

Government could lay down plans for development tasks and daily existences of people across the country



Esteemed people,

I would like to greet all national peoples across the country on the auspicious occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar governed by its own monarch had long been standing as a sovereign nation. In the 19th century, Myanmar fell under British colonial rule and lost her sovereignty. Today marks 66 years since Myanmar regained her independence through Union spirit, sacrifice spirit and the national spirits of all national peoples during the independence struggles.

Esteemed people,

Taking the lessons of the past events, all our people are to uphold our national duty: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty to continue standing as a sovereign state.

It is high time all national peoples seek every possible ways to

reach genuine and eternal peace after ending the decade-long internal conflicts. Coordination is being made for signing a nation-wide ceasefire agreement.

Thanks to the restoration of peace and stability in the country, the government could lay down plans for development tasks and daily existences of people across the country. The government is making reforms in the political, economic and social spheres and in the government and private development to fulfill two desires of people: becoming a peaceful country under the rule of law and the socio-economic development of all people.

In economic reform, great importance is attached to the socio-economic improvement of the rural people, the poorest population of the country, while foreign investors are invited to obtain capital and technologies to revitalize the country's economy. As a healthy and intelligent citizenry would shape the future of our democratic

nation, we are initiating pragmatic efforts in national health development and the national education promotion.

Esteemed people,

As the nation develops, the international community respects our country and all its people more. Myanmar took over the chair of ASEAN from Brunei on 10 October, 2013. Chairing ASEAN is a major duty for Myanmar on the international stage. As it is a proof of confidence in the country's political process and political developments, the duty is proudly assumed. The onus is on all national brethren to develop the nation as there are sound foundations for development.

Esteemed people,

To develop a peaceful, modern democratic nation, I hereby urge all the national peoples to implement the following 66th Anniversary Independence Day objectives dutifully and in harmony:

- (1) living through thick and thin together in the Union;
- (2) upholding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, and non-disintegration of sovereignty;
- (3) participating in the peace process to end armed conflicts and ensure eternal peace;
- (4) ensuring the peaceful, modern, discipline-flourishing democratic nation with the power of the people.



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Honouring 66th Anniversary Independence Day

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Notification No. 1/2014

4th Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME(4th January 2014)

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has conferred religious titles on the following Most Venerable Sayadaws, Ganthadhura Pariyatti Lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Kammathana Instructor Sayadaws, Mobile Dhamma Preachers, national foreign missionary figures and outstanding donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha Sasana.

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

1. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, TheingiU Monastery, Chaukhtetgyi Pagoda Taik, Central Shwegondine Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
2. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Inner Padamya Pariyatti Monastery, Letthamar Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region

Agga Maha Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Nanginda, Myoma Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 4, Shwegu, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Okkan Tawya Pariyatti Monastery, Myawady Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Pariyatti Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw
4. Bhaddanta Nayaka, Maha Wizayarama (Pali Tekkatho) East Building, Ward 1, Pakokku, Magway Region
5. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Maha Withutayama (Central) Building, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Region
6. Bhaddanta Revata, MyoU Pariyatti Monastery, East Myoma Ward, Myittha, Mandalay Region
7. Bhaddanta Dhammapalabhivamsa, Maha Shwezedi Monastery, Kyetmintun Ward, Kyaukse, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Jotika, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Ñanasiri, Thiri Mingala Hsanhsai Monastery, Hsanhsai Ward, Tachilek, Shan State

Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Ketumala, Dhamma Rekkhita Wuntho Monastery, North Shansu Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Khemindabhipala, Pobbayon Monastery, Minagala Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Silananda, Maha Zawtikayama Monastery, Phonesoe Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Jotipalalankara, Saddhamma Pitzawtayon Monastery, Aungchantha Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
5. Bhaddanta Neminda, Shwein Yeiktha Pariyatti Monastery, Saya San Ward, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw
6. Bhaddanta Kundala, Phyauxeikbin Pariyatti Monastery, Letpanton Village, Natmawk Township, Magway Region
7. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Naya Monastery, Dekkhinayama Phayagyi Monastery, Kyunlon Okshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Asabha, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
9. Bhaddanta Kovida, Nyeinchan Yeikmyon Dhammaçariya Training School, Saya San Ward, Bilin, Mon State
10. Bhaddanta Nandasenalankara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
11. Bhaddanta Tejadhammabhivamsa, Shwehintha Tawya Monastery, Ward 7, Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Region

Nun

12. Nun Daw Puññavati, Ayethu Nunnery, Leti Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region

Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Sopaka, Khemarama Monastery, Ward 9, Hpa-an, Kayin State
2. Bhaddanta Viçakkhana, Aungsitha Pariyatti Monastery, Aungsitha Ward, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
3. Bhaddanta Indaçaralankarabhivasa, Thamanekeyaw Pariyatti Monastery, No. 6/18 Ward, Oktha Myothit, Bago, Bago Region
4. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Mezebin Pyinnalinkara Pariyatti Monastery, Yesu Ward, Kyaukse, Mandalay Region
5. Bhaddanta Nandasara, Alekyaung Monastery, Myoma Market Ward, Kyaikkhami, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State
6. Bhaddanta Indaçara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
7. Bhaddanta Nandaka, Maha Bawdi Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 14, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
8. Bhaddanta Sunanda, Myole Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 2, Lashio, Shan State
9. Bhaddanta Nayaka, Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Kanauk Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State

Nun

10. Nun Daw Çandasiri, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha nunnery, Ywama Ward, Nattalin, Bago Region

Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Weluwun Taikthit Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ward 1, Shwebo, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Pandava, MyoU Pariyatti Monastery, Myawady Ward, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw
3. Bhaddanta Jotika, Sasana Mandaing Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Region
4. Bhaddanta Uttamamamoli, Bawdi Yeiktha Monastery, North Ywama Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
5. Bhaddanta Revata, Shwedaung Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ohbo Ward, Yenangyoung, Magway Region
6. Bhaddanta Sumanasaralankara, Gandayon Bonkyaw Monastery, Hsatthwa Village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region
7. Bhaddanta Sumangalabhivamsa, Sasana Mulikayama New Monastery, No. 3 High School Ward, Taungtha, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Janinda, Maha Thandayon Monastery, Nyaunggwe Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
9. Bhaddanta Vimala, Shwedaung Monastery, Hline Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
10. Bhaddanta Kusala, Aungmyethazi Pariyatti Monastery, Dwayawady Myothit, Thandwe, Rakhine State
11. Bhaddanta Indavudha, Pyinnyamandaing Pariyatti Monastery, Baungdutthasu Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
12. Bhaddanta Çandasiribhivamsa, Mingalathiri Pariyatti Monastery, Faukan Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
13. Bhaddanta Kesara, Mahatheintawgyi Pariyatti Monastery, No.2 Ward, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region
14. Bhaddanta Surinda, Sagaing Monastery, Hninzigon (Ka) Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
15. Bhaddanta Sijjana, West Phayagyi Pariyatti Monastery, Chantha Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
16. Bhaddanta Subhoga, Hawkham Pariyatti Monastery, No.1 Ward, Laikha, Shan State
17. Bhaddanta Ñanasiri, Taikthit Pitzawtayon Monastery, No.3 Ward, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region

Nuns

18. Nun Daw Çandasiri, Theravada Buddha Missionary Nunnery, Chanmyaeangsi Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
19. Nun Daw Çandakalya, Pariyatti Monastery, No. 3 Ward, Pakkoku, Magway Region
20. Daw Viççitta, Myawady Nunnery, Chanmyathaya Ward, Pyigyidagun, Mandalay Region

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Vijaya, Maha Wizayayanthi Sale Monastery, Chantaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
2. Bhaddanta Kesara, Winsein Tawya Monastery, Myainggon Village, Mudon Township, Mon State

3. Bhaddanta Dhammasara, Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Dhamma Yeiktha Street, Tawtaik Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
4. Bhaddanta Anadhivara, Dhammayon Shwekyin Monastery, No.2 Ward, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region

Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Janindadhipati, Dawtangu Theravada Buddha Missionary School, Dawtangu Village, Dimawhso Township, Kayah State
 2. Bhaddanta Vanna Kotpaukshwe Monastery, Kotpauk model Village, Kawkareik Township, Kayin State
 3. Bhaddanta Uttamanañabhivamsa, Mogaung Monastery, Bo Aung Zeya Ward, YeU Township, Sagaing Region
 4. Bhaddanta Obhasa, Thirimingala Monastery, Choninn Village, Yedashe Township, Bago Region
 5. Bhaddanta Citrañana, Inbattaw Monastery, Inbattaw Village, Kama Township, Magway Region
 6. Bhaddanta Pañnavamsa Ywatha Monastery, Ywatha Village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region
 7. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Shwekyina Monastery, Yanning Ward, Singaing Township, Mandalay Region
 8. Bhaddanta Jawtika, PhaungtawU Monastery, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
 9. Bhaddanta Puññananda, Thirimingala Mansushan Monastery, Lashio, Shan State
 10. Bhaddanta Kosalla, Dhammatheidpan Shwekyoepin Monastery, monastic post basic education school, Chingon Village, Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Title recipient Sayadaws from Abroad**
11. Ven. Mok Tak (Sang Kyoung Chan), Hey-Eun Monastery, Seokyo Dong Ward, Mapa-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
 12. Most Ven. Shi Chang Zang, Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Beijing, People's Republic of China
 13. Bhaddanta Swandesaphara Maharaz, Mingalakyan Monastery, Phasi Charoen Township, Bangkok, Thailand
 14. Bhaddanta Dhammaçinna, Watsikyaunglian Monastery, Maeton Village, Pharong Township, Thailand
 15. Ven. Bhikshu Sheelabhadra Mahasthavor, Manimandap Mahavihara Monastery, Patako Ward, Lalitapura Town, Nepal
 16. Most Ven. Maha Vanna Soriyavong, Maehsai Monastery, Vientiane, Chanthaburi District, Laos
 17. Most Ven. Ambevela Pannasara Mahanayaka Thero, Buddha Lawka Mahavihara Monastery, Suwayapula Town, Piliyandala District, Sri Lanka

Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Revata, Theravada Buddha Missionary Monastery, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Yadanathiri Pariyati Monastery, Lawdhamma Ward, Loikaw Township, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, No.1 Parahita monastic education school, Shwetheintaw Monastery, Nyaungpinkan Village, Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Javana, Sispyetaik Monastery, Sispye Village, Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region
5. Bhaddanta Vilasa, Shwetaung Pariyati Monastery and No.1 monastic post basic education school, Zaingganine North Ward, Bago, Bago Region
6. Bhaddanta Viççittasara, Pattapaing monastic education school, Phulon Village, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region
7. Bhaddanta Kissana, Shitmyithna Pariyati Monastery, Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Visuddhasara, Thadaryon Monastery, Phalangon Village, Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region
9. Bhaddanta Varinda, Tharagayama Ywakyar Monastery, Ywakyar Village, Thaton Township, Mon State
10. Bhaddanta Visesa, Zeyathiri Withaythayama Monastery, Zeyathiri monastic education school, Zeyathiri Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
11. Bhaddanta Vijaya, Mawyawati Theravada Buddha Missionary Center, Mawyawati model Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State

(to be continued)

WORLD

Afghan president meets visiting US senators

KABUL, 3 Jan — Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday met with the visiting US senators in Arg, the country's Presidential Palace.

"President Hamid Karzai met with Senator John McCain, Senator Lindsey Graham and Senator John Barrasso in Arg this afternoon," the presidential palace said in a statement.

The two sides discussed the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and the

United States, the matters about Bagram detention centre, and the situation in the region, the statement noted. In regards with the BSA, Karzai told the visiting delegation that the Afghans want to sign the BSA with the United States but they want to be assured that their demands are met and that the agreement brings peace and stability for the country, the statement said.

The Afghan government in the past said that the United States must put

an immediate end to military raids on Afghan homes and return nearly two dozens of Afghans held by US in Guantanamo base to the Afghan side before it would sign the accord.

Local analysts said if the two countries fail to reach the deal which governs the presence of US troops after 2014 pullout of the NATO-led forces, the United States will consider the complete withdrawal of troops, similar to the pullout of US troops from Iraq

two years ago.

Regarding the Bagram prison, which was handed over to the Afghan army early last year, the Afghan leader said that the innocent prisoners would be released in accordance with the Afghanistan laws and perpetrators would be prosecuted and punished. Over the past one week, more than 650 Taliban inmates were released by a joint team set up by the government from Bagram prison, local media reported.—Xinhua

State of emergency declared in New York State ahead of winter storm



A strong snow storm has swept the northeast and midwest areas of the United States, affecting about 100 million Americans in 22 states. Strong winds and heavy snow have brought down the lowest temperature to minus 20 degrees Celsius in some places. About 2,000 flights have been cancelled due to the storm by Thursday afternoon. — XINHUA

NEW YORK, 3 Jan — New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo on Thursday declared a statewide state of emergency as a major winter storm has already started to bring heavy snow, sub-zero temperatures and high winds across New York State. A state of emergency mobilizes resources to local governments that otherwise are restricted to state use only and allows the Governor to suspend laws and regulations that would impede rapid response.

The governor urged New Yorkers to avoid travelling and stay inside their homes until the worst of the storm has passed.

"As this winter storm unfolds, bringing heavy snow and high winds to many parts of the state, I strongly urge all New Yorkers to exercise caution, avoid travel, and stay indoors," Cuomo said.

The four New York City airports are open, but airlines are operating on a significantly reduced

schedule, with more than 412 flights cancelled as of mid-afternoon. Crews are applying anti-icing chemicals to runways and taxiways to keep them free of ice, said the Governor's Office.

In the event that some travelers become stranded, airport personnel are preparing cots, blankets and other essentials to assist customers. All air travelers are urged to check with their carriers before traveling to the airport. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority advises customers that cold temperatures and blowing snow may require suspension of some portions of the region's bus and commuter train operations, in order to protect customers and employees.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and New York State Thruway Authority said plows are available statewide to clear snow and treat roads with salt and are sending additional plows to assist with snow operations in Long Island.

Reuters

Ex-finance minister wins disputed Madagascar votes

ANTANANARIVO, 3 Jan — Former Finance Minister Hery Rajaonarimampianina won Madagascar's run-off presidential election, the electoral commission (CENIT) said on Friday, but his main rival claims the vote was rigged.

CENIT leader Beatrice Atallah said Rajaonarimampianina, the candidate backed by President Andry Rajoelina who ousted his predecessor in a coup in 2009, won 53.5 percent of the 20 December vote.

He beat Jean Louis Robinson, who ended up with 46.5 percent but has demanded a recount. Robinson's camp has filed almost 300 complaints to the electoral court, which now has to rule on the result.

The poll, the first since former disc jockey Rajoelina grabbed power, is meant to end a crisis that has driven out investors, cut aid flows and sharply slowed the economy.

A disputed result could prolong the malaise on the



Madagascar's presidential candidate Hery Rajaonarimampianina arrives to cast his ballot at a polling centre in Tsimbazaza area of Madagascar's capital Antananarivo on 20 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

politically volatile Indian Ocean island and delay restoring the external budget

Cambodian forces open fire on protesters, at least three dead

PHNOM PENH, 3 Jan — At least three people were killed on Friday when Cambodian military police opened fire to try to quell a protest by garment factory workers, two witnesses said.

Two human rights workers who witnessed the chaos said three or four protesters had been killed as security forces armed with assault rifles and pistols shot at demonstrators who hurled rocks, bottles and petrol bombs outside a factory in the capital, Phnom Penh.

The workers are among 350,000 on strike, demanding higher pay.

Military police spokesman Kheng Tito said only one was killed and several were wounded.

Reuters

Fire near JR station suspends shinkansen bullet train services

TOKYO, 3 Jan — New Year's holiday travellers were affected on Friday as Tokaido Shinkansen bullet trains connecting Tokyo and western Japan cities were suspended for around five hours due to a fire along the railway in central Tokyo, operator Central Japan Railway Co said.

The fire broke out in a building near JR Yurakucho Station at around 6:35 am and extended to three other buildings nearby, prompting firefighters to deploy more than 50 fire engines.

It also burned transmission cables of East Japan Railway Co, which operates railway services in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

While the shinkansen operations were resumed shortly before noon, many passengers were stranded at each station before the "return rush" peaked in the afternoon, when reserved seats for shinkansen trains bound for Tokyo were almost fully booked, according to JR Central.

At Nagoya Station, Hiromu Yamada, a 32-year-old office worker who had planned to visit his wife's family in Yamaguchi Prefecture, said, "As we were concerned about the health of our 1-year-old child amid this crush, we've



Photo shows a bullet train of the Tokaido Shinkansen Line passing by a fire that broke out near JR Yurakucho Station in Tokyo on the morning of 3 Jan, 2014. Some operations on the Shinkansen line were later suspended for more than five hours due to the fire. —KYODO NEWS

postponed our departure to tomorrow."

At Shin-Osaka Station, a 42-year-old man who visited Osaka with his family, said, "We hope we can return home by tonight because my wife needs to work tomorrow."

The fire did not cause any injuries, according to firefighters. In the metropolitan area, meanwhile, the Yamanote Line was entirely suspended, and the Keihin-Tohoku and Tokaido lines were partially suspended due to the fire, before resuming operation by 1 pm, according to JR East.

A total of 125 trains were suspended, affecting 270,000 people.

Kyodo News

Latvia becomes 18th eurozone country

BRUSSELS, 3 Jan — Latvia became the 18th eurozone country Wednesday in a manner to help the eurozone restore confidence after being pushed to the brink of collapse on the sovereign debt crisis.

Its joining the eurozone has a political effect that demonstrates the euro as still attractive even after the crisis, an analyst said.

Latvia is the first new eurozone member in three years since Estonia, another of the three Baltic countries, introduced the euro in January 2011. Lithuania is seeking to become the last Baltic country to join the eurozone in 2015.

The three Baltic countries won independence on the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 and acceded to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union in 2004.



Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis speaks during an interview in Riga on 1 Jan, 2014, the day his country adopted the euro as its currency.

KYODO NEWS

Latvia plunged into an economic crisis after the 2008 Lehman Shock, posting a 17.7 percent contraction in its gross domestic product in 2009.

Kyodo News

Panama presses Spain and Italy to resolve canal cost row



Panama President Ricardo Martinelli gestures as he delivers his last State of the Nation speech during the national congress opening session in Panama City on 2 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

PANAMA CITY/MADRID, 3 Jan — The president of Panama said on Thursday he would go to Spain and Italy to pressure companies to honour contracts to expand his country's canal

after a building consortium behind the project threatened to suspend work because of a row over costs.

The consortium — Spain's Sacyr, Italy's Salini Impregilo, Belgium's Jan

De Nul and Panama's Constructora Urbana — said on Wednesday that \$1.6 billion in cost overruns on the \$3.2 billion plan to build a third set of locks for the canal should be met by Panama.

The consortium, known as Grupo Unidos por el Canal, said the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) had 21 days to respond to its demands during which work would continue, but the project would be suspended if that requirement was not met.

Just a few hours later, the PCA rejected the demand, hinting it could find others to complete the job. Shares in Sacyr, which heads the consortium, slumped 9 percent on Thursday.

Panamanian President

Ricardo Martinelli accused the companies of "great irresponsibility" and said they had endangered the massive construction project, which has been a major driver of the Central American nation's economy.

Martinelli, who took power in 2009, said he expected Italy and Spain to uphold commitments to back the project which the countries' leaders made to him during his first year in office.

"So I'm going to go to Spain and Italy to demand this from them, because a company should not be able to put such a high amount of overrun costs on a project that belongs to humanity," he told reporters in Panama City.

Reuters



Students are busy studying in the Anhui Agriculture University on 31 Dec, 2013, in preparation for the postgraduate exam from 4 to 6 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

Pope Francis draws 6.6 million for Mass, other events at Vatican

ROME, 3 Jan — Pope Francis drew more than 6.6 million people for Mass and other papal events at the Vatican since his election in March 2013, Vatican Radio said, quoting figures released by the Pontifical Household on Thursday.

The sum is more than double the around 2.3 million attendees in the whole of 2012 for his predecessor Benedict XVI, according to Reuters news service, pointing to the strong popularity of the new pope.

The figure is based on the number of tickets issued for Masses, general and private audiences and other events as well as estimates of the number of people attending events where such tickets are not needed including weekly and other celebrations in St Peter's Square, according to Vatican Radio.

It does not include the crowds who came to see the pope during his trips to Brazil, Assisi, and elsewhere in Italy, it said.—Kyodo News

Death toll rises to Six in Beirut bombing

BEIRUT, 3 Jan — The casualties in a car bomb explosion in Bir El Abd neighbourhood in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Thursday rose to six killed at least and more than 70 injured, the health ministry said.

The Lebanese army said in a statement that the car bomb detonated at about 4:10 pm. local time (1210 GMT) in Haret al-Harayk's Ared Street.

The statement added that the explosion was caused by a 20-km bomb

placed within a SUV.

"Investigations are underway to find out the method of detonation," the army said.

The state-run National News Agency reported that the explosion caused massive material damage in

the area, especially to the building that houses the Al-Jawwad Restaurant.

Lebanon's caretaker Health Minister Ali Khalil asked all Beirut hospitals to treat the injured on the expenses of the ministry.

Xinhua

Female priest serves for temple in Nara for 5 decades

NARA, (Japan), 3 Jan — Hinonishi Koson, chief priest for Chugu temple in the ancient town of Ikaruga in Nara Prefecture, has served at the temple for more than five decades.

"I must be the happiest person in the world as I am allowed to live each day in the arms of the Buddha," said the 83-year-old woman, who has served at the temple since 1961.

She recently compiled a photo book about her life at the temple known for a Buddhist statue designated as a national treasure. She said she hoped the photo collection, which is not for sale, will serve as "a useful reference to those who are destined to serve at temples" in the future.

Hininishi Koson, whose grandfather was chamberlain to Emperor Mutsuhito in the Meiji era, said she had no hesitation to become a priest for the temple which has been served by daughters of the imperial

and noble families.

"When people heard the words 'a nun,' they may have a sad impression," she said. "But as I had relatives who were nuns, I didn't have any special feelings about them." "Regardless of whether you are a male priest or female priest, your task should be to save people from pain," she said.

Hininishi Koson lost her mother when she was 3 and her stepmother during the war. Then after becoming a priest at the age of 30, she trained and worked hard while loving the temple's smiling Buddha as if it were her mother and hoping "to become a person whose existence simply can make people happy like the Buddha."

But Hinonishi Koson thought of killing herself when she had problems in relationships at the temple and when her prayers were hampered by her own earthly desires.

Kyodo News

Chinese icebreaker stuck after helping in Antarctic rescue



The Xue Long (Snow Dragon) Chinese icebreaker, as seen from Australia's Antarctic supply ship, the Aurora Australis, sits in an ice pack unable to get through to the MV Akademik Shokalskiy, in East Antarctica, some 100 nautical miles (185 km) east of French Antarctic station Dumont D'Urville and about 1,500 nautical miles (2,800 km) south of Hobart, Tasmania, on 2 Jan, 2014, in this handout courtesy of Fairfax's Australian Antarctic Division.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 3 Jan — A Chinese icebreaker that helped rescue 52 passengers from a Russian ship stranded in Antarctic ice found itself stuck in heavy ice on Friday, further com-

plicating the 9-day "roller-coaster" rescue operation.

The Snow Dragon had ferried the passengers from the stranded Russian ship to an Australian icebreaker late on Thursday. It now

had concerns about its own ability to move through heavy ice, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) said.

"It will attempt to maneuver through the ice

when tidal conditions are most suitable during the early hours of 4 January 2014," AMSA said.

The Australian icebreaker carrying the rescued passengers, the Aurora Australis, will remain on standby in open water in the area "as a precautionary measure", the rescue agency said. The Aurora Australis had meant to sail towards an Antarctic base to complete a resupply before carrying the rescued passengers back to Australia.

A helicopter from the Snow Dragon carried the 52 scientists and tourists in small groups from the ice-bound Akademik Shokalskiy to the Australian supply ship late on Thursday.

The rescue, delayed due to weather and ice conditions, took around five hours to complete. It had been a "roller-coaster" rescue, said Greg Mortimer, one of three expedition leaders on the Akademik Shokalskiy.

Reuters

WORLD



Newly-married couples attend a group wedding ceremony in Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 1 Jan, 2014. Altogether 13 newly-wed couples took part in a group wedding of traditional style at Geyuan Garden in Yangzhou on the first day of 2014.—XINHUA

China continues to support all peaceful efforts towards resolving crisis in South Sudan

ADDIS ABABA, 3 Jan — China likes to share its traditional wisdom of resolving conflicts towards peaceful resolution of the crisis in South Sudan, said Zhong Jianhua, Chinese Special Representative for African Affairs.

In an exclusive interview with *Xinhua* on Thursday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Special Representative said being concerned with the situation in South Sudan, China supports all peaceful efforts to resolve the crisis in that country.

"The purpose is to understand the situation; to show our concern and

show our support for all the reconciliation efforts. So, I came here also to listen to the Ethiopian government, listen to AU, and also I heard that talks could be started here for both sides in South Sudan," he said.

"All the important countries in this area, all involve in the efforts to push for peaceful solution for this conflict. It is quite comprehensive visit for me," he said. Emphasizing that African problem must be resolved by African people, the Special Representative noted that China is keen to share its wisdom of solving conflicts to help Africans solve their problems

in African way.

"And we show that we will be happy to be mediator. If any party has any message to want to bring to the other side, as long as it is towards a peaceful solution, we would be happy to do that. And of course, we have admitted that this is an African problem; it must be solved by the African people in African way. We fully respect that," he said.

The Special Representative underscored the need to have collective efforts for peaceful solution for the crisis and reconciliation in that country.

"All efforts are needed; all efforts are necessary. I

think in this crisis, we need every party to join us, to join them, to push for peaceful solution; all are very, very necessary," he said.

The Special Representative also revealed that China is happy to work with others towards peaceful resolution of the crisis in South Sudan.

"We put forward our wish to meet with anyone who wants to meet with us. I think, we have been very warm welcome by all parties, all countries necessary. And as long as we can have our message be channeled to the parties we are satisfied," said the Special Representative.—*Xinhua*

Slovenian ex-president Turk bids for UN Secretary

LJUBLJANA, 3 Jan — Former Slovenian president Danilo Turk won on Thursday the approval of the cabinet to bid for the 2017-2021 post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Turk will have "adequate support" from the government during his candidacy for the top post of the United Nations, the Slovenian Government Communication Office said in a Press release.

Turk, born in February 1952, served as Slovenia's ambassador between 1992 and 2000, and then as UN Assistant Secretary-General

for Political Affairs from 2000 to 2005.

He became president of Slovenia in December 2007, and held the presidency until the end of 2012.

Under the UN Charter, candidates for UN Secretary-General are put forward by geographical groups rather than individual countries.

The United Nations consists of five regional groups — Western European and Others, East European Group, Latin American and Caribbean Group, Asia-Pacific Group, and African Group.

Unlike its counterparts

that has at least one person elected as UN Secretary-General since the founding of the United Nations in October 1945, East European group has never had a Secretary-General in the global body before.

The incumbent UN Secretary-General is Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, who took office on 1 January 2007. His second five-year term is due to expire on 31 December, 2016.

UN Secretary-General serves for five-year term that can be renewed indefinitely, although none so far has held office for more than two terms.—*Xinhua*



Afghan men walk on the snow in Bamiyan Province of central Afghanistan, on 1 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

Algeria condemns Beirut bombing

ALGIERS, 3 Jan — The Algerian government on Thursday strongly condemned the deadly bomb attack that shook the Lebanese capital of Beirut, which left six killed and more than 70 others injured, APS news agency reported.

"Algeria strongly condemns the suicide car bomb that targeted on Thursday the southern suburbs of Beirut. While reaffirming full solidarity with the Lebanese government and the brotherly Lebanese people, Algeria extends condolences to the families of the victims," APS news agency quoted the Foreign Ministry's spokesman Amar Belani as saying.

The official further reiterated the North African nation's strong commitment to the stability of Lebanon, calling on all Lebanese people to work for national unity and cohesion through strengthening security and civil peace amid the alarming recurrence of terrorism movement.

Thursday's bombing is the second attack targeting the Lebanese capital this week, and the fourth since July in the neighbourhood of Haret Hreik, which is a stronghold of the Shiite movement of Hezbollah, said Lebanese Minister of Health Ali Hassan Khalil.

Xinhua

Cyprus radio mistakenly airs New Year message from ex-president

NICOSIA, 3 Jan — Cypriot state radio publicly apologized on Thursday for inadvertently broadcasting the opening remarks of a New Year's message from the country's former president in the place of a message by current President Nicos Anastasiades.

The Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC), which runs both television and radio broadcasts, said in its apology that the mistake was realized within seconds early in the night of 31 December, 2013, and the transmission was halted.

CyBC said in a statement that the error was a "very serious" one and an inquiry was ordered to ascertain the cause. CyBC sources dismissed

allegations of foul play and said the erroneous message from former president Demetris Christofias was stopped within seconds. The message dated back to 2009. The error was spotted by listeners who poked fun at CyBC on social networks.

According to CyBC sources, the message was broadcast by mistake because a radio presenter clicked on the wrong heading of an item. They said that the old message, which should have been removed a long time ago, was erroneously left on the broadcast computer. Christofias did not contest re-election and was succeeded by Anastasiades who won the election in February 2013.—*Xinhua*



A massive drugs operation ends in the seizure of three tonnes of crystal meth, or "ice," and 182 arrests, in Boshe Village in the city of Lufeng, south China's Guangdong Province, local police announced on Thursday. It involved more than 3,000 personnel in 109 separate raids with the help of helicopters and border speedboats.—XINHUA

Commander of DR Congo forces killed

KINSHASA, 3 Jan — Colonel Mamadou Ndala, commander of military operations of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), was killed on Thursday in an ambush by members of the ADF-Nalu, minister of media and spokesperson of

the government told *Xinhua*. "Colonel Mamadou Ndala was killed, it is true," spokesman Lambert Mende said in a sad tone. He added that "these are ADF-Nalu who killed with two of his bodyguards. This is truly a great loss for the Armed Forces and the Republic."

Mende said that Colonel Ndala was on the way of Eringeti for the deployment of a battalion of commandos when his jeep was ambushed.

According to a military source, five FARDC soldiers were seriously wounded in an ambush by the Ugandan

rebel ADF-Nalu, before being taken to hospital Beni.

According to the security manager of the UN Mission for Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO), there is a high concentration of ADF-NALU rebels in the area where the colonel Ndala was killed.—*Xinhua*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

World manufacturing ends 2013 on a strong note

NEW YORK/LONDON/BEIJING, 3 Jan — Global manufacturing ended 2013 on a strong note, as major exporters like the United States, Japan and Germany all saw demand pick up, although China's performance remained modest, surveys showed on Thursday.

Years of loose monetary policy, along with soaring stock markets, appear to be bolstering economic confidence. That bodes well for a global economy that has struggled to shake off the effects of financial crisis and recession.

China's growth rate fell to a three-month low, though the index was still above the 50 mark that indicates expansion. Weakness in global equity markets was blamed in part on the Chinese data, though

markets were also taking a breather from recent gains.

US manufacturing activity grew in December at its swiftest pace in 11 months and the rate of job growth was the strongest since March, according to Markit's Purchasing Managers' Index.

Other US economic figures, including construction spending and the Institute for Supply Management's purchasing managers' survey, also pointed to steady gains in the world's largest economy.

"We have had a whole string of strong ISM numbers. This is a gauge of sentiment and sentiment is improving," said Scott Brown, chief economist with Raymond James in St Petersburg, Florida.

"Europe has turned the corner. It's not

contracting at least. The emerging markets are doing better. We are looking for growth to pick up once again in the new year and we have few headwinds to deal with, especially less fiscal drag." The US Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing PMI index dipped slightly to 57 from 57.3 in November, but that's still well above the 50 level that indicates growth in the sector. Construction spending rose 1 percent to a four-and-a-half-year high.

A Reuters poll of economists taken in mid-December forecasts annualized first-quarter economic growth of 2.5 percent, reaching 3 percent by year-end. Since then, economic data has tended to exceed forecasts.

US stock markets have been on a tear, even as the



Electricians assemble a new Porsche 918-Spyder sports car at the production line of the German car manufacturer's plant in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen on 2 July, 2013.

REUTERS

US Federal Reserve eases off on its monthly stimulus. The S&P 500 benchmark closed at all-time highs on Tuesday, even though equities dipped modestly on Thursday.

Factory sentiment hit a 10-month high in Mexico, with the HSBC Mexico Manufacturing PMI rising to 52.6 in December, thanks to improved new orders and

output. Euro zone manufacturing grew at the fastest rate since mid-2011 in December on brisk business in Germany and Italy, Markit Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs) showed.

Add in the fastest growth in 7 1/2 years for Japanese manufacturing and no major slowdown in Chinese manufacturing output, and the stage is set for a

solid start to the year.

"Looking ahead, the hope for the euro zone is that recent improved confidence will encourage businesses to lift their employment and investment plans as 2014 progresses, and will also encourage consumers to spend more," said Howard Archer, the chief European and UK economist at IHS Global Insight.—Reuters



A pedestrian looks at an electronic board displaying various countries' stock market indices outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Asia shares roiled by risk aversion; yen rallies

SYDNEY, 3 Jan—Asian share markets were under water on Friday after a sudden reversal in some very popular, and thus crowded, trades sparked a bout of global risk aversion.

The net result was a pullback in the euro, sterling, and stocks and a bounce for the yen, gold and bonds. Oil prices had also taken a spill, though for purely idiosyncratic reasons.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan shed 1 percent, with markets from Shanghai to Sydney all in the red.

The various moves seemed divorced from the news flow, which was mostly upbeat with global manufacturing ending 2013 on a strong note as the United States, Japan and Germany all saw demand pick up.

The fly in the ointment was China where a measure of activity in the services sector eased back in December, just as one for manufacturing had on Thursday.

The next hurdle later Friday will be a spate of speeches from top Federal Reserve policy makers, including outgoing Chairman Ben Bernanke. Any comments on the outlook for tapering could affect market sentiment, for good or bad.

On Thursday, the Dow had ended down 0.82 percent while the S&P 500 lost 0.89 percent. MSCI's 45-country share index slipped 1 percent.

In Asia, anxious eyes were fixed on Thailand as deepening political uncertainty lopped another 0.5 percent off stocks, on top of a 5 percent decline on Thursday. The Thai currency also took a bath, hitting its lowest since early 2010 at 33.03 per dollar.

Shares in South Korea shed 1.1 percent, though there the problem was one of a strong won and a weak yen undermining the competitiveness of the country's huge export companies.

Reuters

Relapse of 'cured' HIV patients spurs AIDS science on

LONDON, 3 Jan — Scientists seeking a cure for AIDS say they have been inspired, not crushed, by a major setback in which two HIV positive patients believed to have been cured found the virus re-invading their bodies once more.

True, the news hit hard last month that the so-called "Boston patients" — two men who received bone marrow transplants that appeared to rid them completely of the AIDS-causing virus — had

relapsed and gone back onto antiretroviral treatment.

But experts say the disappointment could lay the basis for important leaps forward in the search for a cure. "It's a setback for the patients, of course, but an advance for the field because the field has now gained a lot more knowledge," said Steven Deeks, a professor and HIV expert at the University of California, San Francisco.

He and other experts

say the primary practical message is that current tests designed to detect even very low levels of HIV present in the body are simply not sensitive enough.

As well as having the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the Boston patients both also had a type of blood cancer called lymphoma, for which they were treated using bone marrow transplants — one man in 2008 and the other in 2010.

They continued taking the antiretroviral AIDS

drugs, but eight months after each patient's transplant, doctors found they could not detect any sign of HIV in their blood.

In the early part of 2013, both patients decided to stop taking their AIDS drugs and both appeared to remain HIV-free — prompting their doctors, Timothy Henrich and Daniel Kuritzkes from Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, to announce at a conference in July that they may have been cured.—Reuters

UK lawmakers criticize govt's stockpiling of Roche drug Tamiflu

LONDON, 3 Jan — British lawmakers on Friday criticized government spending of 424 million pounds (\$702 million) to stockpile Roche's medicine Tamiflu, saying doubts about the drug's effectiveness suggest it may not be money well spent.

Parliament's influential Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said it was "surprised and concerned" to discover that information on methods and results of clinical trials of such prescribed drugs "is routinely withheld", and said there was a "lack of consensus over how well Tamiflu ... actually works".

"The case for stockpiling antiviral medicines at the current level is based on judgment rather than on evi-

dence of their effectiveness during an influenza pandemic," said Richard Bacon, a leading member of the committee.

He added that as well as spending more than 420 million pounds on stockpiling Tamiflu, an antiviral medicine, the Department of

Health was forced to write off 74 million pounds of that as a result of poor record-keeping by the National Health Service.

"Before spending money in future to maintain the stockpile the (health) department needs to review what level of coverage is appro-

priate," he said. Tamiflu has been approved by regulators worldwide and is stockpiled by many governments in case of a global flu outbreak. Sales of the drug hit close to \$3 billion in 2009, due to the H1N1 swine flu pandemic, although they have since declined.

But some researchers claim there is little evidence Tamiflu works and have lobbied since 2009 for Swiss drugmaker Roche to hand over all its data from clinical trials of the medicine. After a lengthy fight, Roche agreed last year that it would hand over the data to outside researchers at the Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit group that reviews trial data to assess the value of drugs.

Reuters



Four capsules of Tamiflu are pictured on a Tamiflu box in Burbank, California, on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ride service Uber, brash darling of Silicon Valley, stalks new markets

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Jan — Uber Chief Executive Travis Kalanick knows the value of a good controversy. After his upstart company, which lets people summon rides at the touch of a smartphone button, provoked a flurry of social media outrage in December over pricing policies that can result in exorbitant fares, Kalanick addressed prospective New Year's Eve customers.

"If you absolutely need a ride between 1 and 3 am, Uber will be very reliable," Kalanick said in a YouTube video. "But it will be a pricey ride, and you just have to accept

that." The company's pricing policies can sometimes result in fares that are eight times higher than usual.

Like the message or not, plenty of people heard it — and fewer complaints emerged about Uber's New Year's Eve rates.

Kalanick has taken a similarly tough tack with regulators, local officials, taxi-company foes and emerging competitors as he moves to build Uber into a global force.

But it will take a lot more than a popular smartphone app, a loyal Silicon Valley following and a knack for turning free-market ideology into publicity

to fulfill Kalanick's vision of a "lifestyle and logistics" company that delivers far more than rides.

Uber has entered more than 60 markets, ranging from its hometown of San Francisco to Berlin to Tokyo. Leaked financials in December indicate that the company, which began connecting passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire about 3-1/2 years ago, is generating \$200 million a year in revenue beyond what it pays to drivers.

Investors, led by Google Inc's Google Ventures, have given Uber around \$400 million and valued it at \$3.5 billion. With a



Transportation app Uber is seen on the iPhone of limousine driver Shuki Zanna, 49, in Beverly Hills, California, 19 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

service that stitches together the buzziest categories in entrepreneurship — among them mapping, smart-

phones, and local services — Uber is widely seen as one of the hottest properties in Silicon Valley.

Yet Uber still faces daunting regulatory hurdles that have left it shut out of major markets such as Miami. Lawsuits, many from taxi companies, are piling up. Competitors such as Hailo, Sidecar and Lyft are coming on strong. And aside from publicity stunts involving delivery of kittens, ice cream and Christmas trees, Uber has yet to provide anything beyond rides. Delivery "can become an extremely complex thing," said Kerry Rice, a digital media analyst at Needham. "It's about the scheduling and the software and the ability to manage a fleet."—Reuters

China's Xiaomi says to more than double smartphone sales in 2014



Lei Jun, founder and CEO of China's mobile company Xiaomi, poses for a photo ahead of an interview during the Fortune Global Forum (FGF) in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on 6 June, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 3 Jan — Chinese budget smartphone maker Xiaomi plans to sell 40 million handsets in 2014, more than double the number it sold in 2013, its chairman said on Thursday, reinforcing the company's ambitions to outsell more expensive offerings from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Lei Jun, who is also co-founder of the tech firm, made the projection on Sina Weibo, China's most widely used microblogging site, and it was reposted on Xiaomi's website.

"We again promise, we will at least supply 40 million phones in 2014!" he wrote. China is the world's biggest market for smartphones.

Lei said privately held Xiaomi had sold 18.7 million smartphones in 2013, a 160 percent increase from 2012, and that sales revenues, including taxes, rose 150 percent to 31.6 billion yuan (\$5.22 billion).

Xiaomi's sales growth

far exceeds projections for the global smartphone market, which is seen expanding at an annual rate of 18 percent a year until 2016, according to research firm Canalys.

Xiaomi's cheap yet sleek phones are popular in China, where Samsung Electronics remains the market leader. Xiaomi's handsets sell for between \$130 and \$410, much lower than the \$740 price tag for the least expensive iPhone 5C model or a Samsung Galaxy Note II, which can retail for \$570.

Xiaomi even managed to briefly rank sixth by market share in the second quarter of 2013, one notch above Apple.

Apple is poised to boost its sales in China after it signed last month a deal with China Mobile Ltd, the world's largest mobile carrier by subscriber numbers. The deal could generate \$3 billion in revenue in 2014 for the US firm.

Reuters

FireEye buys cyber forensics firm Mandiant for about \$1 billion

BOSTON, 3 Jan — Cybersecurity company FireEye Inc has acquired Mandiant Corp, the computer forensics specialist best known for unveiling a secretive Chinese military unit believed to be behind a series of hacking attacks on US companies.

FireEye shares jumped more than 20 percent after Thursday's announcement of the \$1.05 billion cash-and-stock deal, which FireEye said closed on Monday. It unites two companies with relatively new technologies for thwarting cyber attacks, and brings together two of the most-respected executives in the security industry: FireEye CEO Dave DeWalt and Mandiant founder Kevin Mandia.

While sales of older anti-virus products have been on the decline, security experts expect strong growth in both FireEye's cloud-based systems for detecting malicious software and Mandiant's software

that analyzes cyber attacks.

About a year ago the two companies entered into a technology development agreement that made it easier to deploy their products together. With the merger, FireEye will gain Mandiant's team of forensics investigators.

"They have these very strong Navy 'cyber' Seals who respond to breaches and are very good at what they do," DeWalt said about Mandiant. He had previously served as chairman of Mandiant's board.

"My aim is to create the strongest security company in the world," DeWalt said in an interview.

FireEye, which has yet to post a profit, said the acquisition will be immediately accretive to earnings and expects the combined company's revenue to grow about 50 percent this year. In comparison, Symantec Corp, the biggest maker of anti-virus software, has said it expects fiscal 2014 revenue to drop 3 percent to



FireEye Inc Chairman of the Board, David DeWalt (R) and Founder Ashar Aziz (L) pose with Nasdaq CEO Robert Greifeld outside the Nasdaq Market site in Times Square following the company's debut on the Nasdaq exchange in New York, on 20 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

4 percent.

Mandiant is best known for its forensics services. The company rose to prominence in February 2013 when it published a report detailing what it said were links between a Shanghai-based unit of the People's Liberation Army and a long list of attacks on US companies. Beijing denied all allegations in the report.

"If you combine FireEye's advanced persistent threat technology with Mandiant's endpoint protection, it really makes them a major force in the cyber-security industry," said FBR analyst Daniel Ives. Mandiant, which has long been profitable, generates sales of more than \$100 million a year, according to DeWalt.

Reuters

Over a thousand candidates shortlisted for life on Mars



Jacqueline Storey, a press officer at the National Maritime Museum, poses for a photograph in front of images of Mars generated by NASA's Curiosity Rover at their new Visions of the Universe exhibition, in Greenwich, London on 5 June, 2013.—REUTERS

AMSTERDAM, 3 Jan — A mission to put humans on

Mars that drew 200,000 applicants has selected more

than a thousand candidates who will now be tested to come up with a final list of 24 would-be Mars-dwellers. Mars One was set up in 2011 by two Dutch men with the goal of establishing permanent human life on Mars in 2025. They hope the project will be funded by investors and the rights from the documentary-cum-reality TV broadcasting of the tests, training and final selection.

The 1,058 candidates who got through to the first round come from all over the world. By far the largest

number - 297 - are American, followed by 75 Canadians and 62 Indians.

They must now undergo rigorous tests, including simulations of life on Mars and coping with isolation, co-founder Bas Lansdorp said.

"The challenge with 200,000 applicants is separating those who we feel are physically and mentally adept to become human ambassadors on Mars from those who are obviously taking the mission much less seriously," Lansdorp said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 4 January, 2014

Sixty-six years on

Sixty-six years ago, 4:20 a.m. 4 January. Deep was the darkness in the cold morning, but it was just the darkest hour before the dawn in Myanmar.

The entire people of Myanmar passed a sleepless night on 3 January 1948, being eager to witness the would-be historic moment of themselves and their motherland. It was completely dark in the streets, but glittering hopes were flaring up in their hearts.

At 4:20 a.m. on that 4 January, Myanmar people shed emotional tears as the Union Jack was lowered and Myanmar's own national flag was run up the flagpole. For more than a century, they had waited for that day to free themselves from the yoke of colonial rule and to walk with their heads held high on their own soil.

Since then, Independence Day is celebrated annually in Myanmar. Writers give talks and newspapers feature articles and editorials on how important it is to preserve independence on this red-letter day. There also are games, shows and fairs as part of Independence Day celebrations.

But, has anyone seriously thought about the essence of independence?

Independence is like health; people do not know its value until it is lost. Again, it is as fragile as life. It can shatter all of a sudden. However, the overwhelming majority of Myanmar's population today was born after independence and therefore don't understand how bitter being subjugated tastes.

Countless numbers of lives and limbs, innumerable drops of blood and immeasurable miseries—the price of independence was high.

But, is this hard-won independence real?

National brethren were united against colonial rule, but have then turned into foes in reconstruction of the nation. The lingering internal armed conflicts born with independence have claimed as many innocent lives as, or perhaps even more, than the independence struggle did.

Sixty-six years on, people are still fleeing for their lives.

Sixty-six years on, people are still fighting for their land.

Sixty-six years on, people are still searching for "a sense of security."

Sixty-six years on...

Final Sepak Takraw match concludes in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw tournament to mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day took place at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium-3 here this morning.

In the final, the team representing the Ministry of Transport won over the team representing the

Ministry of Construction while the team representing the Ministry of Home Affairs stood third after defeating the team representing the Ministry of Industry.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held tomorrow at the same venue.

MMAL-Khin Zaw (Mingala)

Passport office opens in Haka



Nyaunglebin gets new street

NYAUNGLEBIN, 3 Jan—To mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day, a 4th street paved with gravel opened in Minte Ward, DaikU Township yesterday.

The 985-foot long street passes through Kyungon, Bamakyungon, Shankyungon, Oakwin,

Hnetthikepauk, Palakekwin and Pyinpone villages and will become a main route for better transportation for the villagers. Resurfacing of the street was supervised by the DaikU Township Development Committee.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Myint and Township Administrator

HAKA, 3 Jan—A Myanmar Passport Issuing Office (Section) was launched in Haka in Chin State yesterday.

The branch has been established with a view to enabling accommodation and food for the people in Chin State without much cost.

Applying for a passport will cost K 25,000, In-

charge Police Captain San Oo said.

He said it takes about 10 ten days to get a passport and reiterated that the new office will the best services for the convenience of the local people.

Plans are also underway to open similar branches in other states and regions.

Haka IPRD

ribbon to open the street.

Department officials, residents of Minde Ward and members of social organizations attended the ceremony.

Nay Linn (Nyaunglebin)

Pipelines extension provides drinking water for Gangaw residents

GANGAW, 3 Jan—A ceremony to extend pipelines to deliver river water took place in Shoneshi Village in Gangaw Township yesterday as part of efforts for marking the 66th Anniversary Independence Day.

The extension work was financed with K 3 mil-

lion from the Magway Region Government and K 10 million in local contributions.

The extended pipelines will bring easy access to safe drinking water for the local residents.

MMAL-Kyaw Than Swe (101)

Local youth, students take part in campaign to save star tortoises

NATOGYI, 3 Jan — Foresters at the Mt. Minn Sone Wildlife Sanctuary, with the help of the Wildlife Conservation Society, are moving to protect star tortoises, which can each fetch up to US\$ 20,000 on the international black market.

They have been giving educative talks to students and youth in Natogyi Township in the Mandalay Region and volunteers in 13 nearby villages are joining in the conservation project.

Star tortoises face a threat to their very exist-

ence overall and because of illegal exports they are already near extinction in the township.

Officials concerned are also launching a campaign to provide the endangered tortoises with a safe haven in the sanctuary and the Forest Department, working with the local youth and students, is increasing colonies of star tortoises in the region and raising awareness among the local people of the threat to tortoises.

MMAL-Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)



Tatkon Township marks Independence Day with sports events

TATKON, 3 Jan—As Myanmar marks the 66th anniversary of its independence from Britain today, Tatkon Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area has organized a number of sports events to celebrate.

Saya San Ward will continue holding Sepak

Takraw competitions that kicked off yesterday at a local school. It is tradition in Myanmar townships to mark Independence Day with street games such as Chin-lone, a cane ball game, boxing and Chawtaingtetpwe, traditional pole climbing.

Tatkon Township IPRD



Only cooperation will allow ...

(from page 16)

tarps strewn on both pedestrian and traffic thoroughfares are a headache as the city tries to modernize.

After series of negotiations with vendors, the Yangon City Development Committee has proposed a plan that would allow them to lay their trays on the lanes, but only at certain times. And to enforce the proposal and to improve the common good, amendments must be made now in the City of Rangoon Municipal Act, which dates to 1922 - a very different time, with very different

challenges than those today's Yangon now faces.

In pursuit of modernity, strict adherence to a development affairs law by residents and cooperation with officials is much needed.

Putting aside the concerns and differences of each individual and each group is imperative if Yangonites are to take part in the beautifying, cleaning and greening that will transform the city and allow Yangon once again to rightfully claim its title as "Princess of Asia".

Kyemon: 3-1-2014

Trs: YM



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

66th Anniversary Independence Day 2014



ASEAN Summits and related meetings will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (1), Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Kyaw Swe Moe (IPRD)

Rare books donated to new village library in Kachin State

MOHNYIN, 3 Jan—Rare books on history, literature and culture of Myanmar have been donated to a library in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State.

The Abbot of the monastery Bhaddanta Nandiya received the books on 30 December from a private donor on behalf of the Bawa Uyin Library which is located in the vicinity of the monastery.

The 850 books were printed in Myanmar from the 1960s to 1980s.—NLM-001

A building for Bawa Uyin library opened at monastery in Mohnyin Township.



New road to link 17 villages in northwest Myanmar

KALAY, 3 Jan—A new road is under construction that will link 17 villages in the Kalay Township of the Sagaing Region in northwest Myanmar. Officials from the Kalay District Management Committee and the Rural Development Department inspected on 29 December the construction work met with local people.

Upon completion, the road will be eight miles long and benefit 17

villages on the eastern bank of the Myittha River in Kalay Township.

It is being constructed by Htet Nay Lin Co in line with the instructions by the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye.

The villages that will be connected include Udu, Kinpunchon, Pauktaw, Indin, Shadaw, Hsinywa, Kokko, Yayshin and Mandar.

Kyemon-Chindwinthar (IPRD)

Historic pagoda built on Independence Day has become tourist magnet

SAGAING, 3 Jan—As Myanmar celebrates Independence Day today, one sight in the Mingun region gets special attention as it was built on the same day the country declared independence from Britain.

Pyidawthein Lutlatyay Datu Pagoda located on Momeik Hill in Sagaing Township was built by a monk and over 60 disciples in the night from the 3rd to the 4th of January 1948, with the umbrella of the 14-feet high pagoda hoisted atop at 4.20 a.m. on 4 January when Myanmar regained Independence.

The pagoda which turns 66 today has in recent years attracted more and more visitors and pilgrims as the Mingun region is famous for its ancient cultural sites. Other



places of interest in the area include the Mingun Stupa, Mingun Bell, Lion Statues, Myatheindan Pagoda,

Settawya Pagoda, Momeik Hill and Dhammanada Monastery.

Kyemon-Nanda Min Lwin

Mohnyin officials urge calm as township elects reps for Myanmar's general election

MOHNYIN, 3 Jan—Officials in Mohnyin township have clarified that each township in Myanmar can only elect two representatives for

next year's general election, following protests by several township sub-committees that demand the election of their members.

Each political party is allowed to display one election poster in each village-tract, explained U Di Sim Ram, Chairman of the Mohnyin District Election Sub-commission in a meeting with political party members on 30 December.

He added that according to the constitution,

representatives cannot be elected on a sub-township level. Following the protest by several township sub-committees demanding their representatives should be able to run, District Law Officer U Bo Wai Lwin urged them to remain calm and abide by the law.

Among the protesters were members of the sub-committees from Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant Townships.

NLM-001

Monywa University welcomes freshman students

MONYWA, 3 Jan—Monywa University has welcomed freshman students of the 2013-14 academic year with an official ceremony. The rector and other staff made speeches to welcome the students and explained matters related to the science subjects taught at

the university. Registrar U San Win Hlaing clarified academic affairs and faculty members were introduced to the new students. The ceremony was held at the convocation hall of Monywa University on 30 December.—Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Course for Buddhist culture instructors kicks off in Kayin State

MYAWADY, 3 Jan—A course for people interested in teaching Buddhist culture has started in Myawady in Kayin State.

The first batch of instructors has been taught since 25 December, organizers said.

The course is under the supervision of township education officials and instructor Daw Nu Nu Khin of the Yangon Dhamma Byuha Sasana Mamaka Association. A private donor has provided note books, stationery and textbooks for the trainees.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady)



WORLD

Oil flow via pipeline starts from northern Iraq to Turkey

ANKARA, 3 Jan — Crude oil flow from northern Iraq to Turkey started via a new pipeline on Thursday, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said.

The oil started to accumulate at the Turkish Mediterranean export hub of Ceyhan but will not be shipped to world markets without the consent of Iraqi government, Yildiz told reporters.

The minister said that oil flow through the pipeline would start at 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) and rise to 400,000, expressing his hope that a deal with

Baghdad can be reached this month for exports to begin. Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan regional government signed six energy contracts last month on exploration and purchase of hydrocarbon resources.

Following Nechirvan's visit, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said that Ankara and Arbil had "agreed on some commercial deals" but had yet to finalize them and that Turkey would seek Baghdad's cooperation on the issue. The agreement irked officials in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, which claims sole authority to manage Iraqi oil.

Baghdad said Iraqi Kurds' efforts towards oil independence could lead to the break-up of Iraq.

The Turkish energy minister paid a visit to Baghdad in December to brief the officials on the deals. In response to Baghdad's concerns, Turkey has proposed a formula to both parties under which oil and gas money will be tied up at a Turkish state bank in line with the agreed share of 83 percent to the Iraqi central government and 17 percent to the Kurds. —Xinhua



A resident walks in the rain in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 2 Jan, 2014. Storms landed in part of Argentina and have lowered the temperature here about 20 degrees Celsius. National Weather Service (SMN, for its acronym in Spanish) issued an alert for possible severe thunderstorms in Buenos Aires and five provinces of Argentina. —XINHUA

China urges US to ensure safety following consulate arson attack



Reporters stand by the front gate of the Chinese Consulate-General in San Francisco, the United States, on 2 Jan, 2014. The United States is "deeply concerned" by reports that the Chinese Consulate-General in San Francisco was damaged in an arson attack, the State Department said on Thursday.

XINHUA

BEIJING, 3 Jan — China on Thursday urged the United States to take "effective measures" to protect its diplomatic institutions and staff, and prevent similar incidents following an arson attack on a Chinese consulate-general.

"The Chinese Foreign Ministry and Embassy and Consulates to the United States have lodged solemn representations to the US side, demanding they solve the case as soon as possible and severely punish the culprit," said Foreign Ministry

spokesman Qin Gang.

On Wednesday, a person got out of a minivan parked in front of the main entrance of the Chinese consulate-general in San Francisco, poured two buckets of gasoline onto the front door and set it on fire, severely damaging the door, but fortunately causing no casualties.

The Chinese side will release information in a timely manner as it becomes available, Qin said.

Xinhua

S Korea, US to reopen defence cost-sharing talks next week

SEOUL, 3 Jan — South Korea and the United States will resume the 10th round of senior-level talks over how to share costs for the 28,500 US troops stationed here, after the prior nine rounds of talks failed to narrow differences between the two sides, local media reported on Friday.

The new round of negotiations for the five-year Special Measures Agreement (SMA) will be started on 9 January in Seoul and possibly last for four days, in a last-minute effort to make a final deal.

The two allies will decide how much South Korea will pay for the presence of the US Forces Korea (USFK) after their SMA expired earlier this week.

Seoul has reportedly

offered to keep its payment share at 869.5 billion won (820 million US dollars), but Washington has demanded a hike to around 1 trillion won considering what it called the increasing security threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We have yet to bridge our gaps. But we are pressed to wrap up the negotiations soon, given the many (rounds of) talks so far as well as the (need to uphold) the South Korea-US alliance," Yonhap news agency quoted a Seoul government official as saying on condition of anonymity.

The first negotiation of this kind was held in July last year to revise the five-year SMA, while the latest round of talk collapsed at

the end of 2013.

The United States faced growing financial burden to station its 28,500-strong forces in South Korea as Washington was hit hard by the partial government shutdown amid lackluster economic growth.

US President Barack Obama has sought a rebalancing towards the Asia-Pacific, but Washington asked its Asian allies such as South Korea and Japan to contribute more to its policy shift.

South Korea and the United States signed their first SMA in 1991. The latest deal was reached in 2008, with Seoul agreeing to pay 4.07 trillion won for the next five years through 2013.

Xinhua

US ship to depart soon on chemical weapons mission to Mediterranean

PORTSMOUTH, (Virginia), 3 Jan — The US-owned cargo ship with the capability to destroy the nastiest of Syria's chemical weapons will depart for the Mediterranean in about two weeks, officials said on Thursday as shipyard workers readied the vessel for new sea trials.

Forklifts moved equipment and sparks flew as workers welded containers and other gear on the deck of the *MV Cape Ray*, which is being outfitted with modular housing to accommodate three times its normal complement of personnel, plus two hydrolysis units for destroying Syrian chemicals used in mustard and

nerve gas weapons.

"Without this ship, this mission is not possible," top Pentagon arms buyer Frank Kendall, who has oversight of chemical, biological and nuclear arms, told reporters who were invited to tour the vessel at dock in Portsmouth, Virginia.

"This avoids having to put these materials on somebody's territory, where you have to deal with all the political and environmental conditions associated with doing that under local law," he said.

Damascus agreed to eliminate its chemical weapons last year in the face of threatened US military action following a Syrian chemical attack against



The *MV Cape Ray* is seen before its deployment from the NASSCO-Earl Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 2 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

rebels and their supporters in a civil war aimed at overthrowing President Bashar al-Assad.

The United States had developed a portable machine for destroying chemical weapons precursors and offered to neutralize the portion of Syria's agents that were too toxic to be dealt with directly by companies that process

hazardous materials.

Syria failed to meet the 31 December deadline for removing the chemical agents, but officials have noted that the time frame was always going to be challenging and arms control experts say deliberate and safe handling of the materials is more important than doing it speedily.

Reuters

Nigeria's new year attack kills Two, injuring 12

LAGOS, 3 Jan — Unidentified gunmen on Wednesday attacked a group of young people in Nigeria's central north Plateau State, killing two people and injuring 12 others, local police said on Thursday. Dominic Esin, the state's police spokesperson, told reporters in the state capital of Jos, that some youths, who were dancing in a village square on Wednesday, were assaulted by the gunmen, leading to the death of two dancers and a score injured, who had been rushed to hospitals for treatment.

To hunt down the assailants, the police have stepped up patrol and surveillance in the area, where normalcy had been restored, Esin said. He also urged the public to provide the police with useful information that would lead to the arrest of the perpetrators.

Plateau falls on the dividing line between Nigeria's mainly Christian south and predominantly Muslim north. Mostly Muslim herdsmen from the Fulani-Hausa ethnic group have been blamed for scores of attacks on mainly Christian agriculturists from the Berom ethnic community.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Scores missing as ferry sinks in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 3 Jan—A ferry travelling between two islands in eastern Indonesia sank early Friday with scores of people still missing, a search and rescue official said.

Lalu Wahyu Efendi, search and rescue coordinator in the West Nusa Tenggara provincial capital Mataram, told *Kyodo News* at least three people were found dead and 46 others survived after the ferry *Munawar* sank at around 2 a.m. on its way from Lombok Island, next to Bali, to nearby Sumbawa Island.

How many people have

gone missing, however, was not immediately clear.

"I haven't been able to confirm how many people were aboard when the ferry sank," Lalu said.

Officials and media reports gave conflicting figures on the missing people, ranging from 11 to 40 people. The state-run news agency *Antara* even quoted passengers as saying the ferry was packed with about 150 people when it sank.

The reason the ferry sank is not yet known, although passengers told local media that leakage had caused the accident.

"The ferry leaned to the left, then the engine didn't work and it sank," Lalu quoted one of the witnesses as saying.

Ferries are a common form of public transportation in Indonesia, particularly in the eastern part of the archipelago, due to bad road conditions in some regions. Lack of adequate public sea transportation, as well as efforts to increase profits, however, prompt some shipping companies to let passengers and vehicles board already-packed ships and ferries.

Kyodo News

Indian PM rules out 3rd term in office

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday ruled out a third term in office, saying he will hand over the baton to a new prime minister after the upcoming general election in May.

He told a Press conference that he hopes the next prime minister will also come from the incumbent Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) instead of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The BJP prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi is campaigning strong-



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

ly for the election.

Singh also said that the Congress will soon nominate a PM candidate.

The Congress lost in

four key local legislative elections, including that of the capital region, late last year. BJP won all the elections.—*Xinhua*

Beijing to control vehicle pollution

BEIJING, 3 Jan—Beijing will extend its air quality monitoring network with more stations and focus on vehicles with high emission, confirmed the city environmental authority on Friday.

These stations will be along the fifth and sixth ring roads and other highways heading into the urban areas, the main routes of heavy diesel vehicles, said Zhang Dawei, director of the Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Centre.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Truck bombing kills two in NW Bangladesh

DHAKA, 3 Jan — At least two people were dead and three others injured after a bomb was thrown at an onion-laden truck in a northwestern Bangladesh district on early Friday, the third day of Bangladesh opposition's countrywide non-stop blockade, police said.

"Charred bodies of the trucker and an onion trader were retrieved from inside the damaged vehicle," the police official told *Xinhua* from Dinajpur District, some 338 km northwest of capital Dhaka.

As the truck caught fire, he said its driver lost control over the steering wheel. According to the police, the onion laden truck, bombed by pro-blockade activities, veered off the road and fell into the ditch at about 1:30 am (local time) on Friday.

On receipt of information, the police official said firefighters rushed to the scene and doused the fire.

"Three more people were also injured in the incident," he added.

Stray incidents of clash, arson, vandalism, explosion and detention

in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country have also been reported in the early hours of third day's blockade program which came after the end of the opposition's a two-day "March for Democracy" on Monday demanding polls under a non-party caretaker government.

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



Customers buy "lucky bags" at the flagship outlet of Kintetsu Department Store Co in Osaka's Abeno Ward on 2 Jan, 2014. Major Japanese department stores kicked off business for 2014 that day.—*KYODO NEWS*

China tells police to be loyal to party amid graft crackdown

BEIJING, 3 Jan — China's police chief wrote on Friday that his officers must uphold the leadership of the Communist Party and be loyal to it, as the government targets the domestic security apparatus in a crackdown on corruption.

Sources have told *Reuters* that China's former security tsar, Zhou Yongkang, one of the most powerful politicians of the decade, has been put under effective house arrest while the party investigates corruption allegations against him.

Last month, the government began a graft investigation into a one-time deputy public security minister, Li Dongsheng, an ally of Zhou's.

Li held a rank equivalent to cabinet minister, and

state media says he is the first member of the ruling party's Political and Legal Affairs Committee, the influential domestic security body which Zhou used to head, to be investigated for graft.

Writing in the party's official *People's Daily*, Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun said his more than two million officers had to be "absolutely loyal and absolutely clean" and stand steadfastly in line with the orders and politics of President Xi Jinping.

All public security personnel must "take real actions to resolutely defend the leadership of the Communist Party", Guo said. "Unswervingly be a loyal defender of the party and the people." Guo made no direct mention of Li's case



China's Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang reacts as he attends the Hebei delegation discussion sessions at the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing on 16 Oct, 2007.—*REUTERS*

or of Zhou. The government has yet to make any official statement about Zhou.

President Xi has made fighting deeply ingrained graft a central theme of his new administration, and has promised to take down high-level "tigers" as well as lowly "flies".

Zhou had expanded his role into one of the most powerful, and controversial, fiefdoms in the

one-party government, and under his stewardship the domestic security budget exceeded that of the military.

But Zhou was implicated in rumors in 2012 that he hesitated in moving against Bo Xilai, who had been a contender for top leadership but fell in a divisive scandal following accusations Bo's wife murdered a British businessman.—*Reuters*

Vietnam's garment seen as top priority in TPP negotiations

HANOI, 3 Jan — Vietnamese government sets top priority on Vietnam's garment and textile during the negotiating process of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an expert said on Friday.

Le Tien Truong, vice chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) said in an interview with Vietnam's state-run news agency VNA in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Friday that Vietnam's garment and textile sector possesses international competitiveness and will be a potential beneficiary of the TPP.

Vietnam earned 17.98 billion US dollars from selling garment products to overseas markets in 2013,

posting an increase of 18.6 percent year-on-year, according to Vietnam's Statistics Office (GSO).

Major TPP markets for Vietnamese garment in 2013 included the United States and Japan, which accounted for 43 percent and 11 percent of the country's garment export turnover respectively, Truong cited GSO's statistics, adding the TPP countries are the most important market for Vietnamese garment.

Truong said that when joining TPP, Vietnam will have an opportunity to promote investment in material production, thus increasing criteria of trade surplus, added value and localization rate of Vietnamese garment.—*Xinhua*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CH BELLA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CH BELLA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 F H BERTLING
CHARTERING

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV POLLUX 28 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV POLLUX 28 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN SPAN SHIPPING
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (119)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

A dog at the city collective center of stray dogs waits to be fed in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 2 Jan, 2013. 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 VASI SHIPPING PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (088)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (088) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (365)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (365) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (034)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Better to light a Candle than to Curse the Darkness

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

Ministry of Construction
Public Works
(Invitation for OpenTender)

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 fifty 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

Nicole Scherzinger,
Lewis Hamilton holiday in Aspen

Lewis Hamilton and Nicole Scherzinger

LONDON, 3 Jan — Former Pussycat Dolls star Nicole Scherzinger and Lewis Hamilton have jetted off on a holiday to Aspen, Colorado.

The on/off couple, who started dating in 2007 after meeting at the MTV Europe Music Awards in Berlin, have fuelled speculation their relationship

is firmly back on track by flying to enjoy a skiing holiday with the Formula 1 star's family, reported *Daily Mirror*.

PTI

Morgan Freeman to recite Mandela speeches at tribute concert



in 1994, while Clinton will also be on hand to honour Mandela's legacy.

The special event at the St Paul the Apostle Cathedral on 13 February will feature a performance by the Soweto Gospel Choir.

Mandela died on 5 December last year, aged 95.

PTI

Lawyer fined for revealing pseudonymous author was JK Rowling

Author JK Rowling hosts a special family fundraising evening in aid of her children's charity, Lumos, at the "Warner Bros Studio — The Making of Harry Potter in Hertfordshire" in London in the 9 Nov, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS



LONDON, 3 Jan — A lawyer who blew JK Rowling's cover when she wrote a detective novel under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith has been fined 1,000 pounds

(\$1,650) and received a written warning from a British legal watchdog.

Chris Gossage, a partner at Russells Solicitors, which represented the Harry

Potter author, leaked one of the publishing world's biggest secrets to his wife's best friend — who then tweeted Galbraith's real identity to a journalist.

Rowling, Britain's best-selling author, was furious when she found out that a partner at her London-based law firm had revealed she was the author of "The Cuckoo's Calling". Publicity material for the book had described it as the debut novel of retired military policeman Galbraith.

After taking legal action against Gossage and his friend Judith Callagari, Rowling accepted an apology from the law firm

which paid her legal costs and made a substantial, undisclosed donation to a charity of her choice, the Soldiers' Charity.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority said in a ruling released this week that Gossage had also received a written rebuke and was ordered to pay a 1,000 pound fine for disclosing confidential information about a client to a third party.

No one from Russells Solicitors was immediately available to comment. Gossage was still listed as a partner at the firm that made it clear that unmasking Rowling was an error and not a marketing stunt.—Reuters

NEW YORK, 3 Jan—Actor Morgan Freeman and former US President Bill Clinton will celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela at a tribute concert in New York next month.

The Hollywood veteran portrayed the ex-South African leader in 2009 movie 'Invictus'.

The 76-year-old actor will recite speeches from Mandela's early political

career as he fought against racial segregation, and letters to his wife, Winnie, which the late icon wrote during his incarceration at Robben Island prison, to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of apartheid, reported Contactmusic.

Freeman will also read the civil rights hero's famous inaugural address following his election victory

Vin Diesel struggling with Paul Walker's death

LONDON, 3 Jan — Actor Vin Diesel is still mourning the loss of Paul Walker and says he is struggling to cope with the painful void since his co-star died in a car crash on 30 November last year.

"The Fast and the Furious" star Walker died alongside his friend, Roger Rodas, when their car crashed and burst into flames in Santa Clarita, California.

PTI



Vin Diesel and Paul Walker

LOS ANGELES, 3 Jan — Hollywood producers nominated slavery drama "12 Years a Slave," 1970s con-men caper "American Hustle" and space thriller "Gravity" along with seven other films on Thursday for the top Producers Guild Award, a key indicator of sentiment in the race for the best picture Oscar. The other films nominated for outstanding producer in a motion picture were Woody Allen's tragic comedy "Blue Jasmine," Somali pirate thriller "Captain Phillips," AIDS activist drama

"Dallas Buyers Club," quirky computer-age romance "Her," heartland comedy "Nebraska," Disney's making of "Mary Poppins" in "Saving Mr Banks," and Martin Scorsese's tale of American greed "Wolf of Wall Street."

Director and producer of the movie "12 Years a Slave" Steve McQueen.
REUTERS



Notable snubs included the Coen brothers' portrayal of the 1960s folk scene "Inside Llewyn Davis" and two films from awards season power player The Weinstein Co — family dysfunction drama "August: Osage County" and civil rights saga "Lee Dan-

iel's The Butler."

The Producers Guild Awards will be handed out in a ceremony in Beverly Hills on 19 January, six weeks before the March 2 Academy Awards. Oscar nominations will be announced on 16 January. The top PGA award can give crucial momentum to a frontrunner. In the last six years, the PGA winner has gone on to win best picture at the Oscars, including last year's Iran hostage drama "Argo" from director, producer and actor Ben Affleck.—Reuters

SPORTS

Sharapova survives scare to set up Serena semi

BRISBANE, 3 Jan — Maria Sharapova rallied to

The pattern was set at the start as the match began with four successive breaks of serve.

Had 2012 champion Kanepi been in better form, the Sharapova-Williams showdown that the tournament organizers hoped for would have been scuppered.

The Russian improved as the match went on and in the third set her service accuracy improved to 84 percent, nearly double her efforts in the first two sets.

“You’re going up against a great champion that’s playing great tennis at the moment,” Sharapova told reporters of her clash with Williams. “You know that you have to raise your level in order to beat her.”

“I think the intensity level of our matches are always high. I think she goes up and wants to play the best tennis against me.”

When asked about her frosty off-court relationship with Williams, the Russian replied: “I have said everything I have to say about it”.

The American played down the animosity between the pair, saying: “I don’t have anything against her”.

Elsewhere, second seed Victoria Azarenka let slip nine match points before finally beating Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland 6-4, 6-7,

(7-9), 6-1. The Belarusian next plays fourth-seeded Serb Jelena Jankovic who defeated German Angelique Kerber 6-7, (8-10), 6-3, 6-1.

In the men’s event, unseeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt beat sixth-seeded Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 7-5, 6-3 and next

faces Romanian qualifier Marius Copil in the quarter-finals.

Copil put out third seed Gilles Simon of France 7-5 6-3.

Reuters



match against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane on 2 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Real Madrid not planning to buy or sell in January



MADRID, 3 Jan — Real Madrid are not planning to add to their squad or sell any players in the January transfer window, coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Thursday.

“There is nothing new on that issue,” Ancelotti told a news conference after Real beat Paris St Germain 1-0 in an exhibition match in Doha.

“No players will leave, nor will we sign anyone,” added the Italian. “For us, the market is closed.”

Ancelotti was also asked about talks between the club and Xabi Alonso on an extension to the

Real Madrid’s coach Carlo Ancelotti is seen during his friendly soccer match against Paris St Germain at Khalifa stadium in Doha on 2 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Spain midfielder’s contract, which expires at the end of the season, and said he expected an agreement to be reached.

Alonso’s experience, control and passing ability are seen as crucial to Real’s hopes of silverware this term and beyond but the lack of a new contract announcement has prompted speculation the 32-year-old former Liverpool player may seek a more lucrative deal elsewhere.

“We believe that in the end we will find a solution and the club and the player will reach an agreement,” Ancelotti said.—Reuters

2014 Masters likely to be pivotal for Tiger, says Miller

NEW YORK, 3 Jan — This year’s Masters could make the difference between Tiger Woods winning several more major titles or perhaps ending his career stuck on his current tally of 14, according to Hall of Fame golfer Johnny Miller.

Woods, comfortably the greatest player of his generation and possibly of all time, is ideally suited to Augusta National where he has piled up four Masters victories on heavily contoured and slick greens that demand a brilliant short game.

However, his barren

title run in the majors is now fast approaching six years and the aura of dominance he once enjoyed in golf’s blue riband events is a fading memory, with the young guns of today holding no fear for the world number one.

“What he does at Augusta is really important,” twice major winner Miller, 66, said on a Golf Channel conference call ahead of this week’s Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Hawaii, the first PGA Tour event of the year.

“If he were to win at Augusta, I’d almost bet you



US golfer Tiger Woods celebrates after making a birdie on the 18th hole during the final round of the US Open golf championship at Torrey Pines in San Diego on 15 June, 2008.—REUTERS

he’d win another major this year. He’d win two majors. But if he doesn’t win at Augusta, I think the odds of him winning another one are not that great.



Stoke City manager Mark Hughes gestures during their Premier League match against Manchester City at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent on 14 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

LONDON, 3 Jan — Stoke City manager Mark Hughes has been fined 8,000 pounds by the Football Association after a coat-throwing touchline tantrum during his side’s 5-1 English Premier League defeat at Newcastle United.

Stoke had Glenn

Hughes fined by FA over touchline tantrum

Mark Hughes has been fined the standard penalty of £8,000 after he admitted an FA misconduct charge,” a short statement on the FA’s website read.

“The charge was that his behaviour in or around the 40th minute of Stoke’s game against Newcastle United on 26 December 2013 amounted to improper conduct.”

Hughes had been critical of Atkinson’s performance after the match saying he was ‘absolutely dismayed by his performance’ but was not punished for the outburst.

Stoke host second tier Leicester City in an FA Cup third round clash on Saturday.—Reuters

Blatter angered by ‘preposterous’ simulation

BERNE, 3 Jan — FIFA president Sepp Blatter is fed up with “preposterous” simulation and “extravagant” diving by players and has said it is up to referees to solve the problem.

“This kind of thing is treated with scorn in other sporting disciplines but it has become a normal and accepted part of football nowadays,” Blatter wrote in the latest edition of FIFA Weekly, which will be published on Friday.

“Even though simulation is incredibly unfair and looks preposterous when

viewed in a replay, some people regard it as smart or in the worst case as a harmless misdemeanour.

“This includes the winning of controversial penalties by extravagant diving in the box,” added Blatter. “I find this deeply irritating, especially when the (supposedly) half-dead player comes back to life as soon as they have left the pitch. The touchline appears to have acquired powers of revival which even leading medical specialists cannot explain.”

Reuters

GENERAL



Visitors view a snow sculpture at Jingyuetan National Forest Park in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 2 Jan, 2014. The "Jingyue Snow World", with numbers of snow sculptures, opened to tourists on Thursday.

XINHUA

Nepal's electoral body prepares final November election result

KATHMANDU, 3 Jan — After the one and half-month, Nepal's Election Commission (EC) has prepared the final result of 19 November Constituent Assembly (CA) election, EC officials said on Friday.

The EC officials said the result has been submitted to the President Ram Baran Yadav and it will be made public soon. After the government publishes the result in government gazette, ways will be opened for calling the first meeting of Constituent Assembly (CA).

The process of result announcement was delayed as UCPN (Maoist), which

faced unexpected loss in 19 November elections, was refusing to submit the names of its leaders to join in the CA.

The Commission submitted the list of 240 lawmakers elected under the first-past-the-post electoral system and 335 lawmakers under the proportional representation (PR). The remaining 26 members of 601-member assembly will be nominated by the cabinet.

Nepali Congress, a centrist party, emerged as a largest party, while CPN-UML secured second position and UCPN (Maoist) is the third largest in the new CA.

"We have submitted the final result and now entire election process has been completed," Chief Election Commissioner Neel Kantha Uprety told the media.

According to the Interim Constitution, the first CA meeting should be commenced 21 days after submission of the final list of CA members to the president. However, there is deadlock in Nepal about calling the first meeting of CA, though both Chairman of Interim Election Government Khilraj Regmi and President Ram Baran Yadav are eager to call the meeting.

Xinhua

China seizes over 20 mln illegal publications in 2013

BEIJING, 3 Jan — Chinese authorities confiscated 20.53 million illegal publications amid stepped up efforts to clean up the cultural environment and safeguard cultural security, the national anti-illegal publication office said on Thursday. The number represents a significant year-on-year decrease since 2011, according to a statement from the National Office Against Pornographic and Illegal Publications, adding that 52 million and 45 million such publications were seized by authorities in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Among the seized are 670,000 pornographic

publications, marking a 30 percent drop compared with the figure in 2012, the statement said. Authorities also solved 10,000 such cases, including seven copyright infringement cases with each involving money up to 10 million yuan, according to the statement.

In addition, more than 10,000 websites were shut down in 2013.

In September 2013, a man called Yang Junlin was sentenced to ten years in prison for pretending to be a journalist and illegally obtaining 502,000 yuan (82,980.6 US dollars) in north China's Shanxi Province.—Xinhua

Walcott fires warning shot to Spurs ahead of Cup clash

LONDON, 3 Jan — Arsenal forward Theo Walcott has warned resurgent arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur they are travelling across North London for their eagerly-anticipated FA Cup third round tie at a bad time.

The two sides meet on Saturday at the Emirates with Spurs in a rich vein of form having collected 10 points from a possible 12 in the English Premier League

since Tim Sherwood replaced Andre Villas Boas as manager last month.

But Walcott has scored five goals in his last five games as Arsenal returned to the top of the table after a brief slip at Christmas and the England international went on the offensive when asked if it was bad time to play Sherwood's in-form Spurs.

"It's going to be a bad

time to play us as well," he said in quotes carried by British media on Friday.

"For the neutrals, it's going to be a very interesting battle. I can't call it. It's one of those games that's going to be very open. The FA Cup is always special for me, being English. I love the FA Cup.

"Since their new appointment, Tottenham have done very well, to be fair to them. But like I say, they won't want to play us. And it's at The Emirates. We're trying to make our stadium into a fortress and we are starting to do that.

"The first fixture I always look at is Tottenham. Every time Tottenham come here or we go there, you want to put 100 percent in. These are massive games."

Reuters



Arsenal's Theo Walcott celebrates his goal during their Premier League match against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(4-1-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am	2:35 pm
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	18. Hyper Sports
6:15 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	19. News
6:25 am	3:15 pm
3. 66 th Anniversary Independence Day-Flag Hoisting and Ceremony (Live Broadcast)	20. India Drama Series
7:40 am	4:00 pm
4. Documentary	21. News
7:50 am	4:15 pm
5. Business News	22. India Drama Series
8:00 am	4:30 pm
6. News/ International News	23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Years (Philosophy)
8:25 am	5:00 pm
7. India Drama Series	24. News
9:00 am	5:15 pm
8. News/ International News	25. Golden Music Of Old Stars
9:25 am	5:35 pm
9. Documentary (Education)	26. Documentary
9:40 am	6:00 pm
10. Documentary	27. News/Weather Report
10:00 am	6:20 pm
11. News	28. Documentary (Education)
10:15 am	6:40 pm
12. Game For Children	29. Documentary
10:40 am	7:00 pm
13. Myanmar Movie	30. News
12:00 pm	7:20 pm
14. News/International News/Weather Report	31. Teleplay
12:30 pm	8:00 pm
15. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News	32. News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:10 pm	8:35 pm
16. Myanmar Movie	33. Business News
2:20 pm	8:50 pm
17. Business News	34. Hit Songs of Stars
	9:00 pm
	35. News
	9:20 pm
	36. Myanmar Series
	37. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

4-1-14 07:00 am ~ 5-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Religious Insignias of pagodas In Myanmar
- * World News
- * Moving Meditation: Aikido
- * Local News
- * A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
- * World News
- * Art Students: Their Dream
- * Local News
- * SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
- * World News
- * A Visit To Ye
- * 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 an Oath for Life
- * World News
- * Serenely Pleasant Pindaya
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas on the Mount Akauk)
- * World News
- * Monatery (Shwe In Pin Kyaung)

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah

King of Malaysia

Excellency,

The Raja Permaisuri Agong joins us in extending Our warm greetings and heartiest felicitations to you and Daw Khin Khin Win, as well as to the people of Myanmar on this joyous occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Malaysia and Myanmar have always enjoyed strong bilateral ties and engaged each other in a constructive manner. It is Our earnest hope that our friendship and co-operation will continue to strengthen and flourish in the coming years based on the feelings of mutual trust, respect and understanding for the benefits of our peoples.

Please accept Our best wishes for Your Excellency's and Madam's good health and for the prosperity and happiness of the entire Myanmar nation. We look for-

ward to receiving both of you in Malaysia for a State Visit in the near future.

From Traian Basescu

President of Romania

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I am extremely pleased to convey to you in the name of the Romanian people and myself the warmest congratulations and best wishes of progress and prosperity.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the hope that the friendly relations between Romania and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will further be developed in fields of mutual interest and to the benefit of our peoples.

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

From Heinz Fischer

Federal President of the Republic of Austria

Excellency,

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I convey my sincere congratulations to your country.

I seize the opportunity to extend my wishes for a happy future of the people of Myanmar.

From Mahinda Rajapaksa

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Excellency,

It is my great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar, my warm felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The historical friendship and close cooperation between our countries, based on Buddhism, have flourished and diversified to encompass areas of contemporary importance. The high level visits and increased people to people exchanges have further strengthened our bilateral ties in the recent past. I am confident that the good relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar will further expand and consolidate in the coming years.

Please accept, Excellency, my sincere wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Natural Spirulina in urgent need of conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Myanmar is seeking ways to save its natural Spirulina which is on the verge of extinction. "We are very willing to save our rare Spirulina from extinction. All experts and bodies concerned are to find answers to save our natural Spirulina," said Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint on his tour of inspection to the natural lake of Twintaung in Sagaing Region on 2 January.

He has urged experts and officials concerned to step up more efforts for seeking ways that can settle the issue.

According to experts,

water from rivers has flowed into the lake since 2008. However, it had not hardly hit the production of natural Spirulina from the lake till 2012.

Since early 2013, it has been found that green Spirulina has turned to yellow and production has reached downward, signaling that the eco-system of the lake has been damaged by the inflow water, according to experts.

Experts at home and abroad discussed the issue just based on their experiences during workshops and they have not yet carried out



Photo shows Natural lake of Twintaung in Sagaing Region.—MNA

a systematic ground survey, the Union minister added.

Myanmar exported its

food-grade natural Spilina and also used the natural Spirulina to make food, med-

icine and drinks for home market. found only in Myanmar and China in Asia.

Natural Spirulina is

MNA

Only cooperation will allow Yangon to once again become the "Princess of Asia"



A photo shows a bird's eye view of Yangon area.

Byline: Saw Shwe Guam

There was a time, when Yangon was called Rangoon, that Myanmar's famed commercial city was known throughout much of the world as the "Princess of Asia."

Now, as modernity sweeps over some parts of the "Princess," change is picking up speed, but not always for the better.

Certainly, there is no need to halt much-needed progress toward returning Yangon to a pre-eminent place among Asia's cities. But there is an urgent need to decide the best strategy to reach that goal.

While Myanmar has taken steps towards de-

Extensions of stay, renewal of lost/expired passports available for Myanmar workers in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Myanmar workers who are legally working in Malaysia can apply for extensions of stay at the Department of Immigration in Malaysia if their work permit and visa

validity expire. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, they can also apply for new passports or renew expired passports at Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.—MNA

mocracy over the past three years, Yangon has fallen far from its glory days as the "Princess of Asia" and Yangonites continue to face both expected and unexpected challenges.

Measures to modernize the city are going ahead, but facing up to and overcoming the problems of devel-

opment remain immature.

The most visible clash between old and new is street vendors continually encroaching upon pedestrian lanes, and even into traffic lanes. While certainly serving commercial purposes, the growing numbers of shops, stalls and plastic (See page 8)