

INSIDE

Emperor expresses concern about victims of disaster



PAGE-3

Somali militants claim Mogadishu hotel bombing



PAGE-3

South China nuclear plant starts operation



PAGE-4

Hundreds of foreigners to participate in Yoma-Yangon international marathon

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—About 2,400 marathon runners, including more than 500 foreigners, will participate in the Yoma-Yangon international marathon that will take place on 19 January. According to organisers from the Yangon City Development Committee and First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd, participants can run the full 42.195-kilometre marathon leading to the Yoma mountain range or a half marathon. There will be separate races for men and women.

From 16 to 18 January participants can pick up their kits from the National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna, with the bags containing a route map, T-shirt and label.

Everyone crossing the

finish line will receive a T-shirts, officials said.

The winners of the men's and women's 42-kilometre race will receive \$ 2,500, with the second best winning \$ 1,200 and \$ 800 going to the third placed. For the men's and women's half marathon, \$ 1,500 will be awarded to the winner, with \$ 800 going to the second placed and \$ 400 to the third.

The registration fee will be donated to three organizations helping children, namely the nursery of the Maternal and Child Welfare Branch of the YCDC, the Thukha Yeikmyon Youth Development Philanthropic Home for orphans and the Monywa Orphanage.

MMAL-Theint Theint Moe

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No (1/2014)

2nd Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME
(2 January, 2014)

Presidential Pardon

With the aim of honouring the 66th Anniversary Independence Day, ensuring peace and stability of the State, the rule of law and national unity and making a focus on humanitarianism, the President pardoned inmates who were prosecuted regarding any offences they were convicted of before 3rd Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME (3 January, 2014) to enjoy pardon for their cases in accord with Section 204 (a) of the Constitution.

- Those who were sentenced to death are to be commuted to life imprisonment (no limit on prison sentence of year).
- Those serving life imprisonment (except those whose death sentence has been commuted to life imprisonment) and those with more than 40 years to serve have to serve 40 years in prison.
- Inmates with jail terms 40 years and under have to be allowed a one-fourth reduction in their prison terms.

Sd/Thein Sein
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

South Korean Ambassador hopes for brotherly relations with Myanmar

Myanmar has had diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea since May 1975 and now it has been almost 40 years. Relations between the two are strong and getting closer on a daily basis. Years ago, Korean drama was introduced in Myanmar and since people in Myanmar have enjoyed K-Drama. Their similar cultures, history, religion and geopolitical background seem

to make the two countries closer. The news crew of Myanma Alinn Daily interviewed Korean Ambassador Lee Baek-soon.

Q: How do you see current Myanmar-Korea relations?

A: Considering similar cultural, social, historical and geopolitical background, Myanmar and Korea are friends. During a meeting with President U Thein Sein, the president compared Myanmar-Korea relations to that of close relatives. I totally agree with him and I would like to make
(See page 8)

Interviewer:
MYAT SANDI THIN ZAW
Photo: MIN HTET



ROK
Ambassador
to Myanmar
Lee Baek-soon who
wishes to
strengthen
relations
between two
countries.

Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony to be on live TV

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—MRTV, Radio Myanmar and Myawady TV will broadcast live the State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day at 6.40 a.m. on 4 January.

The ceremony will be held at the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.—MNA

INSIDE

Alluvial land plots allotted to farmers in Magway Region



PAGE-2

Farmers receive agricultural loans in central Myanmar

PAGE-2

Taunggyi Township gets wildlife sanctuary, recreation centre

Kandawtan wildlife sanctuary opened in conjunction with the opening of a recreation centre in Nabaung Village in Taunggyi Township in Southern Shan State at 1 p.m. on 31

December 2013.

In commemoration of the opening ceremony, fish were released into the sanctuary's lake and various species of birds and monkeys set free.

Swimming, rowing and equestrian contests were held as part of activities to mark the opening of the sanctuary and officials arranged a lucky draw for attendees.

Tint Swe (Taunggyi)

Kandawtan Lake and recreation centre are located at a site near the road to the ancient pagoda Mwedaw Kakku Pagoda south of Taunggyi.

The establishment of the sanctuary and recreation
(See page 8)



LOCAL NEWS

Procedures for first nationwide census in 30 years discussed

MANDALAY, 2 Jan—Officials in Mandalay have discussed the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the local population this year — the first time in 30 years that a census will be conducted in Myanmar.

The Mandalay Region Census Committee held a coordination meeting on 30 December with officials explaining the procedure.

U Thaung Zaw, Secretary of the committee and Director of the Region INRD gave an account of housing matters, the

opening of offices to conduct the census, and the organization of basic education and training for volunteers.

The government undertook a pilot census earlier this year with the support of the United Nations Population Fund. As part of the project, around one hundred schoolteachers trained to be enumerators visited selected villages across the country and questioned thousands of people representing a cross-section of Myanmar's diverse geographic and

ethnic mix, according to the United Nations. Officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population monitored the process to test procedures for data collection and public involvement.

The last census was conducted in 1983 to establish the number of people in Myanmar and gather information about their livelihoods. The government decided to conduct a census in 2014 to improve the economic and social infrastructure of the country.—MMAL-040



Winning bidders announced for development projects in Dawei and Taninthayi Region

DAWEI, 2 Jan—The winning bidders for development projects in Dawei and the entire Taninthayi Region were announced at an official ceremony in that city on 30 December.

The projects funded by the Ministry of Border Affairs will go to 40 companies and entrepreneurs, officials said.

Explaining the rules of the open bidding and the tasks ahead, Col Zaw Lwin, Secretary of the Taninthayi Region Development Committee and Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs was joined by Joint Secretary of the

committee U Aung Kyaw Myint.

Among the winning bidders are Jewel Ocean Co, F-22 Sonny Construction Co, U Myint Than of Thayetchaung Township, Generate Co, U Lay Lay of Launglon Township, U Ko Ko Oo of Myeik, U Thein Win Tun of Palaw Township, U Hla Soe of Palaw Township, U Zaw Myo Win of Palaw Township, Hsan Thit Aung Co, Mya Yaung Kyei Co, U Toe Win Tun of Myeik Township, Brighter Asian King Co and Tawwin Hline Co.

MMAL-District IPRD



Agriculture

Alluvial land plots allotted to farmers in Magway Region

SEIKPYU, 2 Jan—Almost 100 farmers in the Magway Region have been given plots of alluvial land, following a survey by a local farmland committee.

The plots were allotted on 28 December, with officials saying that farmers from Yawwa, and the middle and western wards

of Seikpyu Township of Magway Region will be able to use the land for cultivation along the banks of the Yaw creek.

According to officials, the farmers will grow onions on a commercial scale on the 0.2 acres of land they each received.

MMAL-Township IPRD



Farmers receive agricultural loans in central Myanmar

MYOTHIT, 2 Jan—The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has disbursed loans for the cultivation of cold season crops to local farmers in the Magway Region of central Myanmar.

Farmers from seven village-tracts in the township of Myothit Township received loans worth K 308.54 million from the Bank on December 30.

Farmers from the Magyigon village tract have been receiving loans

since December 27.

MMAL-Zaw Zaw (Myothit)



Aung Win clinches title in professional golf event in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 2 Jan—The 14th Mandalay Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament was won by Aung Win in the professional category, with Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun presenting the championship trophy at the event on 28 December.

In the women's category May Oo Khaing

came in first place, while Myint Swe triumphed in the senior professional golfer event with Myo Win Aung winning the amateur event. The best scores of the day were rewarded with a motorcycle and a mobile phone handset for each of the winners.

Gifts were also

presented to the Myanmar Golf Federation and the golf club by U Myint Thein, member of the Mandalay City Development Committee, while the Secretary of the MCDC U San Maung presented veteran golfers with prizes.

In the commemorative colour photo contest of the

golf tournament Mayor U Aung Moun presented first, second and third prizes to Oak Moe also known as Cherry Winn, Naung Naung from the MCDC and Moe Hein Tun from the Mandalay Daily Monsoon.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

WORLD

Emperor expresses concern about victims of disaster



Japan's Emperor Akihito (L) speaks during a ceremony celebrating the new year at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 1 Jan, 2014. Standing beside the emperor is Empress Michiko.
KYODO NEWS

Tokyo, 2 Jan — Emperor Akihito on Wednesday expressed his concern for those affected by the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that hit

the northeastern part of Japan as the third winter since then has come around. “At the dawn of the new year, my heart once again goes out to the afflicted people,” the emperor said in his New Year’s message, thinking of those who have to spend the cold winter in temporary housing and those who cannot return home due to the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

“Last year, too, many people were confronted with various difficulties and I am sure they faced many hardships,” said the 80-year-old emperor.

Kyodo News

Pakistan, India exchange list of nuclear installations

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan — Pakistan and India on Wednesday exchanged list of nuclear installations under bilateral agreement, according to Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan handed over list of its nuclear installations to the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad.

Similarly Indian External Affairs Ministry handed over its list to Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi.

Under the agreement signed between the two countries in 1988, both

countries are bound to exchange list of nuclear installations at the start of new year.

Meanwhile Pakistan and India also exchanged list of prisoners under the Consular Access Agreement between the two countries.

Pakistan presented a list of 281 Indian prisoners including 232 fishermen held in Pakistan’s jails while India reciprocated with a list of 396 Pakistani prisoners including 139 fishermen imprisoned in India.

Xinhua

Cambodian protesters clash with security personnel, 15 detained

PHNOM PENH, 2 Jan — Fifteen protesters demanding higher pay for garment workers in Cambodia were detained Thursday after a brief clash with security personnel at a factory near Phnom Penh, a military police spokesman said.

Kheng Tito told *Kyodo News* the 15 detainees include Vorn Pov, president of the Independent Democratic Association of Informal Economy, and five people dressed as Buddhist monks, whom he suspects are not all genuine monks.

Tito alleged the protesters tried to incite workers inside the compound to destroy the garment factory’s properties.

But human rights activist Chan Soveth said they were only calling for the workers to join them in demanding the minimum wage be raised to \$160 from the current \$80.

There were some injuries from the throwing of stones by protesters and the use of batons by security personnel, according to both men, but it was unclear how many.

The incident came two days after the government decided to increase the minimum monthly wage for garment workers from \$80 to \$100 starting in February next year.

The \$20 pay hike comes after thousands of

workers joined protests and rallies with the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party to demand the minimum wage be doubled to \$160 per month.

Heng Sour, spokesman of Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, said more than 500 of the 925 garment and footwear factories resumed their operations Thursday after they had halted them for several days due to fear of violence by protesters and as well as for the New Year’s holiday.

More than 90 percent of factories operating inside the Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone have resumed production, he said.

Kyodo News

Somali militants claim Mogadishu hotel bombing

MOGADISHU, 2 Jan — Militants in Somalia said on Thursday that they carried out the triple bombing on a Mogadishu hotel that killed at least 11 people.

Al Shabaab, who are battling African peacekeepers for control of territory in southern and central Somalia, said its bombers had targeted intelligence officials who were meeting at the Jazira hotel at the time.

“The apostates are the eyes and the ears of the invaders and these attacks serve as a well-deserved punishment for their role in guiding and assisting the invading forces in their crusade,” al Shabaab spokesman Ali Mohamud Rage said in a statement.

Al Shabaab said it had killed more than a dozen people in Wednesday’s attack. A private ambulance service director said his medics had recovered at least 11 bodies. The assault on the Jazira hotel, one of

the securest places in the coastal capital, underscored worries in neighbouring countries and beyond that Somalia could slip back into anarchy if recent military gains against rebels are not consolidated.—Reuters



A man walks past the scene of an explosion that occurred Wednesday night outside Jazira hotel in Mogadishu, on 2 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Russia’s Putin meets Volgograd bombing victims

VOLGOGRAD, (Russia) 2 Jan — President Vladimir Putin met wounded victims of deadly suicide bombings in the southern Russian city of Volgograd on Wednesday, heaping condemnation on the attacks that raised security fears ahead of the Winter Olympics.

Putin flew in before dawn, after vowing in a New Year address to “annihilate” terrorists in uncompromising remarks aimed at Islamist insurgents based in the North Caucasus who have plagued his 14-year rule. “No matter what motivated the criminals, there can be no justification for crimes against civilians, particularly against women and children,” Putin said in televised comments at the start of a meeting with senior security officials.

“The vileness of the

crime — or crimes — that were committed here, in Volgograd, needs no additional commentary,” Putin said during the tightly-controlled visit.

A suicide bomb blast in Volgograd’s main railway station on Sunday afternoon killed at least 18 people, and a second attacker blew

and placed red roses at the site of the trolley bus bombing. The bombings raised fears of more attacks before Russia holds the Winter Olympics in Sochi a Black Sea resort on the edge of the Caucasus Mountain range 690 km (430 miles) southwest of Volgograd.

Reuters



Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (L) meets a survivor of one of two recent bombings at a local hospital in Volgograd, on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

River flooding leaves 16,000 homeless in S Peru

LIMA, 2 Jan — Some 16,000 residents of Peru’s southern Andean Cusco region were driven from their homes on Wednesday after the Quillabamba River burst its banks following torrential downpours, a local official said.

In statements to Peruvian news network Radio Programas del Peru, mayor of the Quellouno Jesus Lobaton said the river flooded in the early hours of dawn, washing away homes and belongings in this remote community located 1,151 kilometres southeast of the

capital Lima. Lobaton declared a state of emergency to facilitate the arrival of aid for the thousands of homeless residents who lost everything in the floods.

“One part of the town is affected,” said Lobaton. “I want to alert the central government so it can start preparing the emergency aid it can provide.”

Fedia Castro, regional head of La Convencion Province, where Quellouno is situated, told reporters that regional and provincial rescue teams have been mobilized to help the local

residents.

Castro said the aid being provided by regional and provincial authorities isn’t enough to meet the needs of the homeless, so the central government was asked to send emergency humanitarian aid and machinery.

“We hope they help us, we need more machines, because the ones we have aren’t enough,” said Castro.

Local authorities continue to be concerned by continuing rains, fearing more flooding from full reservoirs and rivers.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Syrian Electronic Army says hacked into Skype's social media accounts

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan —The Syrian Electronic Army, an amorphous hacker collective that supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, claimed credit on Wednesday for hacking into the social media accounts of Internet calling service Skype.

The group also posted the contact information of Steve Ballmer, Microsoft Corp's retiring chief executive, on its Twitter account along with the message, "You can thank Microsoft for monitoring your

accounts/emails. #SEA"

That message was an apparent reference to revelations last year by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden that Skype, which is owned by Microsoft, was part of the NSA's programme to monitor communications through some of the biggest US Internet companies.

A message posted on Skype's official Twitter feed on Wednesday, apparently by the hacking group, read: "Don't use Microsoft

emails (hotmail, outlook). They are monitoring your accounts and selling the data to the governments. More details soon. #SEA"

Similar messages were posted on Skype's official Facebook pages and on a blog on its website before being taken down in late afternoon. The SEA later tweeted out copies of the message "for those who missed it."

Representatives for Microsoft could not be reached for comment.

The NSA's practices essentially made Microsoft and other technology companies partners in government surveillance efforts against private citizens in the United States and elsewhere. Last month Microsoft joined seven other top technology companies in pressing President Barack Obama to rein in the US government's electronic spying in a meeting at the White House.



A page from the Skype website is seen in Singapore on 10 May, 2011.—REUTERS

Media companies, including the *New York Times* and the BBC, have repeatedly been targeted by the Syrian Electronic Army and other hacker activist groups that deface websites and take over Twitter accounts.

Obama and his national security team are trying to decide what recommendations to adopt from an outside panel's review of the NSA's activities.

A US District judge in December ruled that the US government's gathering of Americans' phone records is likely unlawful and raised what he called

"serious doubts" about the value of the so-called metadata counter-terrorism programme.

A second federal judge ruled later in the month that the program was constitutional, raising the likelihood that the issue will be settled by the US Supreme Court.

This week, a monitoring group said the death toll in Syria's civil war, which began in March 2011 as peaceful protests against four decades of rule by Assad's family, had risen to at least 130,000.

Reuters

Hackers post account info of 4.6 million Snapchat users

NEW YORK, 2 Jan — Computer hackers posted online usernames and partial phone numbers of 4.6 million users of mobile photo-sharing service Snapchat, media reports said on Wednesday. A website called Snapchat-DB.info made the information available for download, according to tech news site TechCrunch.

As on Wednesday night, the site SnapchatDB.info has been suspended. In a statement to TechCrunch, SnapchatDB said that it got the information through a recently identified and patched Snapchat exploit and that it was making the data available in an effort to convince the messaging app to beef up its security.

With Snapchat, users can send photos and videos that disappear shortly after they are viewed and have been lately gaining popularity especially among young users. Snapchat drew attention in November when reports emerged that it had turned down a \$3 billion acquisition offer from Facebook. The two-year old company has so far raised more than \$123 million in funding. Snapchat could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters outside of regular US business hours.

Reuters

South China nuclear plant starts operation



Photo taken on 16 Dec, 2008 shows an overall view of the construction site of Yangjiang nuclear power plant in Dongping Town, Yangjiang City, south China's Guangdong Province. Construction of Yangjiang nuclear power plant by China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group inaugurated on Tuesday. —XINHUA

GUANGZHOU, 2 Jan — The first generating unit of the Yangjiang nuclear power plant in south China's Guangdong Province began trial operations on Tuesday.

The No 1 unit was connected to the power grid Tuesday, the Yangjiang Nuclear Power Co, Ltd. said in a statement.

The plant, at an estimated cost of 73.2 billion yuan (12.1 billion US dollars), is scheduled to start commercial operations in a few months.

Construction on the No 1 unit of the second nuclear

power plant in Guangdong started in mid December 2008. Its six units will generate 48 billion kwh of electricity a year after going into commercial operations around January 2019, the company said.

Compared with a similar coal-fired plant, Yangjiang can reduce coal consumption by 15.6 million tonnes of standard coal a year. It can also help cut emission of carbon dioxide by 38.3 million tonnes per year and that of sulfur dioxide by 370,000 tonnes.

Xinhua

Massive new information technology project launched

BEIJING, 2 Jan — Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing, will be among 68 cities and areas in a pilot project to encourage the development of e-commerce, 4G telecom networks and cloud-based services, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Smaller cities in 25

provinces and autonomous regions are included in the project as the government looks for ways to speed up urbanization.

Besides economically developed coastal areas, less-developed inland cities, such as Xi'ning in Qinghai and Karamay in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, were also included.

China plans to boost domestic consumption, utilizing information technology, such as broadband Internet and 4G networks, amid weakening foreign trade indicators.

Total output value of Information consumption will pass 3 trillion yuan (\$496 billion) by 2015, according to the ministry.

Xinhua

3,000-year-old tombs bear secrets of ancient Zeng State

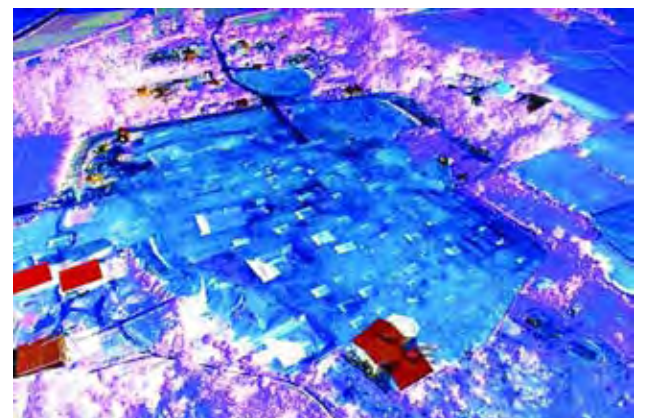
WUHAN, 2 Jan — Archaeologists announced that more than 2,000 relics dating back more than 3,000 years and discovered in central China's Hubei Province are likely to reveal the mysteries of the Zeng State during the early Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC).

Two excavations at the Yejiashan Graveyard in Suizhou City, which began in June 2011 and March 2013 respectively, have led to the discovery of 140 tombs and 7 horse pits, where a large amount of pottery, bronzeware, lac-

querware, protoporcelain and jade were unearthed, said Huang Fengchun, head of the excavation team, at a symposium on Monday.

The graveyard consists of a cluster of tombs believed to have belonged to three emperors of the Zeng State, an affiliated state of the Western Zhou Dynasty.

The excavation of the Yejiashan Graveyard is of great academic significance for the research of the enfeoffment system in the Western Zhou Dynasty, said Ye. Further excavation will probably unravel the mysteries of the Zeng



Two excavations at the Yejiashan Graveyard in Suizhou City have led to the discovery of 140 tombs and 7 horse pits. —XINHUA

emperors, said Li Boqian, an archaeologist at Peking University.

First discovered in 2011, the Yejiashan Graveyard was named among China's Top 10 Archaeological Findings that year by China Cultural Heritage News, a publication affiliated

with the State Administration of Cultural Heritage.

The latest excavation has found the dynasty's first painted bronze and a tomb holding a set of 19 dings (cooking vessels) and 12 guis (food containers), which surpassed the burial norms for a king.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Fiat strikes \$4.35 billion deal to buy rest of Chrysler



The Chrysler logo is shown on a new Chrysler 200 in the showroom at the Massey-Yardley Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram automobile dealership in Plantation, Florida on 8 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

MILAN/DETROIT, 2 Jan — Italian carmaker Fiat SpA struck a \$4.35 billion deal to gain full control of Chrysler Group LLC, ending more than a year of tense talks that have obstructed Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne's efforts to combine the two automakers' resources.

The agreement, announced on Wednesday, cements Marchionne's reputation as the industry's consummate dealmaker about a decade after he took the helm of Fiat as a car business newcomer, analysts and bankers said.

But it remains to be seen whether a merger will be enough to cut Fiat's losses in Europe. Mar-

chionne's plan to shore up Fiat depends on the ability to share technology, cash and dealer networks with Chrysler, the No 3 US automaker.

"This is an increasingly American company now, because in Europe, and especially in Italy, the business conditions remain difficult," said Andrea Giuricin, transport analyst at Milan's Bicocca University. "Fiat has already lost many of its market positions in Europe and it won't be easy to recover that."

Fiat will acquire the 41.46 percent stake in Chrysler it did not already own from a retiree health-care trust affiliated with the

United Auto Workers union. The trust, known as a voluntary employee beneficiary association or VEBA, will receive \$3.65 billion in cash for the stake, \$1.9 billion of which will come from Chrysler and \$1.75 billion from Fiat. After the deal closes, Chrysler has committed to giving the UAW trust another \$700 million over three years.

The deal is expected to close on or before 20 Jan. Fiat said that because of how the deal is structured it will not need to make any capital increase through a rights issue.

The VEBA's payout is less rich than some analysts expected. The sale of the UAW trust's stake values the No 3 US automaker at less than \$9 billion. When factoring in the additional \$700 million, Chrysler is worth \$10.5 billion.

"We thought they were going to have to pay a lot more than that," a London-based analyst at a major investment bank said. "The market's going to love this — Marchionne's done it again. He's brought in a deal that looks like a cracking one on the face of it and he doesn't need to do a capital increase."—Reuters

Trebling tobacco tax 'could prevent 200 million early deaths'

LONDON, 2 Jan — Trebling tobacco tax globally would cut smoking by a third and prevent 200 million premature deaths this century from lung cancer and other diseases, researchers said on Wednesday. In a review in the New England Journal of Medicine, scientists from the charity Cancer Research UK (CRUK) said hiking taxes by a large amount per cigarette would encourage people to quit smoking altogether rather than switch to cheaper brands, and help stop young people from taking up the habit.

As well as causing lung cancer, which is often fatal, smoking is the largest cause of premature death from chronic conditions like

heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure.

Tobacco kills around 6 million people a year now, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), and that toll is expected to rise above 8 million a year by 2030 if nothing is done to curb smoking rates.

Richard Peto, an epidemiologist at CRUK who led the study, said aggressively increasing tobacco taxes would be especially effective in poorer and middle-income countries where the cheapest cigarettes are relatively affordable.

Of the 1.3 billion people around the world who smoke, most live in poorer countries where often governments have also not yet

introduced smoke-free legislation.

But increasing tobacco tax would also be effective in richer countries, Peto said, citing evidence from France, which he said halved cigarette consumption from 1990 to 2005 by raising taxes well above inflation.

"The two certainties in life are death and taxes. We want higher tobacco taxes and fewer tobacco deaths," he said in a statement. "It would help children not to start, and it would help many adults to stop while there's still time."

While smokers lose at least 10 years of life, quitting before age 40 avoids more than 90 percent of the increased health risk run by people who continue smoking. Stopping before age 30 avoids more than 97 percent of the risk.

Governments around the world have agreed to prioritize reducing premature deaths from cancer and other chronic diseases in the United Nations General Assembly and in the WHO's World Health Assembly in 2013. They also agreed to a target of reducing smoking by a third by 2025.

Reuters



A shopkeeper reaches for a packet of cigarettes in a newsagent in London on 28 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

Women may skip radiation therapy over child care concerns

NEW YORK, 2 Jan — Child care issues may keep breast cancer patients from getting the treatments they need, a new study suggests.

Mothers with young children were more likely to skip recommended radiation treatments after breast cancer surgery because of worries about the time involved, researchers found.

In particular, women who had a breast tumor removed were less likely to undergo radiation therapy afterwards if they had kids age seven or younger at home.

About 81 percent of women surveyed in the study who had younger kids received radiation therapy. The rates of radiation therapy for women with older kids or none at all ranged between 84 and 87 percent.

Put another way, one in five women with young kids in the study skipped potentially life-saving post-surgery treatment, said Ya-Chen Tina Shih,

an economist and associate professor of medicine at the University of Chicago in Illinois who co-led the study.

Women who have "lumpectomy" surgery to remove a breast tumour — the researchers did not include patients who had mastectomies — are usually advised to follow up with radiation therapy, which requires a serious time commitment. The radiation treatments take up to an hour, five days a week, for up to seven weeks, the researchers report.

"Many have hypothesized that young children might be a barrier for younger women, but this paper is the first to demonstrate that," wrote Dr Nancy Keating in an email to Reuters Health.

Keating, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School's Department of Health Care Policy in Boston, was not involved in the new study.

"It suggests there is a modifiable barrier to

improving care: providing child care," Keating said.

For their study, Shih and her team looked at 21,008 patients who filed breast cancer surgery claims between 2004 and 2009 with employer-sponsored insurance.

From the data provided by Truven Health Analytics, researchers knew how many kids — dependents — were in a woman's household.

The team found

additional barriers to radiation therapy. Patients who enrolled in HMO plans, or PPO plans with fixed reimbursement amounts, were less likely to follow through with the treatment. If a patient had to travel far for the surgery itself, then she was also less likely to get radiation.

But this study's biggest contribution is highlighting how childcare may play a role, Keating said.

Reuters



Vasiliki Kostoula, a Greek breast cancer patient, listens to her doctor after a radiological medical examination in an Athens hospital in the file photo in 2008.

REUTERS



Visitors look at the latest Samsung products during the opening day of the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin on 6 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Samsung Elec shares drop more than 2 percent on weak earnings outlook

SEOUL, 2 Jan — Shares in Samsung Electronics Co Ltd dropped more than 2 percent in early trading on Thursday, on continued lackluster forecasts of its Q4 earnings due to currency moves and shrinking margins in its display business.

"We expect Samsung's performance to be about 9.5 trillion Korean won, lower than the market

consensus around 10.2 trillion Korean won. The biggest reason would be the won-dollar exchange rate, followed by shrinking margins in organic light-emitting diode (OLED) sales," Lee Seung-woo, tech analyst at IBK Investment & Securities said.

Samsung Electronics is expected to report its latest earnings results next Tuesday.—Reuters

Palestinian delegation to head for Czech Republic over Ambassador's death



An investigator works at the site of an explosion in Prague on 1 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

RAMALLAH, 2 Jan — Palestinian Foreign Ministry is coordinating with Czech authorities to send a delegation to help investigate into the death of Palestinian Ambassador in Prague, a ministry official said on Wednesday.

The Ambassador, Jamal Al Jamal, was injured in an explosion in his resi-

dence in Prague-Suchdol on Wednesday and died in hospital, announced Czech police spokeswoman Andrea Zoulova.

The Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the Palestinian authorities do not rule out that Al Jamal was "killed in a plotted assassination."

According to report by Czech media, the explosion occurred when a safe placed in the ambassador's residence was opened.

The blast could have been caused by an explosive system, a 52-year-old woman was treated on the spot and then taken to the Prague-Motol Hospital on suspicion she inhaled by-product gases and over a stress reaction, according to media reports.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian ministry said in a statement that Al Jamal was "a model of the persistent, successful diplomat serving his homeland and cause."

The 56-year-old ambassador officially assumed the post on 11 October, 2013, when he handed his credentials to Czech President Milos Zeman.

Xinhua

Mali dismisses candidates for fraud in elections

BAMAKO, 2 Jan — Mali dismissed candidates from three constituencies for stuffing ballot boxes in a parliamentary election meant to complete the country's transition to democracy after a 2012 army coup.

The West African country's constitutional court was flooded with complaints of electoral fraud from rival parties following the first round of legislative elections in November. A total of nine candidates on lists for the constituencies Nara, Niono et Gao were affected, the court said late on Tuesday.

The dismissals did not change the overall outcome which granted a victory for President Ibrahim Bou-bacar Keita's (IBK) RPM party, with 67 of a total 147 seats in Parliament.

Adema, the RPM's main ally, finished second with 16 seats.

The confirmation of the final results is due to unlock \$3.25 billion of donor pledges to rebuild the West African country after Islamists seized control of the north in the coup's aftermath.

France sought to drive out the al-Qaeda-linked fighters a year ago in a military intervention, helping to clear the way for elections. Since his election in August, President Keita has struggled to exert control over the lawless northern region where some Islamic

militants remain active and have launched attacks.

In the latest indication of the ongoing security challenges, two rockets were fired on Wednesday and landed next to the northern city of Kidal's airport but failed to explode, according to a resident.

France has 2,800 troops stationed in Mali but aims to reduce its military presence to 1,000 by February as it hands security responsibilities to the Malian army and a UN force. The UN mission, launched in July, is still at roughly half its planned level of 12,600 members.—Reuters



File photo show a delegation of the ECOWAS observer mission monitor the counting of cast votes at a polling station in Bamako on 24 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

British PM calls on people to stick to long-term plan in 2014

LONDON, 2 Jan — In his New Year speech, British Prime Minister David Cameron calls on people to stick to the long-term plan in 2014.

In a video clip released by the Conservative Party, Cameron recalled that when he just took office, the economy in Britain was not so good. "Three and a half years later, we are turning a corner," he said. "We see it in the businesses that are opening up, the people

who are getting decent jobs, the factories that are making British goods and selling them to the world again. The plan is working."

"That's why this year, 2014, we are not just going to stick to the plan, we are going to re-double our efforts to deliver every part of it, to benefit the whole country and to secure a better future for everyone," he continued.

He pledged to further cut deficit, create more jobs,

deliver good education and help hard-working people feel financially secure.

Cameron noted that the year 2014 is not only vital for the economy, but will be an important date in the history of Britain due to the referendum in Scotland.

"The referendum vote will be the biggest decision that Scotland has ever been asked to make," he said. "This is not a vote for the next a few years, but a vote that could change our

country forever."

He sent the message to Scottish people that "we want you to stay."

"Our family of nations is at its best when we work together with shared interests and common purpose," he said. "So this year let the message go out from England, Wales and Northern Ireland to every one in Scotland, we want you to stay," said the prime minister.

Xinhua

Sunni militants storm Iraq police stations to free prisoners

FALLUJA, (Iraq) 2 Jan — Islamist militants stormed police stations in several cities of Iraq's western province of Anbar on Wednesday, seizing weapon caches and freeing prisoners after security forces dismantled a Sunni Muslim protest camp on Monday.

The attacks on three police stations in Falluja, Ramadi and Tarmiya represent a serious escalation in the confrontation between Iraqi Sunni groups and the Shi'ite-led government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

Sunni anger at the government's crushing of a protest movement has inflamed Iraq's already

deeply rooted sectarian tensions. The camp dismantled on Monday has been seen as an irritant to Maliki since it was set up to protest against perceived Sunni marginalization a year ago.

"Gunmen in large numbers surrounded the three police stations in Falluja and forced all policemen to leave without their weapons if they wanted to spare their lives. All of us left, we didn't want to die for nothing," a policeman stationed at one of the three stations told Reuters.

The gunmen then took control of a local government building nearby, deploying snipers on its roof to prevent the security forces from retaking com-



Gunmen gesture during fighting in Ramadi on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

mand of the police stations in Falluja, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad.

Clashes between gunmen and security officials in Ramadi, another city in Anbar, continued for a third day on Wednesday, and also involved assaults on police stations by militants driving vehicles mounted with machine guns.

In a separate attack, at least four policemen were

killed and 12 more wounded when gunmen attacked a police headquarters in the mainly Sunni town of Tarmiya, north of Baghdad, police reported.

Dozens of trucks loaded with gunmen were roaming the streets in Falluja and Anbar, and three police vehicles were set ablaze near one police station in Ramadi, a police source said.

Reuters

S Korea needs to make active response to DPRK's reconciliatory gesture

SEOUL, 2 Jan — South Korea needs to make more active response to the reconciliatory gesture of Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), a South Korean expert said on Thursday.

"Kim Jong Un's New Year speech was positive, given he did touch on improved inter-Korean relations in a direct way, while refraining from making hostile comments against the United States," Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said in a telephone interview.

Kim said in a televised New Year's address on Wednesday that the DPRK will "create atmosphere to ameliorate the relations between the DPRK and South Korea," calling for an end to slandering each other.

Asked about whether Pyongyang will convert the

reconciliatory remarks into action in 2014, Yang asked back how the DPRK can engage in dialogue with South Korea when President Park Geun-hye is calling for sincerity from the DPRK without giving a positive response to such reconciliatory gesture.

The professor cited the aborted resumption of six-party talks, the aid-for-disarmament dialogue among six parties, including the two Koreas, China, the United States, Russia and Japan, to dismantle the DPRK's nuclear weapons programme.

The DPRK has called for the resumption of the six-way dialogue without any preconditions, but South Korea and the United States claimed that Pyongyang should first show its sincere attitude toward the denuclearization even to enter into the dialogue phase.

Xinhua

WORLD



Bill de Blasio (1st R) swears in as New York's 109th mayor with the oath administration of former President Bill Clinton (1st L) at the City Hall of New York City, the United States, on 1 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA

High-speed DPRK border link to open 2015

SHENYANG, 2 Jan — A high-speed rail link between Dandong, China's largest border city, and Shenyang City, in northeast China's Liaoning Province, will open in August 2015, authorities said on Thursday.

The line, over 207 kilometres, allows speeds of up to 250 km per hour. Construction began in March 2010.

The journey currently takes 3 hours and 35 minutes. The high-speed link will shorten the time to only

one hour.

Dandong is a prefecture-level city facing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the Yalu River, which serves as the China-DPRK border post.

Xinhua

Mandela's native village becomes pilgrimage site

CAPE TOWN, 2 Jan — Late former South African President Nelson Mandela's hometown, once a "sleepy village", is becoming a pilgrimage site, authorities said on Wednesday.

Since Mandela's death, more and more visitors have come to the Nelson Mandela Museum in Qunu, Eastern Cape, where Mandela spent much of his childhood, the museum said.

Mandela, who died of illness in Johannesburg on 5 December at the age of 95, was buried in Qunu 10 days after his death.

Last year, two or three visiting groups visited the Nelson Mandela Museum a day, but over the past two weeks this number has increased to between 15 and 20, museum spokesperson Nokuzola Tetani said in a statement.

Historically important sites associated with Mandela have become attractions to visitors both local and international, according to Tetani.

Xinhua

Chile takes seat at UN Security Council

SANTIAGO, 2 Jan — Chile took its seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday as a non-permanent member of the international body through 31 December, 2015.

It marked the fifth time the South American nation has been invited to sit on the council and help uphold the UN's "principles of non-intervention and respect for international treaties," Chile's foreign ministry said in a statement.

During the 68th UN General Assembly held last October in New York, Chile's bid to sit on the council received unanimous backing of fellow Latin American countries, as well as countries in other parts of the world.

In addition to Chile, other non-permanent members joining the council for the next two years included Chad, Lithuania and Nigeria. Chile previously sat on the UNSC from 1952-1953,

1961-1962, 1996-1997 and 2003-2004.

"Chile will continue to contribute to strengthening effective multilateralism, so that the Security Council can continue to make concrete contributions to crisis prevention and resolution, which affect international peace and security in different parts of the world," the ministry said.

Chile "will act in keeping with the fundamental principles of the United Nations, such as the sovereign equality of states, non-intervention, the validity and respect for international treaties, the respect and promotion of human rights, democracy, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts," the ministry added.

Chile will fulfill its role at the council "with the conviction that the current complex problems and challenges require global solutions based on cooperation and solidarity," the ministry said.—Xinhua



Soldiers inspect the suicide blast site in south-west Pakistan's Quetta on 1 Jan, 2014. At least three people were killed and 29 others injured in a suicide car bomb attack on a pilgrims' bus in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta late Wednesday, local media and officials said.

XINHUA

Philippine gov't to continue peace talks with leftist rebel group

MANILA, 2 Jan — The Philippine government pledged on Wednesday to continue to pursue the peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) even after the holiday truce ended.

"On the president's instructions, Office of the

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) continues to pursue alternative avenues for attaining peaceful resolution of conflict despite snags and challenges," Presidential Communications Operations secretary Herminio Coloma Jr said on Wednesday.

The Philippine government implemented a nationwide Christmas truce with the New People's Army, from 21 December, 2013 to 15 January of 2014, the OPAPP said.

OPPAP secretary Teresita Deles said, "The

government continues its traditional call for a Christmas ceasefire to allow those in conflict areas, whether soldier, rebel or civilian, safe passage to celebrate Advent with their families, far from all harm."

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) central committee also declared their traditional Yuletide truce starting from 20 December, 2012 to 15 January, 2013.

It has been a tradition that both the government and the CPP declare holiday truce each year, although it

differs in duration.

The rebel group has been waging a guerrilla campaign in the countryside for more than four decades. The military estimates the NPA strength at more than 4,000 men scattered in more than 60 guerrilla fronts throughout the country.

Peace talks between the government and the leftist rebels bogged down in February last year. The Aquino administration is working on a new approach to end the leftist insurgency.—Xinhua

South Sudan president declares state of emergency ahead of talks

JUBA/ADDIS ABABA, 2 Jan — South Sudanese President Salva Kiir declared a state of emergency in two states on Wednesday as his negotiators prepared for peace talks with rebels to end more than two weeks of violence that has pushed the country towards civil war.

Kiir called the emergency in Unity and Jonglei states, the two regions whose capitals are now controlled by rebel forces loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, who Kiir has accused of plotting a coup. Gunshots were heard near the presidential palace on Wednesday evening. A presidential spokesman said security forces most likely fired the shots at residents breaking a curfew.

Both sides are under mounting pressure from



People displaced from fighting between the South Sudanese army and rebels, wait for boats to cross the Nile River, in Bor town, around 180 km (112 miles), northwest from the capital of Juba on 30 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

regional and Western powers to reach a deal to stop the bloodletting that has killed more than 1,000 people in the world's newest state and displaced nearly 200,000 more.

The White House has

said it would deny support — vital in a country the size of France that still has hardly any infrastructure more than two years after secession — to any group that seizes power by force.

Reuters

Two killed in clashes between Egyptian police and protesters

CAIRO, 2 Jan — Two people were killed in violent clashes that erupted late on Wednesday between pro-Islamist protesters and police in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria, the Ministry of Interior said.

Egypt has been hit by a wave of violent protests since the army removed elected Islamist President Mohamed Mursi from office in July following mass protests against his rule. Hundreds have been killed and thousands arrested since then.

The Interior Ministry said the clashes happened during two marches organized by some 200 Brotherhood members in Alexandria. "They (the Brotherhood protesters) blocked the road... set shops on fire, burned a citizen's car, fired guns and bird shot and clashed with and terrorized the people,"

the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Thursday.

It said some residents had exchanged fire with the Brotherhood protesters, killing two people and injured three police officers. The police forces managed to end the clashes and arrested 10, according to the Interior Ministry statement.

The police had earlier on Wednesday fired tear gas and water cannons at hundreds of pro-Mursi protesters demonstrating near the Defence Ministry in Cairo after they blocked a road and chanted anti-police and army slogans, according to state media reports.

Reuters

Union Industry Minister inspects Kyaukse Industrial Zone



Union Minister U Maung Myint at the factory in Kyaukse Industrial Zone in Mandalay Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint inspected work at the No.18 Heavy Industries (Ingon) in the Mandalay Region and examined

the factory yesterday.

The minister called for sustainable production and sale of power tillers to meet market demand and said

the media should be used to highlight the benefits to farmers of combine harvesters. He suggested emphasis be made on “green-

ing” and beautifying the factory environment.

At No.36 Heavy Industries, which manufactures advanced glass in the Kyaukse Industrial Zone, he held a meeting with the staff and cash assistance for the staff and inspected the facilities for production of advanced types of glass.

The Industry Ministry has had a contract on the No.36 Heavy Industries (Kyaukse) Project with CAMCE Co., Ltd. of China since 2007 and the project is to come into operation soon. The factory will make more than 40,000 tons of various types of glass annually.

MNA

Myanmar para sports athletes to partake in 7th ASEAN Para Games

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Myanmar is going to hold the 7th ASEAN Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex in Zeyathiri Township, here, on 14-20 January. According to Myanmar para track and field athletes’ group under the Myanmar Para Sports Federation, a total of four Myanmar athletes (men) will participate in the wheelchair track and field contest.

U Soe Lwin, coach of Myanmar Para track and field athletes’ group, is conducting the athletes un-

dergoing intensive training at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)



Hanthawady International Airport to be as good as Incheon International Airport. In addition, I would like to support as much as I can bringing big companies from Korea so that can pave the broader way for smaller and medium companies to invest in Myanmar.

Q: Is there social assistance to Myanmar from Korea?

A: Yes, there is. During President U Thein Sein’s visit to Korea, he was much impressed by the Saemaul Undong (new village movement) and wants to transplant Saemaul Undong in Myanmar, especially in rural areas. The project will start from 2014 by the help of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency). Korea will also provide a development policymaking institute and human resources training center. And we will supply solar pumping systems in rural areas. On the other hand, Korea plans to pro-

vide loans for the Internet Backbone Network and the ‘Bridge of Friendship’ that will connect Yangon downtown and Dala area.

Q: Can you tell me how you feel in Myanmar?

A: I remember the impression that I had during a business trip to Myanmar in 2003. I found that Myanmar people get up early and go to work early as well, which is the same for Koreans. This time, though it has been a month since I arrived here, I could feel a lot of changes such as heavy car traffic, construction, many foreigners and dynamism, and I guess almost all of these bode well for the future of Myanmar. In addition, the fact that K-Drama is very popular in Myanmar makes me much closer to Myanmar people. I hope the already well-built-up relationship between the two countries will get much better in the near future.

Myanma Alinn:
27-12-2013

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 3 January, 2014

Our bounden duty

New Year’s Eve celebrations took place at every corner of the country to usher in the New Year, 2014. Revelers happily welcomed the year with songs, dances and good deeds.

Revelers found liberty, happiness, joy, delight, freshness and excitement at the New Year’s Eve festivals, revelries around the country proving the notion Myanmar is a sovereign state.

Now, Myanmar Independence is going to be 66 years old and all Union brethren of Myanmar will celebrate the country’s 66th Anniversary Independence Day soon. Myanmar regained its independence from the British 66 years ago on 4 January.

As a sense of preserving our independence has been handed down from generation to generation living through thick and thin, it can be witnessed that Myanmar stands tall among world nations as an independent and sovereign nation. Perpetuation of independence is the bounden duty of each and every citizen of Myanmar.

Special care and safeguards are necessary to perpetuate independence. If not so, we will lose the independence we gained. Absence of sovereignty in a country means that country has lost its independence. Civil war in a country can lead the nation to collapse, rather than the invasion of one country by another. Taking a look at civil wars in Syria, Central African Republic and South Sudan, people of these countries have lost their liberties due to civil wars.

The meaning of celebrating the Independence Day annually in Myanmar is to call on the youth to take care of their duty to preserve the independence of Myanmar passed down by their elders. That is why we all have to safeguard our hard-won independence to realize the taste of freedom.



In commemoration of Kayin New Year, opening of Hotel Lawka took place at the hotel in Myawady Township yesterday. Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Saw Aye Myaing of Kayin State Constituency No (8), Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan and Hotel Owner U Saw Win Aung cut the ribbon to open the hotel.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY)

Taunggyi ...

(from page 1)

centre is aimed at preventing deforestation, conserving natural springs, contributing towards enhancement of tourism and enabling local people to relax, said an official of the sanctuary.

In the evening, the people enjoyed a performance of Pa-O traditional dances and various festive activities.

Trs: TTA

Kyemon: 2-1-2014

South Korean Ambassador hopes ...

(from page 1)

all-out efforts to make us much closer not only as relatives but as brothers during my tenure. Here in Myanmar I witness that Myanmar is turning into a democratic country, this country is developing very rapidly and the future is pretty bright. In order to be a democratic and developed country, Myanmar needs not only government but also people’s will to improve the country and a good partner who can support and counsel during a tough journey. In this context, Korea is the unique and ideal partner for Myanmar as Korea has achieved democratization and industrialization from scratch over the last 60 years.

Q: How can the business relationship move forward with Korean investors in Myanmar?

A: Korea is the 4th largest investor for Myanmar

and trade volume between two countries increases rapidly: in 2010 it marked only about US\$ 640 million, but in 2012 it soared to about US\$1,680 million. In 2013 and in the future, we are planning to invest more and closely cooperate with Myanmar partners to gain profit for both countries through sharing our experiences. For example, we already won the successful tender of Hanthawady International Airport and negotiations are undergoing. With successful agreement, the project will start in early 2014. When President U Thein Sein visited Korea’s Incheon International Airport, which has been awarded as the best airport in the world for eight years in a row, he really liked the design, size, effective operation and comfortableness of the airport and we are ready to and will build

LOCAL NEWS

Four objectives of 66th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe;
- All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace;
- All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Voluntarily Activity

Over 1,200 sets of uniforms given to auxiliary fire fighters in Mandalay Region



KYAUKSE, 2 Jan—A ceremony to present uniforms to members of the auxiliary fire brigade in the Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region was held on 30 December, with officials urging the firefighters to stay

committed to their task.

Staff Officer U Zin Tun of Township FSD presented 1,231 sets of uniforms worth K 12.31 million to the fire fighters and said the men should “serve the interest of the nation and the people dutifully.” The ceremony

was attended by top officials from the Township Fire Services Department, including U Khin Maung Than, Chairman of the Township Fire Prevention Supervisory Committee.

Kyemon-Thet Maung (Kyaukse)

Mobile Teams continue mission to crack down on smuggled goods



YANGON, 2 Jan— Authorities have inspected goods at the Wadan Jetty in Yangon, as part of a wider mission to crack down on smuggled goods.

Officials of a mobile team inspected 24,000 bags of elephant brand cement loaded on a vessel identified as MV 533.

According to authorities, the vessel was transporting cement on the Yangon-Dawei river route and was searched on 31 December, but no suspicious goods were found.—*Kyemon-Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)*

66th Anniversary Independence Day, 2014



Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium, Nay Pyi Taw for XXVII SEA Games

Photo: Kyaw Swe Moe (IPRD)

MAGWAY, 2 Jan— More than 100 young people in the Magway Region who underwent scout training have successfully completed their course and received certificates from their instructors.

The award ceremony took place in the Basic Education High School No 2 in Magway city on 31 December.

The training course, which was held from 24 to 31 December, included exercises on developing social skills, discipline and cooperation with a focus on cultivating a philanthropic spirit.

Kyemon-Zwe Htet Shin

Scout training successful for students in Magway Region



Women in Mandalay Region to be vaccinated against tetanus

KYAUKSE, 2 Jan— Women in the Mandalay Region will be able to receive tetanus vaccination for a limited period in January, February and August, officials have said.

The vaccination stations in January will operate from the 19 to 30,

with officials saying that several meeting points for the women will be designated in wards and villages.

Following a meeting at the General Hospital in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region on 31 December, officials said that women aged between 15 and 45

can get the vaccination.

Dr Tin Tin Yi, Medical Superintendent of the general hospital, stressed the need for every woman to get three shots, adding that vaccination for pregnant and young women is a top priority.

Kyemon-Khin Maung Lwin (Kyaukse)



WORLD

Ex-Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's condition worsens



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon speaks to the media during a news conference in Tel Aviv in this 1 Dec, 2005 file photo.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 2 Jan — Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, comatose since a 2006 stroke, has deteriorated to a “life threatening” condition after suffering kidney malfunction, Israel Radio reported on Wednesday.

Officials at the hospital near Tel Aviv where Sharon, 85, has been treated, did not answer their telephones. A Health Ministry spokeswoman declined to comment.

The ex-general and right-wing leader was known for executing a dramatic political about face with a 2005 Gaza pullout

that turned Israeli politics on its head when he quit his party and created a centrist faction that ruled Israel for several years.

The radio, echoing reports by other Israeli media outlets, said Sharon's condition had worsened in the past several days and that his life was in danger due to kidney failure.

The Haaretz newspaper's Web site quoting an unnamed source said that Sharon could die in “a matter of days” if his condition continued to decline. Israel's Channel 2 television said Sharon's sons were at his bed side.—Reuters

South Sudan conflict uproots 190,000 in 2 weeks

NAIROBI, 2 Jan — About 190,000 South Sudanese have been uprooted since deadly clashes between conflicting parties within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM and SPLA) broke out in Juba on 15 December, a UN refugee agency said.

The UNHCR said more than 180,000 South Sudanese have fled their homes and some 10,000 have crossed into neighbouring countries.

UNHCR Africa Operations Manager Oscar Mundia said the continual delivery of aid is crucial, adding that the safety of the agency's staff and the people they serve comes first.

“But we can also use our national and refugee networks to find alternative ways to provide assistance when it is absolutely necessary,” Mundia said in a statement received on Wednesday.

The UN refugee agency said it is extremely concerned about the tens of

thousands of people caught up in or uprooted by the fighting in South Sudan., noting that continued fighting and insecurity make access to these people challenging, and in some cases impossible.

The conflict, which has now spread to seven of South Sudan's 10 states, has also made conditions more difficult for aid workers. As a result, the UNHCR said, it has had to scale down operations in some regions though, despite the danger and difficulties, more than 200 of its national and international staff remain in South Sudan.

“And together with partners, they are continuing to assess humanitarian needs and deliver aid to existing and new internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees within the country,” Mundia said.

Since the fighting began, UNHCR staff in neighboring countries have been preparing for the arrival of new refugees.

Xinhua

EU tries to calm fears of Bulgarian, Romanian exodus

BRUSSELS, 2 Jan — The European Union sought to calm fears in countries like Britain, France and Germany that they face a mass influx of Romanians and Bulgarians following the lifting of restrictions on Wednesday, a change that risks fuelling anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe.

From 1 January, seven years after their countries joined the EU, Bulgarians and Romanians are free to live and work anywhere in the 28-nation bloc without applying for work permits.

The long-planned change has caused alarm in wealthier EU countries, where right-wing politicians and media are telling people to brace for a flood of southern Europeans who will take jobs from locals, strain public services and

scrounge off the welfare state.

“Benefits Britain Here We Come! Fears as migrant flood begins,” said the tabloid *Daily Express* in a front-page headline on Wednesday.

With continent-wide elections to the European Parliament due in May, the scare about ‘benefit tourism’ provides ammunition for right-wing parties like France's National Front, the Dutch Freedom Party and Britain's UK Independence Party (UKIP).

Seeking to calm the debate, EU Employment Commissioner Laszlo Andor said there were already more than 3 million Bulgarians and Romanians living in other EU states, and ending all restrictions was unlikely to lead to any major

increase.

“I firmly believe that restricting the free movement of European workers is not the answer to high unemployment or a solution to the crisis,” he said, referring to the EU's lingering economic malaise in the wake of the 2008 global

financial meltdown.

The dropping of the curbs was the lead story in nearly all British media on Wednesday, with reporters heading to airports to interview a trickle of people arriving on flights from Bucharest or Sofia.

Reuters



A Romanian Ion Ionut checks in his luggage for a flight to Heathrow airport in Britain, at Otopeni international airport near Bucharest on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Lebanese intelligence questioning Saudi militant, security source says



A forensic inspector collects evidence at the site of the two suicide bombings that occurred on Tuesday near Iran's embassy compound in Beirut on 30 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

BEIRUT, 2 Jan — Lebanese intelligence agents are interrogating the Saudi leader of a militant group that claimed a double suicide attack on the Iranian

embassy in Beirut last November, a Lebanese security source said on Wednesday.

US national security sources on Tuesday

confirmed the detention of Majid bin Muhammad al-Majid, reported leader of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, which operates throughout the Middle East and has links to al-Qaeda.

The Lebanese source, who declined to be named, said Majid had been arrested by the Lebanese army together with another Saudi militant, but did not say when they were captured or identify the second man. He said Majid had been living in the city of Sidon.

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades' Twitter account, from which they claimed the attack on the Iranian embassy, did not mention the arrest. A civil war in neighbouring Syria that

pits majority Sunni Muslim rebels against President Bashar al-Assad, who belongs to a sect close to Shi'ism, has deepened sectarian resentment in Lebanon, whose own 15-year civil war ended in 1990.

Sunni hardline militant groups, including al-Qaeda affiliates, have carried out attacks against the Lebanese Shi'ite Hezbollah group, an ally of Assad and of Shi'ite Iran.

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades have threatened more attacks in Lebanon unless Iran pulls its forces out of Syria, according to tweets at the time of the embassy bombing.

Reuters

Chinese iron trade fuels port clash with Mexican drug cartel

LAZARO CARDENAS, (Mexico) 2 Jan — When the leaders of Mexico and China met last summer, there was much talk of the need to deepen trade between their nations. Down on Mexico's Pacific coast, a drug gang was already making it a reality.

The Knights Templar cartel, steadily diversifying into other businesses, became so successful at exporting iron ore to China that the Mexican Navy in November had to move in and take over the port in Lazaro Cardenas, a city that has become one of the

gang's main cash generators.

This steelmaking centre, drug smuggling hot spot and home of a rapidly growing container port in the western state of Michoacan occupies a strategic position on the Pacific coast, making it a natural gateway for burgeoning trade with China.

Lazaro Cardenas opened to container traffic just a decade ago, and with a harbour deep enough to berth the world's largest ships, it already aims to compete with Los Angeles to handle Asian goods



Port security patrol the delta of the River Balsas in the port of Lazaro Cardenas on 20 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

bound for the US market.

But that future is in doubt unless the government can restore order and win its struggle with the Knights Templar, who took their name from a medieval military order that protected Christian pilgrims during the Crusades.

Mexico's biggest

producer of iron ore, Michoacan state is a magnet for Chinese traders feeding demand for steel in their homeland. But the mines also created an opportunity for criminal gangs, such as the Knights Templar, looking to broaden their revenue base into more legitimate businesses.—Reuters

REGIONAL

Vietnam receives first Russian-made submarine

HANOI, 2 Jan — A heavy lift vessel carrying Vietnam's first Russian-made submarine arrived at the Cam Ranh port in south Vietnam late on Tuesday after a one-and-a-half-month voyage from Russia's St Petersburg.

The diesel powered submarine named Hanoi is the first of six 636 Kilo-class submarines that Vietnam buys from Russia to modernize its navy, reported Vietnam's official news agency on Wednesday.

The submarines are being built at Admiralty Verfi Shipyards in St Petersburg.

The submarine has an over 3000-ton displacement, and is able to operate at a maximum depth of 300 meters and at a range of 6,000-7,500 nautical miles for 45 days and nights with 52 crew members. It is the best choice for reconnaissance and patrol.

The event of receiving the first Kilo submarine drew great attention in Vietnam. "I feel very happy. From now on, Vietnamese army will have a stronger capacity to protect the country," a reader named Hai told the Youth online newspaper.

By 3 January, all the attached equipment of the submarine will be unloaded before it is released into the sea.—Xinhua

Emperor offers New Year's greetings to well-wishers

TOKYO, 2 Jan — Emperor Akihito extended New Year's greetings on Thursday to well-wishers who gathered at the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo.

"I am truly delighted to celebrate the new year together with the people," the emperor said as he appeared on a balcony of the Chowa-Den wing of the

palace. "I hope that this will be a year of peace and quiet for each and every one of the citizens," he said, joined by Empress Michiko and other members of the royal family including Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife Crown Princess Masako.

A total of five greeting sessions are scheduled for the day.—Kyodo News



Emperor Akihito speaks before well-wishers as part of his New Year greetings at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 2 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Rescue operations by helicopter to start under better weather conditions

CANBERRA, 2 Jan — Weather conditions in the area had improved and rescue operations were likely to start "shortly" by helicopter for the passengers who have been trapped on a ship off Antarctica for more than a week, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) said at 7.30 am (local time) on Thursday in a statement. The operation was announced on Tuesday, but the weather conditions hamper the rescue effort until yesterday. This morning, the AMSA confirmed that wind in the area is down to 10 knots and visibility has improved. And it also said weather conditions are expected to remain favourable over the next 36 hours.

According to arrangements of the AMSA's Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC Australia), a helicopter on board the nearby Chinese icebreaker Xue

Long will be used to evacuate 52 of the 74 people who have been trapped on the Akademik Shokalskiy since Christmas Eve when it became stuck in deep pack ice. And the ship's 22 crew will remain on the vessel in the hope changing weather conditions will allow it get out of the ice field.

Under this operation, passengers will be collected from a makeshift landing pad they stomped into the ice near the ship. They will be flown out in groups of 12 to the Xue Long before being transferred via a barge to the Aurora Australis rescue icebreaker. The Aurora Australis will then use its barge to transfer all 52 passengers on board their vessel. The barge can take up to 22 people at a time.

The journey between the Xue Long and the Aurora Australis is a distance of about two nautical miles.

The Russian ship, the Akademik Shokalskiy, built in Finland in 1982, is carrying a team of Australian scientists and other passengers to conduct scientific experiments. It is scheduled to return to New Zealand in January 2014. And it sent a distress call on Christmas Day after becoming trapped in heavy sea ice in Antarctic sea.

The decision was made to resort to a helicopter rescue after the Aurora Australis was forced to retreat in the face of freezing winds and snow showers. The Aurora Australis is the last ship in the area that will be able to help. For the past days, two icebreakers, Chinese icebreaker Xue Long and French icebreaker Astrolabe, have already given up on efforts to push through the thick and dangerous ice floes to free the trapped ship.

Xinhua

Pakistan to build 5 more 1,100 MW nuclear power plants

MIANWALI, (Pakistan), 2 Jan — Pakistan plans to build five more 1,100-megawatt nuclear power plants with Chinese assistance over the next decade, in addition to two that are now under construction, the head of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission indicated Wednesday.

PAEC Chairman Ansar Parvez Parvez said four nuclear power plants of 325-340 MW capacity and seven nuclear power plants of 1,100 MW capacity would be in operation by 2030 to meet the government's medium-term target of 8,000 MW of nuclear-generated electricity.

Speaking to reporters at the Chashma Nuclear Power Complex in Punjab province's Mianwali district, about 285 kilometers southwest of Islamabad, he said sufficient funding should be

available to meet that target, as well as the government's long-term target of 40,000 MW by 2050, given existing electricity tariffs in Pakistan and credits being made available by China.

Pakistan currently operates two nuclear 325 MW nuclear power plants at Chashma, while work on two additional 340 MW plants at the same site is in progress. A groundbreaking ceremony for two 1,100 MW nuclear power plants at a site near Karachi took place last November. They are being constructed at an estimated cost of \$10 billion, with \$6.5 billion in credits made available by China.

Parvez said no new 325-340 MW plants are to be set up in future, but the feasibility of 1,700 MW plants could be examined.

Kyodo News

One dead, dozens injured in blockade clashes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 2 Jan — Paramilitary troops fired live rounds on Wednesday evening in clashes with opposition protesters in southeastern Bangladesh, killing at least one and injuring dozens.

"Faruk Hossain Patowari, the youth wing activist of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), died of gun shot wound on the way to hospital," a police official told Xinhua from Chandpur district, some 115 km southeast of Dhaka. The official who refused to be named said clashes erupted after pro-blockade activists attacked paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) soldiers in a patrol car. BGB personnel returned fire to quell unruly protesters, he said.

At least 25 people including law enforcers were injured in the clashes in Chandpur, the stronghold of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's BNP which launched an indefinite blockade from Wednesday morning to put pressure on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to scrap the parliamentary polls slated for 5 January. Wednesday's blockade came after the end of the opposition's two-day "March for Democracy" on Monday.

Khaleda Zia's opposition alliance had earlier enforced blockade of transport for a total of 22 days since 26 November after the Election Commission announced schedule for the 10th parliamentary polls.

Xinhua

Pakistan's Musharraf taken to hospital with chest pain, misses trial



Pakistan's former President Pervez Musharraf speaks during a news conference in Dubai on 23 March, 2013.

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan — Former Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf was taken to hospital with chest pains on Wednesday while on his way to face treason

charges in a special court in the capital, Islamabad.

It was the third time that Musharraf has failed to appear in court to face the charges. The first two times

he cited security concerns.

Musharraf, 70, seized power in a 1999 military coup when he was army chief. He later became president and ruled until 2008.

The treason charges relate to his imposition of a state of emergency in 2007, when he was maneuvering to extend his rule in the face of growing opposition from the public and the judiciary.

Musharraf's lawyers say he does not recognize the jurisdiction of the court and accuses it of bias.

A spokeswoman for Musharraf said he had been taken to a military hospital in the city of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad.

The case is being closely watched for any impact on the relationship

between Pakistan's three power centers — the military, an increasingly assertive judiciary and the fledgling civilian government.

There is concern that the trial of the former military leader could anger the army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half its history since independence in 1947.

Musharraf recently told reporters the whole army supported him though the military leadership has given no indication that it might intervene in the trial.

Judge Faisal Arab has said he did not wish to issue an arrest warrant for Musharraf, but may be forced to if he does not appear in court.

Reuters



A vendor sleeps at his booth in Old Delhi near New Delhi, India, on 1 Jan, 2014. As the temperature drops sharply in Winter at Delhi region of India, the Indian capital recorded 2.5 degrees Celsius in recent days.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN LOHAS VOY NO (39)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN LOHAS VOY NO (39) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(2) 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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ROYAL -16 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ROYAL-16 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-2 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Vietnam's southern HCM City receives over 4.1 mln foreign visitors in 2013

HO CHI MINH CITY, 2 Jan — Vietnam's economic hub Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City welcomed over 4.1 million foreign visitors in 2013, a year-on-year increase of 8.1 percent, according to the City's culture, sports and tourism department on Thursday.

Specifically, the City's tourism sector earned total revenues of over 82 trillion VND (over 3.9 billion US dollars), up 15 percent year on year, accounting for 11 percent of the City's gross domestic product (GDP).

The figures made up 55 percent and 43 percent of the country's total foreign arrivals and revenues, respectively.

In 2014, the City is expected to receive 4.5

million foreign visitors, up seven percent, with total revenues of 94 trillion VND (4.45 billion US dollars), up 15 percent, more than 2013.

During the last day of 2013 and the first two days of 2014, the City's major travel company, Saigon-tourist, welcomed more than 4,350 foreign tourists, mostly from the United States, Austria, Russia and Ukraine, as well as China's mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan, who landed Vietnam for New Year holidays.

In 2013, Vietnam received more than 7.57 million foreign visitors, a year-on-year rise of 10.6 percent, which is expected to grow 8 percent to over 8 million in 2014.

Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(18/2013)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-156(2013-2014)	Gas Detector Equipment with Complete Accessories	(2) Set	US\$
(2)	IFB-157(2013-2014)	N 69 & GD 75 Swivel Complete Sets	(2) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-158(2013-2014)	Assorted Sizes of ERW Steel Line Pipes (API 5L Grade X 42, 3LPE Coated) & Pipe Accessories	(1) Lot	US\$
(4)	IFB-159(2013-2014)	Welding Electrode	(3) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-160(2013-2014)	50 Ton Tractor with Low Bed Trailer	(2) Units	US\$
(6)	IFB-161(2013-2014)	Assorted Sizes of Tri-Cone Rock Bits & PDC Bits	(5) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-162(2013-2014)	10 Ton Dump Truck	(1) Unit	US\$
(8)	IFB-163(2013-2014)	CAT D 3508 Engine	(3) Nos	US\$
(9)	DMP/L-048(2013-2014)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Drilling Rig	(4) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-049(2013-2014)	Portable Fire Pump, Transformer Welding Set & Gas Cutting Torch	(3) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-050(2013-2014)	Geological Survey Instruments & Mud Testing Equipments	(1) Lot	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 3-2-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd January, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Ministry of Construction

Public Works

(Invitation for Open Tender)

1. Open Tender is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for upgrading projects in Yangon Region with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA LOAN, Japan.

Sr.	Name of Work	Type of Work
1	MaKyeKan — NhatAwwSan — KyeikHtaw Road	Concrete Road
2	KawHmu — WarPaLoutThout — ThaYetTaw Road	Bituminous Road

2. Start Selling Date of Tender Application Form - 3.1.2014
3. Close filling Date of Tender Application Form - 14.1.2014
4. Last Submission Date of Company's Qualification Form - 21.1.2014
5. Last Submission Date of Tender - 12.00 hours on 28.1.2014
6. Opening Date of Tender - 13:00 hours on 28.1.2014
7. Tender application forms can be purchased with five thousand kyats at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

Tender Selection Committee Ministry of Construction, Public Works
Road Department office No-(11), Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-407578, 407603, 407583, 407380



The 125th Tournament of Roses Parade is held in the streets of Pasadena of Los Angeles, the United States, on 1 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

Gas leak kills four in east China

JINAN, 2 Jan — A toxic gas leak in east China's Shandong Province killed four people and injured three others as of 8 am on Thursday, local authorities

said. The gas leakage happened at a chemical company in the economic development zone of Yangxin County, Shandong at about 11:20 pm on Wednesday.

An initial investigation showed that leakage took place in a flange connecting naphtha storage tanks. The case is under further investigation.—Xinhua

Visit Malaysia Year 2014 Celebration kicks off

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Jan — Sixty-nine tourists from China's Beijing and 20 others from China's Shanghai were welcomed on Wednesday by Ong Hong Peng, secretary general of Malaysian Ministry of Tourism and Culture at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, symbolizing the commencement of Visit Malaysia Year 2014.

The target of this special event is to extend a warm and rousing welcome to the tourists to Malaysia in conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year 2014. Thirty-seven entry points throughout the country also held similar welcome receptions at the same time.

The first batch of international tourists were greeted with cultural presentations from traditional dancers, traditional music such as gamelan, cempuling and kompang and a "The Tarik" demonstration.

Themed as "Celebrating 1Malaysia Truly Asia," a series of events and celebrations are arranged in Visit Malaysia Year 2014.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Sandra Bullock planning comedy film with Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Aniston

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock is reportedly planning to make the mother of all comedies with fellow A-listers Cameron Diaz and Jennifer Aniston.

The Gravity actress is hoping to unite her fellow actresses to produce a comedy to rival hit films such as Bridesmaids and her own film, The Heat, reported Radar online. The trio of actresses are hunting for a script that would give them all a chance to shine, with Sandra Bullock spearheading the project.

"Sandra is the one who is friends with both Cameron and Jennifer, and would likely get top billing in the project. It's amazing that this is even being considered by this group — and shows that they're putting aside old rivalries to find ways of staying relevant in recession-racked Hollywood," a source said. "Although there isn't a script or concept in play just yet, the film could do for girl comedies what The Avengers did for superhero movies," the source added.

The Heat producer Peter Chernin may come on

board for the film, while fellow actress Drew Barrymore has expressed interest in directing. The comedy would follow the success of Sandra Bullock's recent hit The Heat, which co-starred Melissa McCarthy and grossed over USD 200 million worldwide.

"The success of The Heat and the movie Bridesmaids has shown that female buddy comedies are the hottest thing going and Cameron, Sandra and Jen would love to work together and rake in box office gold," the source said.—PTI



Sandra, Cameron and Jennifer are said to be good friends.

Christian Bale to give up motorbikes?



Christian is a huge enthusiast of two-wheelers.

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—Actor Christian Bale is reportedly being asked by his wife Sibi Blazic to quit racing motorbikes for films as she is scared by the sudden demise of Fast and Furious

star Paul Walker.

The American Hustle actor, who is a huge enthusiast of two-wheelers, had controlled his stunts after the birth of their daughter Emmaline. "Sibi has always

had a problem with Christian's love of fast bikes. She stopped him from riding them on the streets shortly after the birth of (their daughter) Emmaline, eight years ago," a source said.

"Since then, Christian has limited his riding to the race track under very controlled conditions," the source added. Walker's death in a fiery single-car accident earlier this year has hit Christian Bale's wife. "Sibi doesn't want Christian racing at all, and that's going to be a real struggle for him... As tough as it is for him, Christian is going to quit racing for her. She rules the household and his attitude is, she's the boss," the source added.—PTI

Britain's Channel 5 owner exploring possible sale

LONDON, 2 Jan—The owner of Britain's free-to-air Channel 5 is exploring a possible sale of the TV broadcaster, the Financial Times reported, citing two people familiar with the situation.

Barclays is advising on options for the television network, while the sale is expected to raise about 700 million pounds, according to the newspaper.

Northern & Shell, which is owned by the British media baron Richard Desmond, bought Channel 5 in 2010 for 103.5 million pounds from the RTL group and has since turned the channel's fortunes around.

Channel 5 made a profit of 20.6 million pounds

in the first half of 2013 up from a loss of 16.1 million a year earlier.

Northern & Shell also owns the Express group of newspapers, Daily Star and Daily Express, and other magazines including celebrity magazine OK!

"As a media group with a broad portfolio of assets, we are often the subject of speculation, but it remains our policy not to comment on these matters," Northern & Shell was quoted by FT as saying.

Reuters



Richard Desmond

What makes Shah Rukh Khan jealous of Sonu Sood?

MUMBAI, 2 Jan—Actor Sonu Sood says his Happy New Year co-actor Shah Rukh Khan is jealous of his talent of portraying negative characters.

Sonu has tried his hand at negative and positive roles in his career, but King Khan is particularly in awe of his portrayal of a villain.

At the unveiling of the cover of Health and Nutrition magazine featuring him on Monday, Sonu was asked why he hardly features in positive roles.

He said: "I have done a lot of positive roles and I have a positive role in Happy New Year also. But like I said, times have changed. You just need to entertain, whether it's a positive or a negative role."



"Recently, when we were shooting for Happy New Year, Shah Rukh told me that 'I get very jealous of you when you do negative roles and I also want to do an out-and-out negative

roles without any songs," added Sonu, who was seen as villain Chhedi Singh in Dabangg. Sonu said he is open to all kinds of roles, provided they are good.

"As long as I get to do

good roles, it doesn't really matter whether it's a positive or a negative role," the 41-year-old said.

Sonu's last negative role was in R...Rajkumar in a negative role.—PTI

Shah Rukh Khan and Sonu Sood will be seen together in Happy New Year. PTI

Leonardo DiCaprio: I love Kate Winslet

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—Actor Leonardo DiCaprio says one of his favourite women is his Titanic co-star Kate Winslet and he loves her.

"She's the greatest person. She's so genuine. I love that girl. She has a brand-new baby and is in love," contactmusic.com

quoted Leonardo.

The actor has stayed great friends with the actress and the duo also worked together in 2008 release Revolutionary Road.

Kate Winslet just gave birth to her third child, Bear, a year after marrying her third husband Ned Rocknroll.—PTI



Leonardo and Kate have been friends since they did Titanic together.

SPORTS

Arsenal grab late victory, City and Chelsea win



Arsenal's Theo Walcott (2nd R) shoots and scores past Cardiff City goalkeeper David Marshall (R) during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 1 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

LONDON, 2 Jan — Late goals from Nicklas Bendtner and Theo Walcott spared Arsenal's blushes and kept them top of the Premier League in a 2-0 victory over Cardiff City as title rivals Manchester City and Chelsea also won on Wednesday.

The conclusion of the congested festive schedule saw a tired display by the Londoners who looked set to draw a blank for the second straight home game before Bendtner bundled

home in the 88th minute and Walcott wrapped up the points in stoppage time.

Manchester United's difficulties returned as the champions were beaten 2-1 by Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford, their sixth league defeat and fourth at home in a stuttering season.

Their rivals Manchester City briefly went top after subduing a battling Swansea City 3-2 away while Chelsea beat Southampton 3-0 on the road and Liverpool won 2-0 at home

to Hull City.

Arsenal, with 45 points from 20 games, stayed one point clear of Manchester City and two ahead of Chelsea in third with Liverpool a further four points off the pace.

Everton's Leighton Baines converted an added time penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw at Stoke City as the Merseysiders dropped to fifth, while 10-man Newcastle United stumbled to a 1-0 defeat at West Bromwich Albion.

Spurs, who took a 2-0 lead with goals from Emmanuel Adebayor and Christian Eriksen before Danny Welbeck pulled one back for United, moved above their opponents into sixth. David Moyes's United team are now 11 points adrift of the leaders.

After Arsenal's last home game ended in a goalless draw against Chelsea, the fans were fearing another shutout at The Emirates that would have shunted them off top spot.

Cardiff City, playing in front of former Man-



Chelsea's Gary Cahill (L) is challenged by Southampton's Rickie Lambert during their English Premier League soccer match at St Mary's stadium in Southampton, southern England on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

chester United forward Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who sat

alongside owner Vincent Tan and is expected to become their new manager, defended stoutly before the home side's pressure told late on.

"I think we were mature, intelligent and resilient," Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger said. "We want to make this place a fortress and take the points no matter what the others do."

Reuters



Liverpool's Luis Suarez (R) challenges Hull City's Curtis Davies during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 1 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

Refreshed Federer makes encouraging start to year



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves against Jarkko Nieminen of Finland during their men's singles match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

BRISBANE, 2 Jan — A refreshed Roger Federer's clinical demolition of Jarkko Nieminen in his first match of 2014 suggested he could be a factor in the first major of the year.

His debut appearance at the Brisbane International

was rapturously greeted by tournament organizers and fans alike, but following his first year without a grand slam final appearance since 2002 it was not certain what stage of decline the Swiss ace was in.

A 6-4, 6-2 victory over

his tough Finnish opponent hinted that he was ready to put on a competitive showing at Melbourne Park, now relieved of the back problems that dogged his 2013 campaign and contributed to his second and fourth-round exits at Wimbledon and the US Open. "I'm actually very clear in my mind," Federer told reporters. "Now it's just down to forehands and backhands and tactics and movement. That's kind of what you want it to be, because unfortunately it hasn't always been that way last year with my issues."—Reuters

US hoping experience can lift them to Sochi gold

ANN ARBOR, (Michigan), 2 Jan — Ryan Miller, the most valuable player at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, and Stanley Cup MVP Patrick Kane will head to Sochi looking for gold after being named to the US Olympic men's ice hockey team on Wednesday. The US roster includes 13 Olympians, who lost to Canada in the gold medal final four years ago on Sidney Crosby's overtime winner, and US general manager David Poile says the team heads to Russia targeting top spot on the podium.

Certainly the US will

enjoy a huge bump in experience in Sochi with Buffalo Sabres netminder Miller, Chicago Blackhawks sniper Kane and Minnesota Wild defenceman Ryan Suter, a Norris trophy finalist last season, anchoring the squad.

Goaltending will be a

strength for the US with the Los Angeles Kings' Jonathan Quick, the 2012 Conn Smythe trophy winner, battling Miller for the starting assignment. In Vancouver, the American team featured just three players with Olympic experience.

Reuters



Buffalo Sabres goalie Ryan Miller (30) deflects the puck during the first period against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden.
REUTERS

City show title form to see off Swansea

LONDON, 2 Jan — The goals continued to flow for Manchester City who subdued a spirited Swansea City 3-2 at the Liberty Stadium on Wednesday to move top of the Premier League.

Second-half strikes from Yaya Toure and Aleksandar Kolarov after Swansea's Wilfried Bony had cancelled out Fernandinho's early opener helped City record their fifth consecutive Premier League win.

Bony grabbed a stoppage-time consolation and his second of the match with a skidding drive into the bottom corner, but there was to be no dramatic rescue for Swansea who are now without a win in six Premier League games.

City moved to the top of the table with 44 points

from 20 games, two clear of Arsenal who can retake the lead with victory at home to Cardiff City later on Wednesday.

Manchester City, who have now recorded back-to-back away league wins for the first time this season, have taken 25 points from their last 27 and scored 57

goals in the opening 20 games to lay down a marker in the congested tussle at the top of the table.

"The character of the team in the second half to go and score another goal (after Swansea equalised) was very important," City manager Manuel Pellegrini told the BBC. —Reuters



Swansea City's Chico Flores (L) challenges Manchester City's Alvaro Negredo (C) during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, Wales, on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Murray beaten by Mayer in Qatar



Andy Murray

DOHA, 2 Jan — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 to German Florian Mayer in the Qatar Open second round on Wednesday, his second competitive match since returning from a back injury.

The third-seeded Briton, who beat Mousa Zayed 6-0, 6-0 in the first round, led 3-0 in the second set before Mayer won

five games in a row and the world number 40 dominated the decider in Doha to seal victory in just under two hours.

Murray, the world number four, will head to Melbourne for this month's Australian Open having played only two exhibitions and two ATP Tour matches since undergoing back surgery in September.

Reuters

GENERAL



Disney characters wave to greet visitors during the theme park's New Year's Day cruise at Tokyo DisneySea in Urayasu, just outside Tokyo, Japan, on 1 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

Singapore's residential property prices show signs of stabilizing

SINGAPORE, 2 Jan — Singapore's residential property prices are showing signs of moderating, according to latest statistics released by local authorities on Thursday.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority said in its flash estimates that the private residential property index, which gauges the movements of prices for residential properties built by private developers rather than the government, fell by 1.8 points to 214.5 points in the fourth quarter.

This represents a decline of 0.8 percent, compared to the 0.4 percent

increase in the previous quarter.

The full-year growth for 2013 was 1.2 percent, compared with the 2.8 percent increase reported in 2012.

Excluding executive condominiums, an estimated 14,950 new such homes were snapped up in the first 11 months of the year. With the last month of a year traditionally quiet for the property market, the total sales are likely to be much lower than the 22,197 new homes sold in 2012.

The Straits Times quoted experts as saying that the full-year sales had been

tipped to be about 15,000 units for the year.

The Singapore authorities put in place several rounds of measures to cool the property market since the housing prices rebounded along with the recovery of the economy in the aftermath of the global economic downturn.

In January 2012 the government implemented extra duties for certain groups of buyers, including a duty of 5 percent on permanent residents buying their first home and a 7 percent duty on Singaporeans purchasing their second property.—Xinhua

United's Moyes hits out at referee over penalty claim

LONDON, 2 Jan—Manchester United manager David Moyes criticised referee Howard Webb for not giving his side a late penalty as their revival ended in a 2-1 home defeat by Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Wednesday.

The Scot was incensed about an 87th minute challenge from French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris on substitute Ashley Young that even Spurs manager Tim Sherwood thought was a penalty as United slipped to a fourth league home defeat this season.

"It was scandalous," said Moyes. "If you follow through on a player anywhere else on the pitch with your foot high, it would be a

sending off and a red card.

"The goalkeeper comes out, Ashley Young gets the ball before him and he follows through. It's an incredible decision which didn't go our way, in fact probably one of the worst I think I have seen. "All I can tell you is that was a stonewall penalty.

If that is not given, well, I don't think we'll have any more in the Premier League this season."

"The goalkeeper has come out for it, Ashley got to the ball before him... how could he (Young) play for it? The goalkeeper went right through him. It's reckless,

it's late, it's in the penalty box."

United's scorer Danny Welbeck also had a penalty appeal waved away, having gone down easily under Romania defender Vlad Chiriches' challenge, while young Belgian winger Adnan Januzaj picked up a yellow card for simulation.

"The one on Welbeck could have been given as well... have you seen that decision (Januzaj's 89th minute booking)? "Adnan got bumped, the boy (Danny Rose) has tried to edge him off the ball, to bump him... that was a terrible decision."

However, Moyes accepted his side could have done better to stop the two Spurs goals, which were



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (L) is challenged by Tottenham Hotspur's Emmanuel Adebayor during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 1 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

scored on the counter, and added that "small mistakes" had led to United's sixth league defeat this season after they dominated possession. "We got done on the counter-attack for a couple of goals and made a couple

of mistakes but I thought the team played very well today," Moyes said. "All you can do is play well and then hopefully you take your opportunities when they come and you don't make small mistakes."—Reuters



Manchester United manager David Moyes (R) runs onto the pitch as he appeals for a penalty for his player Ashley Young during their English Premier League soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 1 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(3-1-2014, Friday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:45 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 19. Hyper Sports |
| 6:30 am | 3:00 pm |
| 2. Physical Exercises | 20. News |
| 6:40 am | 3:15 pm |
| 3. Dance & Song Of National Races | 21. India Drama Series |
| 6:50 am | 4:00 pm |
| 4. 66 th Anniversary Independence Day Programme | 22. News |
| 7:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 5. News/Weather Report | 23. India Drama Series |
| 7:20 am | 4:30 pm |
| 6. Documentary | 24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Years (Mathematics) |
| 7:45 am | 4:50 pm |
| 7. Hyper Sports | 25. Teleplay |
| 8:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| 8. News/ International News | 26. News |
| 8:30 am | 5:15 pm |
| 9. India Drama Series | 27. Documentary |
| 9:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| 10. News/ International News | 28. India Drama Series |
| 9:30 am | 6:00 pm |
| 11. 66 th Anniversary Independence Day Programme | 29. News/Weather Report |
| 9:45 am | 6:20 pm |
| 12. Documentary | 30. Documentary |
| 10:00 am | 6:40 pm |
| 13. News | 31. Amazing World |
| 10:15 am | 7:00 pm |
| 14. Clever | 32. News |
| 10:40 am | 7:20 pm |
| 15. Myanmar Series | 33. Teleplay |
| 11:00 am | 8:00 pm |
| 16. Myanmar Movies | 34. News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 17. News/International News/Weather Report | 35. People Talks |
| 12:30 pm | 8:50 pm |
| 18. Myanmar Movies | 36. Hit Songs of Stars |
| | 9:00 pm |
| | 37. News |
| | 38. Mono Classical Songs |
| | 39. Traditional Boxing |
| | 34. India Drama Series |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

3-1-14 07:00 am ~ 4-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Welcome To Naga Land
- * World News
- * Medicinal Plants at Popa Mountain Park
- * Local News
- * Mya Nan San Kyaw (The Golden Palace)
- * World News
- * Nang
- * Local News
- * Taking and Oath for Life
- * World News
- * Serenely Pleasant Pindaya
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas on the Mount Akauk)
- * World News
- * Monastery (Shwe In Pin Kyaung)
- * Local News
- * The Treasures in a Small Village
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass "Contemporary Art"
- * Local News
- * Youth of the Future (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar Traditions and Culture" Tea
- * World News
- * Beach Souvenir Sea Shell Decortions
- * Local News
- * Monastery: Summer School
- * World News
- * Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals

Nay Pyi Taw sees new hotels ahead of ASEAN Summit



Union Ministers observe fitness facilities at newly-opened Grand Amara Hotel and Hotel Nwethaki in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Hailing the 66th Anniversary Independence Day, opening ceremonies of new hotels in the compound of the State Guesthouse took place separately in Dekkhinathiri Township this morning.

Union Ministers U Hla Tun, U Tint Hsan, U Htay

Aung and U Kyaw Lwin, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Maung, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, department heads and guests attended the opening ceremonies for Grand Amara Hotel and Hotel Nwethaki.

The new hotels aim

to accommodate heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and others when Myanmar hosts summits and related meeting during its term as ASEAN chair in 2014. Presidential suites, vice-presidential suites, "ministrator suites", ambassador suites, executive suites, diplomat suites, superior rooms, standard rooms, meeting rooms, call rooms and function halls are available at the new hotels.—MNA

Hluttaw Bill Committee holds preliminary coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—With the ninth regular sessions of the First Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are scheduled on 13 January, the Hluttaw Bill Committee has started its duties.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee meetings were held on 31 December and Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee meetings will be held on 6 January. As Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting will be held on 7 January the preliminary meeting took

place at the committee's office, attended by Joint Bill Committee Vice-Chairman U Zaw Myint Pe, Secretary U Saw Hla Tun, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe and members.

A Special Economic Zone Bill sent back by the President with his comment, a Bill amending the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, a controversial Printing and Publishing Bill and the message sent by the President were scrutinized in advance at the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar to host 62nd ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment in Nay Pyi Taw on 10-11 January

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—As ASEAN chair in 2014, Myanmar will host the 62nd ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment at Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 10-11 January.

About 50 investment officers from the Association of South East Asian Nations and Myanmar will attend the meeting to discuss matters related to amending the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Treaty, amendment of unpermitted accounts included the treaty and ongoing work programmes in

implementing the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Treaty.

The ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment carries out promotion of investment in the region, smoothing and relaxing rules and regulations and encouraging further

flow of investment from regional countries.

It is also the leading supervisory committee for implementation of investment commitments and co-operation among ASEAN and dialogue-partner countries.

NPED

Low pressure over Southeast Bay of Bengal

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—According to the observation at 15.30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over Southeast Bay

and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal, said Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

NLM

Proficiency courses for Shan State Hluttaw representatives begin

TAUNGGYI, 2 Jan—Courses on developing the proficiencies of Shan State Hluttaw representatives opened at the Shan State Hluttaw Office here today.

The courses cover definitions of democracy, international norms for parliaments, relations between

Hluttaw representatives and the people in their constituencies and searching for information on the Internet.

The purpose of the courses is to make members efficient at carrying out their parliamentary work.

The courses conducted by Dr. Richard A. Nuccio,

senior representative director at the National Democratic Institute, are being taken by the Deputy Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Kham Hmat, Hluttaw representatives, defence services representatives and media people.

Kyemon-Intha Lay (Taunggyi)



Course on developing the proficiencies of Shan State Hluttaw representatives in progress at Shan State Hluttaw Office in Taunggyi.—INTHA LAY (TAUNGGYI)

Jihad Jane: Despite cooperation, US seeks 'decades' in prison



Colleen LaRose, known by the self-created pseudonym of "Jihad Jane", is pictured in this photo released by Site Intelligence Group on March 10, 2010.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan—The Pennsylvania woman who called herself Jihad Jane and a teenage accomplice from Maryland provided "very significant" assistance to U.S. authorities in several terrorism investigations but still remain threats to the public, prosecutors say in new court filings.

Prosecutors said Colleen LaRose, 50, should be sentenced to "decades behind bars" for her role in a failed 2009 plot to kill Lars Vilks, a Swedish artist who

offended many Muslims by drawing the Prophet Mohammed on the head of a dog.

After years of delay, the American-born LaRose is expected to be sentenced on Monday in Philadelphia. A similar hearing for Mohammad Hassan Khalid, the youngest person ever charged with terrorism in the United States, is set for Tuesday.

U.S. guidelines call for LaRose to receive a life sentence and for Khalid, who is now 20, to receive 15 years. Given their cooperation, prosecutors asked the judge to sentence LaRose to "decades behind

bars" and Khalid to "less than 10 years."

In a presentence filing this week, U.S. authorities reiterated what they declared when LaRose's arrest was made public in 2010 - that her gender, blond hair, Texas twang and green eyes make her case significant because she does not fit the stereotype of an Islamic terrorist.

"News of LaRose's arrest spread shockwaves throughout the West, as people recognized that the face of the terrorism threat had changed forever," prosecutors Jennifer Arbittier Williams and Matthew Blue wrote. "The world is

watching, and this sentencing presents an important opportunity to send a strong message to other lonely, vulnerable people who might be enticed by online extremists promising fame and honor."

A 2012 Reuters investigative report described LaRose's troubled life before she converted to Islam: childhood rapes by her biological father, teenage prostitution, heavy drug abuse and failed marriages. LaRose said that her father's sexual assaults, confirmed by confidential court records, began in second grade.

Reuters