ceiling for educated females or women of high social class here, those from poor backgrounds, especially of urban population, see the different things as chances are scarce.

Most of them are employed in manufacturing business like garment and shoe-making factories. But longer working hours do not mean higher wages there but just enough for survival. Many uneducated women find their positions in manual occupations like mentioned above and sex industry. Girls from poverty-stricken families are often sent out to work as child labourers and sometimes sex workers.

It is also a traditional belief in rural areas that girls do not need to be educated and basic numeracy skill is just enough for them, although this belief is diminishing with the passage of time. While the men are generally considered the breadwinner of a family, women can help better their families than men do. Women indeed are the gatekeeper of their families' health. Educating a man is just educating a person whereas educating a woman means educating a whole family.

Educating girls would do a lot as studies show girls who have completed primary school at the lowest could help themselves much better during pregnancy, in family planning and even prevention against AIDS than those who have never gone to school.

Whether they have the power like "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" or are considered as the weaker sex, one thing is for sure that investing in bringing education to potential mothers would make better the younger generations under their caring hands.

The government upgraded the roads for passenger's convenience...

Not for you, auto racers!

Racer

Woo...

Woo...

Maung Pe Pe

NATIONAL

Myanmar takes Laos as brother since establishment of diplomatic ties: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker



Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attends ceremony at which Laotian National Assembly President Madame Pany Yathotou signs the visitors' book.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received President of Lao PDR National Assembly Madame Pany Yathotou and party at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall here this evening.

The Speaker cheered up the brotherhood friendship between the two countries which share the Mekong

River, vowing to strengthen the bond between two parliaments. He added that the committees of the two parliaments would try to hold joint paper reading session for agricultural development. It is nearly 60 years since Myanmar and Laos have established diplomatic ties, said the Speaker adding that Myanmar has taken

Laos brother since then. He invited to exchange experiences on legislation between the two parliaments.

The Lao PDR National Assembly President pledged to strengthen the existing friendship between the two countries. He congratulated the improved economic performance in short period. He affirmed his commitment

to promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two parliaments, expressing his wish for exchange of experiences between committees of the two parliaments.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Committee Chairs Col Maung Maung Htoo, U Sai Paung Nab, U Nay Win Tun, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, national race parliamentarians and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarath.

In the evening, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint hosted a dinner to the Laotian Speaker at Thabin Hall of the Hluttaw Building.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, deputy speakers of Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws.

MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2013, His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

MNA

Union FM felicitates Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister of Commonwealth of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable Mr. Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia.

MNA

Formulation of cooperation strategies for Rakhine State discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay held talks with UN Resident Representative Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Ashok Nigam and party at the hall of the Ministry of Border Affairs, here, yesterday.

Both sides discussed matters related to conducting one more workshop on formulation of cooperation strategies with the participation of the government, people, UN agencies and INGOs for ensuring rescue and rehabilitation works, rule



of law and sustainable development in Rakhine State.

MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay holds talks with UN Resident Representative Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Ashok Nigam and party.—MNA

One civilian dead, four wounded in exchange of fire between KIA and Tatmadaw military column

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — An exchange of fire between KIA group and a Tatmadaw military column broke out at a

place between Whaykhar village and Khakyan village of Seikmu village-tract in Phakant Township of Kachin State from about

12.30 pm to 5.30 pm on 23 January.

Maung Hla Thaung, 23, of Whaykhaw village was killed and three men

and one girl wounded in the incident.

According to the Kachin State government, five houses at Khakyan village were reduced to ashes due to artillery shells.

MNA

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Laotian National Assembly President

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Laotian National Assembly President Madame Pany Yathotou at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

The meeting focused on promotion of inter-parliamentary cooperation and further cementing relations between the two countries including bilateral cooperation.

Also present at the call together with Pyithu

Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U T Khun Myat, Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives and officials from the Hluttaw Office. The Laotian National Assembly President was accompanied by Chairmen of National Assembly Committees and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nilahath Sayarath and officials concerned.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Laotian National Assembly President Madame Pany Yathotou.—MNA



Computer training course at parliamentary E-library concluded



Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa speaking at concluding ceremony of computer training course.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— As part of UNDP's support to parliamentary E-library, a concluding ceremony of the computer training

course was held at the media room of Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon. It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of the parliamentary E-library establishing committee and members, officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office, course instructors, and trainees from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. After delivering a speech, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa awarded first, second and third prize winners together with Committee Chairman Dr U Soe Yin and Committee Member U Maung Toe.

Next, gifts were presented to the course instructors. The course lasted 8 days from 16 to 25 January.—MNA

Myanmar provides humanitarian assistance for Typhoon victims in Philippines

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— A ceremony to hand over cash donation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Government of the Philippines as humanitarian assistance to the victims of the Typhoon Bopha in Philippines, was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, today.

After conveying words of sympathies on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin handed over cash donation of US\$50,000 to Mr. Bryan Jess T Baguio, Charge d Affairs a.i of the Embassy of the Republic of



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin hands over cash donation for Filipino Typhoon victims.

MNA

Philippines in Yangon who spoke words of thanks. The ceremony was also attended by senior officials

from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff members of Philippine Embassy.

MNA

KIA attacks military column near Lajyayan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— About 100 KIA troops attacked military column undertaking administration duties near Lajyayan yesterday afternoon and withdrew after more-than-three-hour attack.

Five Tatmadawmen were injured in the attack and the Tatmadaw captured 25 bodies of KIA members

and 22 weapons.

KIA launched two mine attacks, one attack on logistic convoy and two attacks on military columns yesterday. Acting on tip-off, the local military column and militia seized 10 weapons hidden by KIA in Mongyan/Monghaung area, according to the Ministry of Defence.

MNA



Myanmar basketball team shares experience

YANGON, 25 Jan— A press meet on training experience of the Myanmar basketball youth athletes group, who received training from 7 to 21 January in Washington and North Carolina under the Sports Visitors Programme and at the invitation of Sport United of the US Department of State, was held at Western Park Royal, here, yesterday afternoon.

Vice-President of

Myanmar Basketball Federation U Maung Maung Myint, the official from cultural affairs department of US Embassy to Myanmar, General Secretary of MBFU Kyaw Kyaw Win and Joint Secretary of MBF Assistant Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department Daw Ohnmar Aung shared knowledge on training programme, and answered queries raised by media men.—MNA

Munich Security Conference to focus on global hotspots

MUNICH, 25 Jan—The 49th Munich Security Conference (MSC), to be held in the German city on 1-3 February, would discuss such global hotspots issues as the situation in Mali, the Syria unrest and the euro-zone crisis, MSC president Wolfgang Ischinger said on Thursday.

This year's event is expecting more important delegates from different countries and areas than ever, including high ranking officials from China,

Russia, the United States and Germany, Ischinger told reporters, adding that "the upcoming conference will be extremely exciting."

China is playing a more and more important role on the stage of world politics, he said. Among the more than 400 attendees would be high-ranking officials, representatives of international organizations, security issue experts and economic celebrities from more than 90 countries and regions worldwide.—Xinhua



Three Taliban militants stand handcuffed after they were detained by Afghan security forces during an operation in western Afghanistan's Herat Province, on 24 Jan, 2013. Afghan security forces detained three terrorists and discovered explosive devices and remote controls from their possessions, acting police chief of Herat Province Abdul Hamid Hamidi said.—XINHUA

UN chief welcomes Bahraini King's call for national dialogue

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Jan—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday welcomed the call by Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa for a new round of national dialogue, as well as the positive response of opposition groups to the invitation in the Persian Gulf country.

"The Secretary-General welcomes the initiative of King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain to convene a political dialogue and the affirmative response

from six opposition societies and other societies," said a statement issued here by Ban's spokesperson.

"The Secretary-General has consistently called for dialogue and hopes that the parties will follow through on their announcements and ensure that the dialogue is well-prepared, meaningful, fully inclusive, and addresses the legitimate aspirations of the Bahraini people," the statement said.

According to the statement, the UN chief expected

that all communities in Bahrain will be represented fairly and freely in the proposed dialogue, calling the initiative "an important first step towards reforms that ensure justice and human rights for all Bahrainis."

Ban also urged all Bahrainis to contribute to creating a conducive atmosphere for a successful dialogue.

Political groups in Bahrain welcomed the call by the leadership for a new round of national dialogue to end the political stalemate, with

several leaders expected to have closed-door meetings in the coming days to discuss their demands for the second round of talks.

The main opposition group Al Wefaq National Islamic Society said on Tuesday that it reiterated its "seriousness to engage in a genuine process of dialogue and political negotiations."

Bahrain was hit by a series of protests last year, some of which turned violent and led to serious bloodshed in the country.—Xinhua



The groom Moshey Chaim walks to invite his bride, the first granddaughter of Grand Rabbi of the Satmar hassidic dynasty Rabbi Zalman Leib Teitelbaum, to dance during their wedding in Israeli town of Beit Shemesh, on 24 Jan, 2013. The wedding was held here from the evening of 23 January to the morning of 24 January. Some 5,000 guests attended the traditional Jewish wedding.—XINHUA

Pacific Plan 2012 Annual Progress Report released

SUVA, 25 Jan—The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat released the 2012 Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report and Reporting Annex that highlights some of the challenges in the region.

According to Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report and the accompanying Reporting Annex provided a comprehensive overview of the work of key actors in support of greater regional integration and cooperation.

"This 2012 Annual Progress Report demonstrates the progress that

is being made by member countries and regional agencies in delivering on the objectives of the Pacific Plan," said Slade.

The Annual Report includes details on progress in sectors such as climate change, fisheries, gender equality and disability inclusive development, according to a statement of the secretariat.

"The Pacific Plan remains central to the development aspirations of our region, and is an important platform for supporting engagement with relevant global processes, such as the outcomes of Rio+20, preparations for the SIDS

(Small Island Developing States) 2014 Conference and the post-2015 development agenda," Slade said.

The Annual Report also highlights some of the challenges that are faced by the countries in the region.

"In this regard, I welcome the decision by leaders in September 2012 to review the Pacific Plan," said the Secretary General.

"This will be an important exercise for ensuring that the aspirations of forum island countries for regional cooperation and integration are fully considered in any future iteration of the Pacific Plan."

Xinhua

Landslide kills seven in Ecuador

QUITO, 25 Jan — At least seven people were killed and 17 were injured by a landslide Thursday in Ecuador's mining zone of Bella Rica in the southern Province of Azuay, local authorities said. Patricio Lopez, the mayor of Ponce Enriquez, told reporters the landslide occurred early in the day due to heavy rains, causing damage to two mines in the region.

The mayor said several miners may have been trapped in the mines and the death toll may rise over the next few hours. Four homes

have also been damaged and Ponce Enriquez has been left without electricity. Rescue units are at the disaster site, which is located in a rural area accessible only on foot or by plane, local authorities said.

Ponce Enriquez has a population of more than 10,000 and most residents work in gold mining or agriculture. The region was previously affected by landslides that killed several miners. Ten days ago, a Peruvian and an Ecuadorian died in another landslide in the same area.—Xinhua



Relief workers erect a tent in Zaatari refugee camp, near the desert town of Mafraq, northeast of Amman, on 24 Jan, 2013. The past six days witnessed a record surge in the number of Syrian refugees seeking safety in Jordan. The number of refugees has pushed up the Syrian population in Jordan to around 300,000.—XINHUA

Ecuadorian president urges solution to Wikileaks case

QUITO, 25 Jan — Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa on Thursday called for Britain and Sweden to settle the case of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, who has spent past seven months in refuge at Ecuador's embassy in London.

"Ecuador has done its job. Julian Assange's rights will continue to be guaranteed. Now the solution is in the hands of Britain, Sweden and the European Union in general," Correa said in a television interview.

Correa defended his government's decision to

grant asylum last August to the world's most famous whistleblower. "In keeping with international law, we granted him asylum, he is under the protection of the Ecuadorian government, but such is the prepotency of some countries," said Correa, referring to the refusal of Britain and Sweden to reach a diplomatic solution to the problem.

Assange, who angered Washington by releasing thousands of embarrassing government cables and video of war crimes, took refuge at the embassy on

19 August to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning in two sexual assault cases. He denies any sexual wrongdoing and fears Swedish authorities will render him to the US government, which regards him as a threat to national security.

"The problem is there is no guarantee that if he leaves the embassy and travels to Sweden, he won't be extradited to a third country, and if that happens, Julian Assange's life or liberty would be at risk," said Correa.—Xinhua

US apologizes to Philippines for ship stuck in Tubbataha Reefs

MANILA, 25 Jan—The United States government on Friday apologized to the Philippines for the grounding of its minesweeper USS Guardian on Tubbataha Reef in Sulu Sea.

"On behalf of the United States government, I wish to convey to the Philippine government and people my profound regret over the grounding of the USS Guardian on Tubbataha Reef," said Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr in

a statement issued by the US Embassy in Manila.

"This was an unfortunate accident, and I recognize the legitimate concerns over the damage caused to a unique and precious wonder of nature, internationally recognized for its beauty and biological diversity," he added.

Thomas assured the Philippine government that Washington is committed to removing the ship from the area as soon as possible.

He also said Washington will work with the Philippine government to assess the damage caused by the incident and take steps to address it.

The US Embassy issued the statement after the Philippine government revealed that 1,000 square metres of the 97,030-hectare Tubbataha Reefs were damaged by the USS Guardian that has been stuck in the area since 17 January.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

Sri Lanka increases minimum age for female migrant workers after housemaid execution

COLOMBO, 25 Jan—The Sri Lankan government has decided to increase the age limit for female migrant workers in Saudi Arabia as the first step in the process to curtail their employment in that country after a housemaid was executed earlier this month, an official said here on Thursday.

The Cabinet approved the decision presented by Foreign Employment Promotion Minister Dilan Perera.

Accordingly the minimum age for women seeking employment in Saudi

Arabia and seven other Middle East countries is 25 years old.

Singapore, which has better working conditions, will receive female workers at 21 years.

"There have been various groups proposing that the age limit should be increased. We do not plan to stop housemaids going there completely but hope to curtail it. For the first time in history the percentage of women seeking employment abroad has dropped to 48 percent, which we see as a good

sign," Cabinet spokesman and Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

The steps come after the Sri Lankan government was severely criticized for sending an under-aged woman as a housemaid to Saudi Arabia. She was convicted of choking her employer's baby to death and was imprisoned in 2005.

Rizana Nafeek was handed the death sentence by a Saudi court and despite her denying the charges she was executed two weeks ago after being in prison for seven years.—Xinhua



Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit (C), vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), attends the China-ASEAN New Year reception in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Four bank staff, two accomplices arrested in bank robbery in E Cambodia: police

KAMPONG, 25 Jan—Six suspects including 4 bank staff were arrested at midnight on Wednesday in a bank robbery after 16-hour operations, police said on Thursday in a Press conference.

The incident happened at a local Aceda Bank's branch in Arak Thnort commune in Stung Trang District of Kampong Cham Province, about 124 kilometres east of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

Col Chim Senghong, deputy police chief of Kampong Cham Province, said in the press conference that the alleged bank robbers had fabricated the hostage situation on Wednesday by arranging some of them to act as drug-addicted kidnappers armed with a pistol

and some as hostages.

"All images that we saw (Wednesday) were fabricated. Both kidnappers and the kidnapped persons are accomplices, they prepared a plot to rob the bank," he said, adding that the branch cashier Sin Kimthat is the mastermind and five others including 3 bank staff and two outsiders are associates.

He recalled that on Wednesday, the suspects pretended to be "drug addicts" and took bank staff hostage in a bank's room with double safety locks in order to cheat police that they were not robbers and to postpone time until night in order to give them chance to escape.

"Sin Kimthat is the man who masterminds the

robbery plan because he needs money to repay the debt," he said.

Prom Visoth, executive vice president and chief legal officer of Aceda Bank, confirmed on Thursday that it is not 4 bank staff, but 5 are the perpetrators.

"They are one cashier, two customer service agents and two credit officers," he told Xinhua over telephone. "The reason they robbed the bank because they are broke and need money to repay debts."

He said it remained unknown the amount of money the bank lost during the incident, but he said "it is not much because the branch is in rural area."

Aceda Bank is the kingdom's largest commercial bank.—Xinhua

Cambodia's construction receives 2.1 bln USD investment in 2012

PHNOM PENH, 25 Jan—Construction sector attracted the investment projects of about 2.1 billion US dollars last year, a 72 percent rise compared with some 1.2 billion US dollars in a year earlier, according to a report from the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction on Friday. The report said that last year, the ministry

provided licenses to 1,694 construction projects, down 20 percent from 2,125 projects in a year earlier.

Lao Tip Seiha, Deputy Director-General of the ministry's construction general-department, said that the projects in 2012 were bigger in scale than those in 2011, adding that those projects are in shopping malls, tourism resort development, com-

mercial buildings, hotels, condominiums, rice mills and garment and footwear factories.

"The remarkable rise last year is thanks to stable economic situation and full security and political stability," he said. "These are the priority factors to build confidence among both local and foreign investors."

Xinhua

Abu Sayyaf militant nabbed in S Philippines

COTABATO, 26 Jan—Philippine government security forces have recently captured a suspected Abu Sayyaf militant in the southern Philippine Province of Basilan, a senior police official said on Friday.

The suspect, Muin Hamja, who has a 14,778 US Dollar bounty on his head, was arrested during a raid at his hideout at Kumalarang village in Isabela city, said regional police commander Chief Superintendent Mario Avenido.

Avenido said Hamja has existing arrest warrant

issued by a local court in connection with his involvement in series of kidnapping cases in the region.

"He is now undergoing tactical interrogation at the headquarters of military," Avenido added.

The 380-strong Abu Sayyaf group, founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is notorious for kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decade. The group was blacklisted by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization.—Xinhua



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe gives an interview to Kyodo News at his office in Tokyo on 24 Jan, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Indonesia to tighten rules for foreign pilots

JAKARTA, 25 Jan—Indonesia's Transportation Ministry is tightening its rules for foreign pilots who are working in the country's airlines.

The ministry said in its official Press release on Thursday that tightening rules is aims to increase flight safety, especially to prevent serious incidents.

Foreign pilots must have flying experience in accordance with the type of aircraft flown by, the ministry said.

The ministry through Directorate General of Air Transportation will give permission to foreign pilots with a minimal flight experience of 250 hours before they are allowed to work in domestic airlines.

By 2013, there are around 600 foreign pilots working in Indonesian airlines, such as Lion Air, Garuda Indonesia, Sriwijaya Air, Citilink and Wing Air.

Xinhua



A patrol boat is on duty on the sea covered by floating ice near Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei Province, on 24 Jan, 2013. The floating ice in Bohai Sea has expanded due to the cold snap.—XINHUA

Japanese survivors in Algerian hostage crisis arrive in Japan

TOKYO, 25 Jan—Seven Japanese survivors and bodies of nine Japanese fatalities in a deadly hostage crisis in Algeria arrived in Japan on Friday morning.

A total of 10 Japanese nationals were confirmed dead in the crisis and the 10th and last Japanese victim were confirmed late Thursday after a government aircraft sent to bring the survivors and the vic-

tims' bodies left Algiers, the capital of Algeria.

The survivors and the victims were all employees of the Japan Gasoline Company. The Japanese government said it will bring the last victim's body back to Japan as soon as possible, vowing to take possible measures to better protect the Japanese nationals and companies overseas.

Xinhua



South Korean President-elect Park Geun Hye (R) in Seoul on 24 Jan, 2013, nominates Kim Yong Joon (L), a former Supreme Court justice and Constitutional Court chief who now heads her transition team, to be prime minister of her incoming government.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATTYS VOY NO (1304)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATTYS VOY NO (1304) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HOANG WANG-2 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG WANG-2 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OGI OCEANGATE
TRANSPORATION CO. LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (20)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (20) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) 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 EASTERN CAR LINER
S'PORE PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

Airstrikes targeting militants kill 9 people in Yemen

SANAA, 25 Jan—A US drone strike targeting armed militants mistakenly hit a house in Yemen's southeastern province of al-Bayda late on Wednesday, killing two children, witnesses said, while police sources said another drone strike on the east of the capital Sanaa killed seven more people. Residents in Radda town in al-Bayda Province said the pilotless warplane struck the house of Abdu Mohammed al-Jarrah, killing two of his children and injuring three others of the family.

A provincial police of-

ficial told *Xinhua* by phone that the airstrike was targeting four al-Qaeda operatives driving two motorbikes near the village of Kaifah but mistakenly hit a civilian house. It was the fourth time that US drones have mistakenly hit civilian targets in Yemen after air raids killed 13 civilians in Radda in September last year and 40 women and children in the southern province of Abyan in 2010.

Such strikes sparked mass anger across the country against the Yemeni and US governments. Tribal relatives of the victims usu-

ally block roads linking major cities or cut off oil supplies to protest the air raids.

Meanwhile, another drone strike hit a vehicle on a road about 30 km east of the capital Sanaa, killing at least seven al-Qaeda operatives including two Saudi nationals, the Yemeni Interior Ministry said in a statement which was obtained by *Xinhua*.

The drone fired four missiles on the pick-up vehicle laden with explosives in Sanhan area, about 10 minute drive from Yemen's largest arms market in Jihana district, the ministry

said. The fresh air raids brought the death toll of al-Qaeda suspects to 22 after five successive US drone strikes on several targets in the Yemeni provinces of Marib and al-Jawf over the past four days.

Dozens of al-Qaeda members have been killed in such airstrikes since Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi was sworn in in February 2012, after a yearlong unrest weakened the control of the central government and allowed the militants to take over swaths of territory in the south.—*Xinhua*



Clouds cover the sky of Jakarta, Indonesia, on 23 Jan, 2013. According to Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics agency (BMKG), Jakarta is still threatened by heavy rains and floods up to Sunday. At least 26 were reportedly killed in the floods that submerged houses and affected more than 250,000 people in Indonesia's capital city since last Tuesday.—XINHUA



World War II veterans attend a celebration to mark the 114th anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Republic in Bulacan Province on 23 Jan, 2013. The Philippine Republic was established on 23 Jan, 1899, a day after first Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the Malolos Constitution. XINHUA

Israeli-Palestinian peace process entering critical period: UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Jan—The Middle East peace process is entering a critical period that requires "courageous" steps by Israelis and Palestinians to save the two-state solution, a senior United Nations envoy told the UN Security Council here on Wednesday, warning that "the consequences of inaction could be dire for everyone."

"No international effort alone is sufficient for progress absent the requisite will from the parties themselves," said Robert Serry, the UN special coor-

dinators for the Middle East Peace Process.

"If they want to provide themselves and others with the opportunity to get on track in the period ahead, then now is not the time for actions that further undermine mutual trust."

Speaking at an open debate of the 15-nation Security Council on the Middle East, Serry noted that the council meeting took place against the backdrop of ongoing events in the region that could affect the peace process itself, including the

Tuesday elections in Israel, the Wednesday polls in Jordan, and the start of US President Barack Obama's second term.

"This is not a time to be idle," he said. "We are entering a critical period ahead, in which concerted action will be vital if we are to salvage the two-state solution."

The two-state solution, widely backed by the international community, means a secure Israel to live in peace with an independent State of Palestine.

Xinhua

Britain's continued presence in EU mutually beneficial: White House

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—The White House said on Wednesday that it would be mutually beneficial for Britain to stay in the European Union (EU).

"We believe that the United Kingdom is stronger as a result of its European Union membership and we believe the European Union is stronger as a result of having the United Kingdom in the EU," said White House spokesman Jay Carney in

response to British Prime Minister David Cameron's remarks about a referendum on the country's EU membership by the end of 2017.

"We value our essential relationship with the UK as well as our relationship with the European Union, which makes critical contributions to peace, prosperity and security in Europe and around the world," Carney said at a regular news briefing.

In a long-awaited speech

on Wednesday, Cameron stated: "Public disillusionment with the EU is at an all-time high. That's why I am in favor of a referendum."

The prime minister said that he wanted to renegotiate Britain's relationship with the EU before asking people to vote, and that he would campaign "heart and soul" for Britain to remain in the 27-member bloc should he secure satisfactory terms.

Xinhua

Patriots to reach initial capability in Turkey this weekend: NATO

BRUSSELS, 25 Jan—The Patriot missile batteries being sent to Turkey are expected to reach initial operating capability this weekend and full capability by the end of this month, a senior NATO official said on Wednesday.

"We expect to have initial operating capability this weekend. That is what we are aiming at... The first units will arrive on station, they will plug in to the NATO command and control network

and they will be then ready to defend the population," said Brigadier General Gary Deakin, director of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe's strategic operations center. "We expect to deliver full capability at the end of this month. We will have all Patriots in... Currently, all that is on track," he said during a press briefing at the NATO headquarters.

NATO decided to deploy advanced Patriot mis-

siles to Turkey's southern border in December to counter potential attack from neighbouring Syria.

The United States, Germany and the Netherlands are sending a total of six Patriot batteries and about 1,200 troops to Turkey.

Once all batteries are in place, NATO will be able to provide protection against missiles for up to 3.5 million people in Turkey, Deakin said.—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT

James Franco's classmates made up a dance about him being gay



NEW DELHI, 25 Jan—Actor James Franco insists false rumours about his sexuality

don't bother him because he has been subjected to them for many years, and was even the subject of high school gossip that alleged he was having a secret relationship with a male friend.

He told MTV News: "In high school these girls got mad at me and so they spread this rumour that I was having a gay relationship with one of my closest friends. And they even made up a little dance they would do in the girls' locker room about me being gay. I still don't know what the dance was."

The 34-year-old actor - who dated his What-

ever It Takes co-star Marla Sokoloff for five years and then had another five-year relationship, with actress Ahna O'Reilly, but has been single since they split in 2011—insists he doesn't care if people think he is gay and isn't "frightened" about being the subject of such rumours.

Discussing the speculation that still surrounds his sexuality, James—who has played gay characters in several films including Milk and Howl—added: "It wasn't like it was anything new. And in fact, it wasn't something that frightened me, like if people think that, it's fine. I really don't care."—PTI

Daniel Radcliffe flirts with Erin Darke



Daniel Radcliffe and his Kill Your Darlings co-star Erin Darke.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan—Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe and his Kill Your Darlings co-star Erin Darke were seen flirting during the film's premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

The pair were also seen kissing and cuddling closely while on a date at a lounge, reported Us magazine.

"They were affectionate most of the night," a source said. According to the source, the actress "was

touching his knee" at their VIP table. "They were a little more obvious outside the venue after they were leaving," the source added. The stars have yet to comment on the nature of their relationship, though another insider said, "They've been seeing each other quietly in New York, where they both live." Daniel Radcliffe split from his production-assistant girlfriend Rosie Coker in October 2011.—PTI

Marrying Shane Warne is top priority for Liz Hurley

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan—Elizabeth Hurley no longer wants to be super skinny.

The 47-year-old actress and swimwear designer has relaxed her diet and fitness routine because she believes having more curves helps her look younger.

The mother-of-one told the March issue of Tatler Russia: "I keep my eye on what I eat all the time, because now that we're older we have to make a conscious decision if we want to stay relatively slim... But as you get older, it doesn't actually look that attractive to be super skinny."

The former 'Gossip Girl' star recently revealed

she has given up sugary foods and reduced her coffee intake after over-indulging over the Christmas holidays. In a series of Twitter posts earlier this month, she wrote: "My 2013 health kick starts. Yes! Long, fast walk with dogs and zero sugar or anything with white flour ... And a bit less caffeine ... And more vegetables." Meanwhile the actress has revealed that marrying her fiancé Shane Warne is her top priority this year, as soon as they find the time.

She said: "We'd love to [get married], and it's top of our to-do list, but we just haven't. It's logis-

tically quite difficult, because half the family are in Australia and half the family are here [in the UK] 'We got engaged very early because we thought it was very important for the kids to know that there was serious intent behind it, and that we were really setting out to make our own family on a different level—of course Shane's kids still have their mother, and Damian still has Arun—but us getting married is really about the children and us.'

She also insisted that her son Damian, 11, is still



Elizabeth Hurley said, "We'd love to get married and it's top of our to-do list".—PTI

the most important man in her life, saying: "Damian always comes first. Work comes second, attempting to be a nice friend to my friends and a nice fiancée to my fiancé is third, and everything else is unmitigated chaos."—PTI

Women still struggling in Hollywood: study

LONDON, 25 Jan—Only nine percent of directors of the top 250 grossing Hollywood films in 2012 were women, a study has found.

The Centre for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University said that despite the low figure, it was a four percent increase from the numbers in 2011, BBC reported.

The research found women comprised 18 percent of all directors, executive producers, writers, cinematographers and editors.

It also showed women were more likely to work in the documentary, drama and animated film genres.

The centre has been conducting the industry survey for more than a decade to track trends, BBC said.

The number of female producers has held steady at 25 percent for the past two years, while female writers rose to 15 percent, up from a low of 10 percent in 2006.

The number of female editors between 1998-2012 has remained fairly constant in the 20-21 percent range.

Cinematographers have fluctuated between 2-4 percent, although figures for 2012 were on the

low end of the range. No women have made it onto the shortlist for best director at this year's Oscars.

Zero Dark Thirty is the only Best Picture nominee to have been directed by a woman, Oscar-winner Kathryn Bigelow.

Another study by the Sundance Institute and Women in Film in Los Angeles showed women fared better in the independent film sector.

Looking at films shown at the Sundance Film Festival over the past decade, and accounting for 820 narrative and documentary films, researchers found women represented 29.8 percent of 11,000 filmmakers.

There are more women working in documentary films than narrative films.

PTI

Jessica Chastain shocked over Kathryn Bigelow's Oscar snub

LONDON, 25 Jan—Actress Jessica Chastain says she felt like she had been shot through the heart after learning director Kathryn Bigelow had missed out on a Best Director Academy Award nomination for their gritty drama Zero Dark Thirty.

Jessica Chastain, 35, won critical acclaim for her role in the film as a tough CIA agent, who uncovers the whereabouts of terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden leading to his real-life assassination in Pakistan

on 2 May, 2011, reported Daily Express.

"When I found out she didn't get nominated it really felt like an arrow into my heart because so much of my performance is because of her and her trust in me and her guidance in my role," she said.

Her performance in the film earned Jessica Chastain a Golden Globe Award last week and also landed her a nod for Best Actress at the Oscars next month, while Zero Dark Thirty was also shortlisted for Best Picture.

PTI



Actress Jessica Chastain

Zero Dark Thirty director Kathryn Bigelow at the Golden Globe Awards on 13 January, 2013. PTI



SPORTS

Sumo: Harumafuji closes in on New Year title as Hakuho crashes again



Harumafuji

TOKYO, 25 Jan—Harumafuji took apart Kotoshogiku and closed in on his third championship title in four meets on Thursday as chief rival and fellow Mongolian grand champion Hakuho crashed to a second loss at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.

Harumafuji watched Bulgarian ozeki Kotooshu (7-5) topple Hakuho in the day's penultimate bout at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan and took full advantage, slapping about ozeki Kotoshogiku (6-6) and dragging him down to improve to 12-0.

Harumafuji can secure the title with two days to spare on Friday if he beats ozeki Kisenosato (10-2) and if 23-time Emperor's Cup winner Hakuho and rank-and-filer Takayasu both lose.—Kyodo News

Ravens safety Reed to play next season

NEW YORK, 25 Jan—Baltimore Ravens safety Ed Reed plans to play next season in the National Football League whether he wins or loses in the Super Bowl against San Francisco, the nine-time Pro Bowl selection said on Thursday.

Team mate Ray Lewis, 37, had already announced he would retire at the end of the postseason on his "last ride" in the NFL after 17 seasons, and many wondered if the 34-year-old Reed might follow his linebacker friend into retirement. "Nah, it's not my last ride," Reed, who has played in the NFL for 11 years, told reporters with a smile. "I just bought a bike." Pressed for a more definitive answer, the play-

ful Reed said: "I'll be playing next year."

Reed, set to become an unrestricted free agent after this season, could savor a crowning moment in the February 3 game against the 49ers by claiming his first Super Bowl title in his home city of New Orleans.



Baltimore Ravens free safety Ed Reed celebrates the last minute of the Ravens' win over the Kansas City Chiefs in their AFC NFL football game in Kansas City, Missouri on 7 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Flamengo striker Liedson joins Porto on loan

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Jan — Former Portugal international striker Liedson has joined Porto on a six-month loan deal from Brazil's Flamengo. The



35-year-old was last week given permission to negotiate with other clubs after being told by Flamengo coach Dorival Junior that he was no longer a part of the Rio outfits plans.

"This move is something that I have been wanting for a while and finally it has materialized," Liedson said on his official website on Thursday. "I am grateful to Porto for giving me this

opportunity and hope to be able to repay their faith in the best way possible."

Liedson, who has won 14 international caps for Portugal, endured a frustrating debut season with Flamengo last year, scoring just four goals from 17 appearances.

It will be his second spell in Portugal's top flight, having played 214 matches and scored 116 goals for Sporting Lisbon from 2003 to 2011.

Xinhua

Former Portugal international striker Liedson

Real Madrid President Perez denies ultimatum from players over Mourinho



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

MADRID, 25 Jan—Real Madrid President Florentino Perez this Thursday called a Press conference to deny stories written about the club in the Spanish Press. Perez reacted to a front page headline story printed in Spanish sports paper, 'Marca', which stated he has met with goalkeeper Iker Casillas and defender Sergio Ramos in the offices of his construction company ACS on Tuesday and that the pair said that unless coach Jose Mourinho left the club at the end of the season, they would ask for transfers.

The story has stunned Spain and Perez acted quickly to try and at a press conference held in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium he rejected Marca's claims. "It is totally false that in the meeting that the two captains, gave anything like an ultimatum," said Perez.

"What has happened is so serious that I am breaking my rule of not speaking. We had a fine meeting and what has been written is not true," said Perez who asked for at the club.

"I am denying false information which has the objective of destabilizing the most prestigious in-

stitution in the world," he concluded. Whether or not Real Madrid is the 'most prestigious institution in the world,' may be open to debate, but it is the football club which earned the most money in 2012 according to the 'Football Money League,' elaborated by the bank Deloitte's.

Real Madrid earned 513.6 million Euros (686 million US dollars) in the 2011-12 season according to Deloitte's more than FC Barcelona, who were the second highest earners on 483 million Euros (646.7 million US dollars) and Manchester United, who earned 527 million US dollars from marketing, TV and prize and gate money. However, the report also highlights the inequality in the Spanish game due to the uneven distribution of TV rights while there are seven sides from the English Premier League in the Top-20 earners, Real Madrid and Barca are Spain's only representatives, although Valencia are in 21st place.

Xinhua

Massa first to test new Ferrari

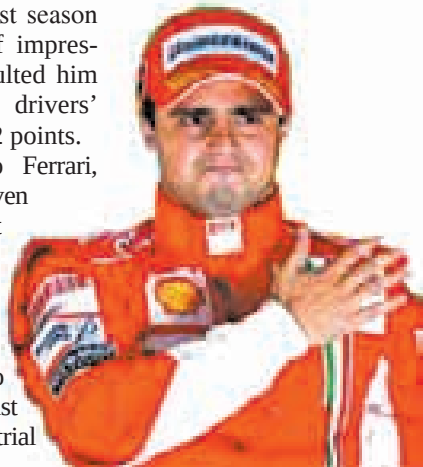
RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Jan — Brazil's Felipe Massa will be the first driver to test Ferrari's 2013 Formula 1 car, the Italian team confirmed on Thursday.

The 31-year-old will be the designated driver for trials at Jerez from February 5-7 before two-time world champion Fernando Alonso returns from his off-season break two weeks later, Ferrari confirmed on its website. Buoyed by being given a 12-month contract extension late last year, Massa recently revealed plans to challenge for the 2013 F1 drivers' championship. He

scored just 23 points in the first half of last season before a series of impressive results catapulted him to seventh in the drivers' standings with 122 points.

According to Ferrari, Massa will be given seven days to test the new car and Alonso five. The team's development driver Pedro de la Rosa, who drove for HRT last season, will also trial the car for a day.

The 2013 Formula 1 season begins with the Australian Grand Prix on 17



Brazil's Felipe Massa

March at Melbourne's Albert Park circuit.—Xinhua

Snedeker, Choi share lead as Tiger lurks

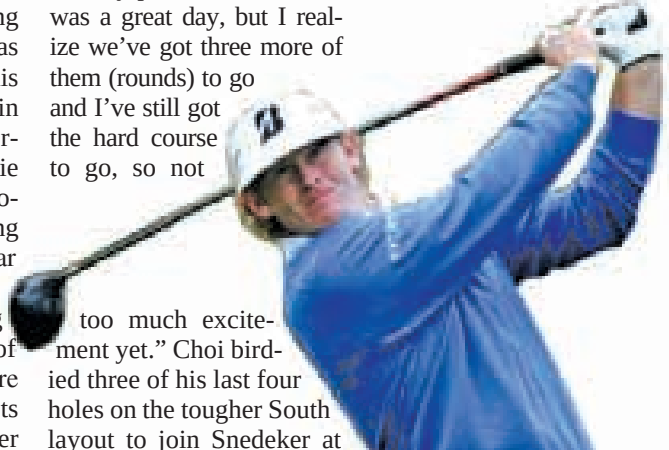
SAN DIEGO, 25 Jan—While most eyes were on six-times champion Tiger Woods as he briefly moved within a stroke of the lead at the Farmers Insurance Open on Thursday, Brandt Snedeker launched his title defense in barnstorming style. Snedeker, who has posted four top-10s in his previous six appearances in the PGA Tour event at Torrey Pines, charged into a tie for the lead with South Korean KJ Choi after carding a flawless seven-under-par 65 in the opening round.

The fast-talking American birdied four of his first nine holes before picking up three more shots after the turn on the easier North Course, one of two layouts hosting the fourth PGA Tour event of the year. "Obviously, a great start," FedExCup champion Snedeker told reporters after a mainly overcast and calm day at Torrey Pines.

"It was nice to be back here defending. The golf course is in great shape and to play the way I played today was nice. "I drove the ball really well, didn't make too many mistakes and, when I did, my putter saved me. "It was a great day, but I realize we've got three more of them (rounds) to go and I've still got the hard course to go, so not

nice plays as well," said Woods, whose charge came immediately after he had double-bogeyed the fourth. "We couldn't ask for better conditions to score than we had today."

Canadians



US golfer Brandt Snedeker

Mike Weir and Adam Hadwin, who both started out on the North course, and Britain's Ross Fisher were among a group of eight players knotted on 66.—Reuters

GENERAL

Illegal timber seized in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 25 Jan—Under the supervision of Kyaukme District Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing and the commander of Kyaukme District Police Force, a combined team led by Assistant Director U Kyaw Myo Htwe of Kyaukme District Forest Department seized four vehicles with the loads of hardwood timber which were driven from Nawngkhio to Lashio on Mandalay-Muse Union Highway at Asia World Toll



Gate in Kyaukme at about 7 am on 19 January. The seized hardwood weighing 59.184 tons was worth K 100 million. Myanmar Alinn

Palmeiras rules out Riquelme deal



RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Jan—Brazilian club Palmeiras has ruled out signing Juan Roman Riquelme, less than a week after agreeing financial terms with the former Argentina international midfielder. The decision follows a meeting between the Alviverde's new president Paulo Nobre, executive director Jose Carlos Brunoro and coach Gilson

Kleina at the club's Sao Paulo base on Thursday. "We all agree that Riquelme is a great player, but we are in a rebuilding process and facing financial challenges," said Nobre, who replaced Arnaldo Tirone as Palmeiras president on Monday. "Good players come at a cost and you can't go doing crazy things in football. Palmeiras doesn't have the luxury of bringing in a player of his value," he added.

"As far as we are concerned his signing can be ruled out. The fans want him to come and we would love to sign him, but we have to be responsible. We are doing what we believe

is in the best interests of the club." Last week Riquelme told Argentine media that he was "inclined to sign" with the Brazilian outfit after a meeting with outgoing president Tirone in Buenos Aires.

Palmeiras, one of the most successful clubs in Brazil's history, was last year relegated to the country's Serie B but qualified for Latin America's prestigious Copa Libertadores tournament by virtue of winning the Brazil Cup. Riquelme, whose career has included spells at Barcelona and Villarreal in Spain, won 51 caps for Argentina before ending his international career in 2008.—Xinhua

LPGA Tour to launch international team event in 2014

SAN DIEGO, 25 Jan—The LPGA Tour has created an eight-nation tournament that will identify the best team in the world when it makes its debut in 2014, two years before golf returns to the Olympic Games. The inaugural International Crown, a biennial matchplay event featuring four-player teams, will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland, outside Baltimore from 24-27 July.

"We celebrate great players from all over the world on a weekly basis, but this is the first time we'll pit country versus country for global bragging rights," Ladies Professional Golf Association Commissioner Michael Whan said in a statement. "Only countries that have produced the best female teams can compete and only four players from any one country will be invited. The International Crown will take women's golf to the next level and allow fans to rally behind



their homelands."

Players will be selected based on world rankings and teams will be split into two brackets for the \$1.6 million event. After three days of fourball matches, the top five teams will advance to the final round of singles matches on the Sunday. Points accumulated over all four days will determine the champion team.

"It's like preparing for the Olympics," world number one Yani Tseng of Taiwan said. "In Taiwan and in Asia, we don't have a team event like this. This is a good opportunity for us

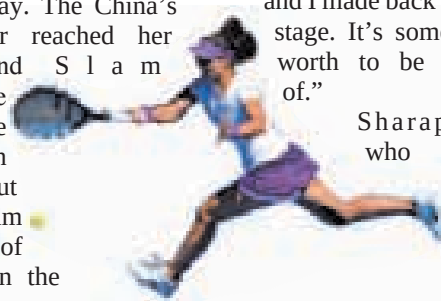
to play for our countries. It's really going to be awesome." Based on current world rankings, South Korea, the United States, Japan, Sweden, Australia, Spain, Taiwan and England would compete for the inaugural title.—Reuters

Li Na crashes Sharapova to reach second Australian Open final

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Former French Open champion Li Na of China swept second-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-2 to reach her second Australian Open final here on Thursday. The China's top player reached her first Grand Slam final at the Melbourne Park in 2011 but lost to Kim Clijsters of Belgium in the

final, just before she won Asia's first Grand Slam title in the French Open. "I'm very happy now. Not so many players can reach the Grand Slam finals three times," said Li. "I insisted and I made back to this stage. It's something worth to be proud of."

Sharapova, who only lost



Li Na of China

a historical tournament-low nine games in her previous five matches, struggled with her serve from the very beginning of the match. She double faulted twice in her first serve game, allowing Li to break her in the first game. Li held to lead 2-0 and then broke again for 4-1 with a cross-court return. Sharapova fought her way to three break points in the sixth game and secured the chance when Li missed a return. Li returned the favour in the following game to lead 5-2. The No.6 seed served for

the set, racing to 40-0 and wrapped the first set up in 48 minutes. Li took the first service break in the second set to remain on track with a 3-2 lead, grabbed a second at 5-2 and served out the match. Sharapova saved one match point but Li made an ACE to take advantage again and didn't waste the second chance.

"In the beginning of the match I was nervous. I was happy I come back to semis again, but for some reasons I really want to win the match," said Li.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-1-13 09:30 am ~ 27-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * The First ITAB Meeting for 2014 Census (Press Briefing)
- * News
- * Music
- * News
- * Youth of The Future (Graffiti)
- * News
- * Me N My Travel (Episode-2)
- * Pyin Oo Lwin
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * Myanmar Women's Art Exhibition
- * News
- * The difference between Samatha Meditation and Vipassana Meditation (Part-3)
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Fish Soup"
- * News
- * Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation 2011 (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Movies "Only Mom Can..."

MYANMAR TV

(26-1-2013, Saturday)

- | | |
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| <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Paritta By Mingun Sayadaw</p> <p>-Uppatathandi Paritta</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>2. Dhamma Puja Song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>3. Nice & Sweet Song</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>4. Health Programme</p> <p>8:25 am</p> <p>5. Poem Graden</p> <p>8:40 am</p> <p>6. Metta Bhavana by Mingun Sayadaw</p> <p>11:10 am</p> <p>7. Musical Programme</p> <p>11:25 am</p> <p>8. Game For Children</p> <p>11:55 am</p> <p>9. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News</p> <p>1:10 pm</p> <p>10. Teleplay</p> <p>1:30 pm</p> <p>11. Song of National Races</p> <p>2:35 pm</p> <p>12. International News</p> <p>2:40 pm</p> <p>13. "Road to 27th SEA GAME" (Table Tennis)</p> | <p>2:50 pm</p> <p>14. MFF BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 (Live) (Semi Final) (1) (Group (A) First Vs Group (B) Second)</p> <p>3:50 pm</p> <p>15. MFF BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 (Live) (Semi Final) (2) (Group (B) First Vs Group (A) Second)</p> <p>5:05 pm</p> <p>16. Songs For Upholding National Spirit</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>17. Cultural Dances</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>18. Beautiful ASEAN</p> <p>6:20 pm</p> <p>19. Celebrity and Dinner</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>20. News</p> <p>21. TV Drama Series</p> <p>10:00 pm</p> <p>22. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn</p> |
|--|--|



Belarus' Victoria Azarenka (L) greets Sloane Stephens of the United States after their women's singles semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 24 Jan, 2013. Azarenka won 2-0.—XINHUA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends felicitations to Indian

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2013, His Excellency Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun felicitates Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2013, His Excellency U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

“Brand new” licence covers longer term: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — The eight-day session of Pyithu Hluttaw was held today, answering six questions and holding discussion on one Bill.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung replied the question on renewal of vehicle licence to be extended up to two or three years instead of one-year vehicle licence registration raised by U Bo Ni of Yamethin Constituency

that vehicle licence will be extended when roads were upgraded, new vehicles were assembled at home and more brand new vehicles were imported. He defended the policy that one-year vehicle licence registration was needed for the sake of road safety as most of imported vehicles were used cars

U Bo Ni of Yamethin Constituency asking questions.—MNA



and brand new saloons had been granted three-year vehicle registration since 15 November 2012. When the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called on the ministry to take it into consideration, the Union Minister replied that decision would be made after seeking the approval at the cabinet.

At the session to discuss the Amyotha Hluttaw-approved Bill on employment and capacity building,

Hluttaw representatives took part in the discussion and Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Welfare U Maung Myint made clarifications. Today's session came to an end and the ninth day session continues tomorrow.

MNA

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung responds to questions.—MNA



Manaw Land to resurrect memorable events

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— The government would enter political dialogue without ceasefire as demanded by KIO/KIA, said Deputy Minister U Aung Thein at the President Office as he responded to debate of 13 MPs on the proposal of UKhet Htein Nam who urged the Union government to adopt firm principles for building mutual understanding with KIO/KIA to bring about internal peace.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region Constituency No (4) pointed out the need of a peacemaker either person or entity who is neutral and respected by both sides and has excellent negotiation skills to settle the argument between two parties who are standing

on different grounds with different views, concluding that it would grease wheels for negotiation process.

U Mann Kan Nyunt of Kayin State Constituency No (2) said compared the situations in Kayin State and Kachin states. Hardly the sound of gunshots and shell bursts can be heard and barely the crimes like robbery and murder occur now in the former whereas the sweet memories of Manaw dances in the latter have become all water under the bridge, expressed the MP his feeling, wishing Manaw Land for resurrection of those memorable events.

The deputy minister said Union Peace-making Central Committee and Work Committee were formed

on 3 May, 2012. Twenty parliamentarians are among the 52 members of the central committee. The President has outlined three-stage roadmap for establishing lasting peace with ethnic armed groups apart from not seceding from the Union, safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes and adhering to 2008 Constitution. And Myanmar Peace Center was established in October 2012 to assist in all the administrative matters required for acceleration of the peace process. As a result, the government could reach peace agreement with 10 out of 11 ethnic armed groups. Of those, KNU, KNPP, SSA, RCSS and NMSP shared the common historical background with KIO/KIA. Nonetheless,



Hluttaw representatives seen at sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

the government with full confidence would continue political dialogue without

ceasefire as demanded by KIA. The Hluttaw approved

the proposal. The Hluttaw session continues 28 January. MNA

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release

1. The Embassy of the United States of America in Yangon issued a Press Release about the armed conflicts in Kachin State on January 24, 2013.
2. The Government is endeavoring in good faith to achieve cease-fire and peace agreement with all ethnic armed groups with the aim of national reconciliation and national unity. As a result, peace agreements have been achieved at various stages with all ethnic armed groups except KIO/KIA.
3. The peace door remains open for the KIO/KIA and the government has repeatedly invited them to the peace talks. As the President has ordered the Tatmadaw to cease military actions in Kachin State on January 19, 2013, the Tatmadaw forces followed the instructions of the President. Likewise, the KIA/KIO also needs to reciprocate in the same manner.
4. Although Myanmar Tatmadaw has ceased all military operations against KIA, the KIA has constantly attacked Tatmadaw troops. Therefore, the Tatmadaw troops had to react for self-defense.
5. Immediately following the President's instruction to cease all offensive operations, the KIA troops attacked Tatmadaw military column with strong forces near Ja Mai village in Lweje Township, and a military camp near Phakhant. Kar Mine Police Station was raided and destroyed. Two Gems company buildings in Phakhant Township were torched, civilians were abducted and a civilian vehicle was exploded by a landmine laid by the KIA near Nam-Um village on Muse-Lashio motorway.

6. As KIA troops have constantly launched such terrorist attacks, the Tatmadaw had to take military actions just to protect and safeguard the peace and tranquility of the community and for the prevalence of law and order. The Government has been issuing press releases from time to time on every account of the events, in order to provide true information to the public.
7. Although the Government has been exerting such efforts for the national unity and peace, the US Embassy press release has mentioned the continuation of Myanmar Tatmadaw's military offensive in the vicinity of KIA's Headquarters and its strong opposition quoting sources from some media and NGOs. The press release could cause misunderstanding in the international community as it did not mention anything about terrorist actions and atrocities committed by the KIA against the innocent people, destruction of life and property and abduction, but on the other hand, elaborating the events as if only the Myanmar Government and the Tatmadaw launched the offensive.
8. During his visit to Myanmar on 19 November 2012, and also at the ASEAN-US Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20 November 2012, President Obama dully addressed the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as "Myanmar".
9. Myanmar strongly objects the usage of the words "Burma", "Burmese Government" and "Burmese Military" in the US Embassy's press release not using the name recognized by the United Nations and the whole international community, which are not in line with the international ethics. Myanmar hopes that the US Embassy will avoid in future actions that may affect mutual respect, mutual understanding and cooperation which have recently been restored between the two countries.
10. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar reiterates that it is ready to join hands with all nationalities including KIO/KIA to build peace and national reconsolidation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
25 January 2013