

Dialogue should be only way to reach eternal peace

President meets Mutu Sae Po

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—President U Thein Sein met with Saw Mutu Sae Po, chairman of Karen National Union, and his party at the hall of the 500-acre model farm in Nay Pyi Taw, on 5 January.

Before their talks, the KNU chairman gave the president Kayin national dress as a New Year gift.

The President and the chairman discussed progress on a nationwide ceasefire, ongoing programs for political dialogue after reaching a ceasefire agreement and plans to build mutual trust.

After the meeting, the President and his party had

a documentary photo taken together with the KNU chairman and his party.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Khin Yi, Deputy Minister U Ye Htut and special advisers to the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC).

The KNU chairman and party were accompanied by Secretary-General Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, CEC members Pado Saw Roger Khin, Pado Mahn Nyein Maung and Pado Saw Tar Domu,

senior officers of the KNU (Headquarters) and brigade commanders.

It was the fourth meeting between the President and the chairman.

Both sides reaffirmed that dialogue should be the single way to reach eternal peace and they stressed the need for all the organizations to harmoniously strive to fulfil the aspiration of the people for peace.—MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Saw Mutu Sae Po, chairman of KNU.

MNA



Yangon Region Chief Minister inaugurates Bayintnaung Bridge, Overpass

YANGON, 5 Jan —Bayintnaung Bridge and Overpass were inaugurated today by several government officials including U Myint Swe, Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

Sprinkling scented water on the bronze plaque of the bridge and the overpass during the opening ceremony in Mayangon Township, he was accompanied by Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and the Chairman of FMI Co Ltd U Theim Wai.

Vehicles have been allowed to cross the Bayintnaung Bridge as of 31

October, 2013 and the overpass as of 24 November 2013.

It took one year and three days to finish the bridge and overpass, which cost K26.626 billion.

Bayintnaung Bridge is over 1427 ft long and over 57 ft wide, and can withstand 75 tons.

The overpass (Thamain Station Section) can hold 60 tons and is over 2414 ft long and over 32 ft wide.

The project is one of three overpass projects of the Union Government to ease the traffic congestion in Yangon.—MNA

Inauguration of Bayintnaung Bridge, Overpass in progress.—MNA

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—According to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal is centered at about 50 miles North-Northeast of Trincomalee (Sri

Lanka), about 135 miles Southeast of Nagapatinam (India) and about 755 miles Southwest of Cocogyun (Myanmar). It is forecast to move West-Northwest wards and cross North Sri Lanka Coast and weaken

during next 24 hrs.

The present stage of the depression is coded yellow stage and it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

NLM

13,274 prisoners released under pardon

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued pardons under Order No (1/2014) dated 2 January 2014 to free prisoners in accord with Section (a) of the

Constitution with the aim of contributing to peace and stability of the State, rule of law and national reconstruction and focusing humanitarian grounds to the honour 66th Anniversary Independence Day. A total

13,274 prisoners, 11,124 men and 2,150 women, were released from various prisons across the country on 3 January 2014, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MNA



FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT SEND FELICITATIONS TO PRESIDENT U THEIN SEIN

From Barack Obama
President of the United States
Excellency,

On behalf of the American people, it is my sincere pleasure to send our congratulations as your country celebrates its National Day on January 4.

On this important occasion, we join the people of Myanmar in celebrating their journey toward a new democratic future. It has only been a little more than a year since my first visit to your beautiful country, but I am heartened by the progress that has been made and by the ongoing efforts to fulfill the pledges of reform made to your people and the international community.

On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I would like to commend and support your commitment to becoming a thriving and free member of ASEAN and convey the dedication of the American people to supporting this exciting year of your ASEAN Chairmanship.

Please accept my best wishes for continued prosperity and peace on this National Day.

From Raul Castro Ruz
President to the Councils of State and of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba
Excellency,

On the occasion of celebrating the 66th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you cordial congratulations.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Dilma Vana Rousseff
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Excellency,

On behalf of the people and the Government of Brazil, it is my honour to convey my sincere congratulations on the celebration of the 66th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. As your country takes the important role of Chairman of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations for 2014, please accept my wishes of great success in this endeavour.

From Mr. François Hollande
President of the French Republic
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day, I have the pleasure to offer you, and to the people of Myanmar, my warmest congratulations.

The reforms undertaken in your country have enabled to give a new impetus to our bilateral relationship, and your official visit to Paris, in July 2013, has testified the importance we give to the reinforcement of the links between our two countries. I wish that we foster together this dynamic, by intensifying our political, economic and cultural exchanges.

When Myanmar has the presidency of ASEAN this year, illustrating its full insertion in its regional environment, I wish that the course of democratization and opening of your country will go on. You can rely on the commitment of France to support this process and the economic and social development of your country.

Please accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Abdullah GUL
President of the Republic of Turkey
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on my behalf and on behalf of the Turkish people.

It is our desire to further develop the cooperation between Turkey and Myanmar with our joint endeavours on the basis of the interest of our two countries on the forthcoming period.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness as well

as the well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

From Ivan Gasparovic
President of the Slovak Republic
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Day I am sending sincere greetings and congratulations in the name of the citizens of the Slovak Republic and on my own behalf.

I believe that the friendly relations and cooperation between Slovakia and Myanmar will continue to develop in all areas of mutual interest towards benefit mutual advantage of our both countries.

I appreciate your personal endeavor and resolution in containing of liberalization and democratization reforms in Myanmar. I wish you lot of success in fulfilling of Your Statesman's mission and lasting prosperity to the People of Myanmar.

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

From Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India
Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend to you and the people of Myanmar warm greetings and heartiest felicitations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

A close neighbours, India and Myanmar have long enjoyed friendly relations and productive partnerships in a broad range of areas. Our joint efforts in the last two years have imparted a new momentum to our relations. I look forward to working with you to further consolidate and strengthen these relations, including through increased security, economic and developmental cooperation.

Myanmar has embarked on a new journey on assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2014. Please accept, Excellency our best wishes for successful stewardship of the ASEAN.

I also take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the good health and well being of Your Excellency and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

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

From Bhumibol Adulyadej.
King of Thailand
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes for your happiness and well-being as well as for the welfare and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

From Md. Abdul Hamid
President of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Excellency,

I have immense pleasure in conveying to you and to the friendly people of Myanmar my sincere greetings and warmest felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Bangladesh and Myanmar enjoy excellent bilateral relations. I do hope that our two countries will continue to work together to further strengthen and consolidate the existing relations for the benefit of our peoples.

I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for your good health, long life and happiness as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

From Tony Tan Keng Yam
President of the Republic of Singapore
Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Singapore, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to you and the people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 66th Independ-

ence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar has undergone another remarkable year of economic progress and national reconciliation under your leadership. As a close friend and neighbor, Singapore will continue to support Myanmar's development efforts and ASEAN Chairmanship. I look forward to the opening of the Vocational Training Institute in Yangon and greater bilateral cooperation between our two countries.

My wife Mary and I wish you and Daw Khin Khin Win a happy Independence Day and continued good health and success.

From Akihito
Emperor of Japan
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for Your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of Your country.

From Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

In recent years, the Myanmar government was committed to maintaining stability, promoting economic development and improving people's livelihood, while achieving new progress in advancing domestic reform and enhancing international exchanges. The good-neighborly and friendly cooperative relations between China and Myanmar developed continuously, which brought tangible benefits to the two peoples. China cherishes the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between our two countries, and is ready and willing to join hands with Myanmar to promote traditional friendship, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and constantly push China-Myanmar Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership to a new level.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the profound prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and well-being to the Myanmar people.

From Kim Yong Nam
President
Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Excellency,

I extend warm congratulations to you and your government and people on the 66th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and your people greater success in the work for the stability and the economic development of the country as well as the prosperity of the friendly Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From D.M. Jayarathne
Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I convey to Your Excellency, my warm congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The principles of Theravada Buddhism have stood as a firm foundation in the development of longstanding between our countries. It is my fervent wish that the existing friendly relations and cooperation between Sri Lanka and Myanmar will further strengthen for the mutual benefit of our two nations.

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

WORLD

US to support fight on al-Qaeda in Iraq without troops

JERUSALEM, 5 Jan — US Secretary of State John Kerry voiced confidence on Sunday the Iraqi government and tribes would be successful in their fight against al-Qaeda, and said Washington was not considering sending troops back to Iraq. Sectarian and ethnic tensions have risen in Iraq since the US withdrawal in December 2011, inflamed by the conflict in neighbouring Syria, where

mainly Sunni rebels are trying to oust President Bashar al-Assad, who is backed by Shi'ite Iran.

The Iraqi army has joined forces with local tribesmen to battle al-Qaeda, which has teamed up with groups of Syrian rebels to try to create across the Iraqi-Syrian border a state based on strict medieval Sunni Islamic practice.

"This is a fight that belongs to the Iraqis ... We are

US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives for a meeting at the presidential compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah on 4 Jan, 2014. REUTERS



not contemplating returning," Kerry told reporters during a visit to Israel. "We will help them in their fight, but this fight, in the end, they will have to win and I am confident they can."

The Iraqi military's cooperation with the tribesmen against al-Qaeda echoed a decision by local

tribes in 2006 to join forces with US troops and rise up against al-Qaeda forces who seized control of most of Iraq's Sunni areas after the 2003 US invasion.

US troops and local tribes finally beat back al-Qaeda in heavy fighting after a "surge" of US forces in 2006-07.—Reuters

New Komeito party chief Yamaguchi leaves for India

TOKYO, 5 Jan — Nat-suo Yamaguchi, leader of the New Komeito party in the governing coalition, on Sunday left for India for talks with Indian leaders including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Yamaguchi is expected to exchange views with the Indian leaders on strengthening bilateral economic and security ties.

"I want to make a contribution as the ruling coalition partner for strengthening relations between Japan and India," Yamaguchi told reporters at Narita Airport near Tokyo before his departure.

He plans to visit New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore during his trip through Saturday.

Kyodo News

Japan eyes tank engine development with Turkey

TOKYO, 5 Jan — The Japanese government plans to embark on joint development of tank engines with Turkey under arms embargo rules eased in 2011, government sources said on Saturday. Turkey is showing interest in engine technology employed in the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force's Type 10 tank, according to the sources.

To realize joint engine development, the Japanese government is considering forming a joint venture between Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, which has developed the engine of the state-of-the-art tank, and the Turkish side, the sources said. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to agree with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who will visit Japan for three days from Monday, to strengthen bilateral cooperation in defence areas with the planned joint development of a tank engine in mind, according to the sources.

In Japan, deployment of Type 10 tanks has already started, with the GSDF planning to procure 66 of them by March 2015. The tanks boast high mobility including moving backward at a speed of 70 kilometres per hour. In 2011 when the Democratic Party of Japan was in power, then Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda eased the rules on arms shipments to allow arms to be jointly developed and produced with other countries, on condition that they obtain Japan's approval in advance when exporting the technology to a third party.—Kyodo News



Local residents participate in the "Go Green Car-free Morning" activity in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, on 5 Jan, 2014. The Kuala Lumpur city launched a "Go Green Car-free Morning" plan here on Sunday. No cars would be allowed to enter the appointed 6 sq km area from 7:30 to 9:00 Am on the morning of every first Sunday in the city of Kuala Lumpur since 1 Jan 2014.—XINHUA

Bangladesh votes in general election hit by violence, boycott

DHAKA, 5 Jan—Voters in Bangladesh went to the polls on Sunday in parliamentary elections all but certain to be won by the ruling Awami League due to a boycott by the main opposition alliance.

Polling stations across the South Asian nation opened at 8 am and will close at 4 pm. By 11 am, voter turnout in the capital Dhaka appeared to be very low. In a bid to stop the election, the opposition alliance called a 48-hour nationwide general strike that began Saturday morning.

The general election has been marred by violence, with dozens of people re-

portedly killed and more than 100 polling stations being torched in the build-up to voting. On Sunday alone, six people were reportedly killed in clashes between opposition supporters and security forces, according to local media. Of the 300 parliamentary constituencies, as many as 153 candidates, including 127 from the Awami League, have already won seats uncontested due to the boycott by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The BNP's boycott was caused by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's refusal to step down and hold the election under a neutral caretaker government.

Kyodo News



People look at burnt textbooks after a primary school which was supposed to be used as a polling booth was set on fire, in Feni on 4 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

Thai protesters march again in bid to bring down government

BANGKOK, 5 Jan — Thousands of anti-government protesters marched through the Thai capital on Sunday, a prelude to a broader action next week when they say they will shut down Bangkok in their bid to scuttle a February election and topple Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The protesters, who accuse Yingluck of being the puppet of her self-exiled brother and former premier, Thaksin Shinawatra, have vowed to stop the 2 February election. Instead, they want an appointed "people's council" to oversee reforms before any future vote.

The crisis has dragged on for weeks and has hit the

Thai economy. It pits Yingluck and her brother and their support base among the rural poor in the populous north and northeast against protesters who draw

protests began in November. The protests at times have brought as many as 200,000 people on to the streets, but have also sparked sporadic clashes



People hold candles as they form a peace sign during an anti-violence campaign in centre of Bangkok on 3 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

support from Bangkok's conservative, royalist elite and middle classes and the south.

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, a fiery former deputy premier from the main opposition Democrat Party, said two more marches would be held on Tuesday and Thursday leading up to the 13 January "shutdown".

That event is shaping up as the biggest confrontation since the latest round of largely peaceful

with police in which three people were killed and scores wounded.

"We will keep walking, we won't stop," Suthep said on the march. "We will walk until we win and we won't give up."

Sunday's march began at Bangkok's Democracy Monument, where some supporters had gathered overnight. Suthep said the protesters would set up stages at five rallying points through the city leading up to 13 January.—Reuters

Chinese warship in Cyprus to aid Syrian chemical weapons removal

LIMASSOL, (Cyprus), 5 Jan — A Chinese frigate which will help escort Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons out of the country docked in Cyprus on Saturday as part of a delayed international mission.

The *Yancheng*, a missile frigate, will accompany

a Norwegian-Danish convoy which is in international waters off Syria, waiting for the go-ahead from international watchdogs overseeing the removal of the chemical arsenal.

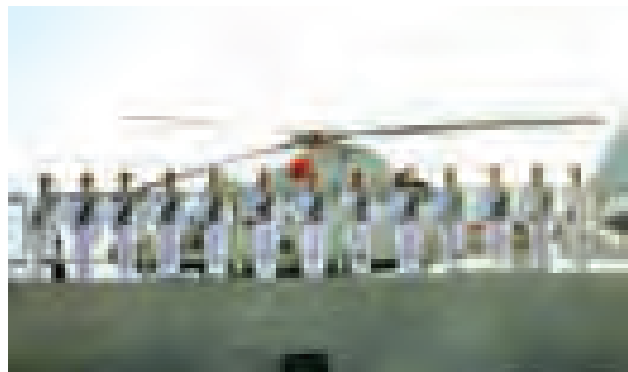
The mission to ship chemicals from Syria has missed its 31 December

target date and Chinese and Cypriot officials said it was unclear exactly when it would begin.

"China supports the efforts of the international community to destroy the Syrian chemical weapons ... we wish this operation a success," said Liu Xincheng, the Chinese ambassador to Cyprus. Photis Photiou, the defence minister of Cyprus, said after meeting Chinese officials that he expected the operation would start "any day now". Russia will also be providing escort to the convoy carrying Syria's chemical weapons, which will be loaded onto two cargo ships and escorted to Italy, where a US ship equipped with toxin neutralizing equipment will take over.

The US vessel, the *Cape Ray*, is due to leave the United States for the Mediterranean in about two weeks. Dozens of Chinese nationals in Cyprus converged on the quay of Limassol port, about 160 miles west of the Syrian port city of Latakia from where the chemicals will be shipped. Loudspeakers blared Chinese music as Chinese flags were waved by women in traditional yellow and red costumes.

The 31 December deadline was missed because of poor weather, logistical delays and the conflict inside Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad's forces have fought to clear rebels from roads along which the chemicals will be transported.—Reuters



Chinese sailors stand at attention as the Chinese frigate *Yancheng* comes in to dock at Limassol port, on 4 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Afghan Taliban claim attack on NATO convoy in Kabul

KABUL, 5 Jan — The Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack on a military convoy belonging to the NATO-led ISAF security force in Kabul on Saturday, striking at the heart of the capital but without causing any casualties.

Security sources said the bomb had targeted a military convoy near Camp Eggers, an ISAF base in the diplomatic quarter of the capital close to both the German and Italian Embassies.

Reuters reporters heard sirens and helicopters flying overhead, and a loudspeaker announcement ordered

troops at the base to load their weapons and take up defensive positions.

The NATO-led force said only that there had been "an improvised explosive device detonation in the vicinity of Camp Eggers", but that no casualties had resulted.

The Taliban, who frequently exaggerate the scale of their attacks, claimed in an emailed statement to have inflicted losses.

In a separate incident on Saturday, however, one ISAF soldier was killed in the east of the country by a suicide attack. The force did not disclose the victim's nationality.



An Afghan security personnel keeps watch near the site of an explosion in Kabul on 4 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

There was also another explosion in the capital on Saturday. "There was a small mine ... placed by

enemies of Afghanistan, but no casualties," a police spokesman said.

Reuters

Obama urges jobless benefits extension, avoiding self-inflicted pain

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Saturday urged Congress to extend unemployment benefits for millions of unemployed Americans, saying inaction of Congress will lead to self-inflicted wound for the economy.

"Just a few days after Christmas, more than one million of our fellow Americans lost a vital economic lifeline — the temporary insurance that helps folks make ends meet while they look for a job.

Republicans in Congress went home for the holidays and let that lifeline

expire," Obama said in his weekly address.

Approximately 1.3 million workers currently receiving extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits lost them as the programme expired on 28 December.

About 3.6 million more people will lose access to UI benefits beyond 26 weeks by the end of 2014 if Congress fails to act, the White House figures showed.

"We don't abandon our fellow Americans when times get tough — we keep the faith with them until they start that new job. What's more, it actually

slows down the economy for all of us," Obama said.

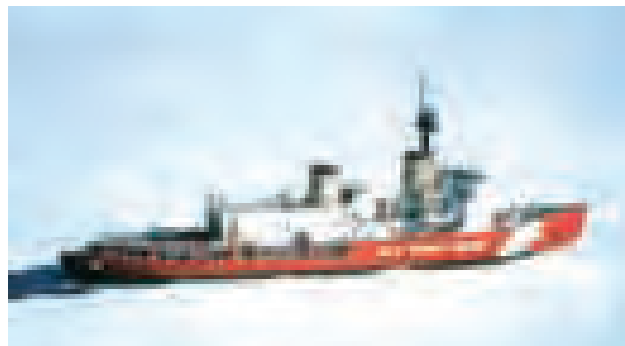
"If folks can't pay their bills or buy the basics, like food and clothes, local businesses take a hit and hire fewer workers.

That's why the independent Congressional Budget Office says that unless Congress restores this insurance, we'll feel a drag on our economic growth this year," he added.

"And after our businesses created more than 2 million new jobs last year, that's a self-inflicted wound we don't need," Obama said.

Xinhua

US breaker to help Russian, Chinese ships stuck in Antarctic ice



Polar Star, the US Coast Guard icebreaker, is seen in a handout photo taken in Antarctica on 4 April, 1999.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — The United States is sending a heavy icebreaker to help free a Russian ship and a Chinese icebreaker gripped by Antarctic ice,

the Coast Guard said on Saturday.

The *Polar Star* is responding to a request for assistance from Australian authorities as well as from

bate tensions with China and South Korea.

Onodera sought the US government's understanding over Abe's visit to the shrine, telling Hagel that the prime minister renewed the pledge that Japan must never wage war again, Japanese officials said.

On 1 January, Japanese Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Yoshitaka Shindo also visited the shrine, which honours Japanese leaders.

On bilateral relations, Hagel expressed appreciation for the Japanese government's efforts in securing approval from the governor of Okinawa Prefecture for landfill work for the relocation of a US Marine Corps air base within the prefecture, Kirby said.

Kyodo News

Hagel urges Japan to improve ties with neighbouring nations

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel on Saturday urged Japan to improve relations with its neighbouring countries after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to a war-linked shrine in Tokyo in late December fueled anger in China and South Korea.

"Secretary Hagel underscored the importance of Japan taking steps to improve relations with its neighbors," Defence Department Press Secretary Rear Adm John Kirby said in a statement summarizing telephone talks between Hagel and Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera.

The US government has said it was "disappointed" to see Abe go ahead with the trip to Yasukuni as it would exacer-

A firefighter helps a girl to carry a christmas tree to recycle at Garry Point Park in Richmond, Canada, on 4 Jan, 2014. Firefighters in Richmond held the 32nd Richmond Firefighters Charitable Society Drive-Thru event to help the community recycle their christmas trees as well as raising money for the local food bank.—XINHUA



the Russian and Chinese governments, the Coast Guard statement said.

"The US Coast Guard stands ready to respond to Australia's request," Coast Guard Pacific Area Commander Vice Admiral Paul Zukunft said. "Our highest priority is safety of life at sea, which is why we are assisting in breaking a navigational path for both of these vessels." Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Allyson Conroy said the *Polar Star* was expected to arrive on the scene on 12 January and take two to three days to complete its mission.

Reuters

WORLD



Photo provided by Venezuela's Presidency shows Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (C) attending the ceremony to mark the 26th sailing of the Ship Simon Bolivar at the naval wharf in La Guaira, Vargas state, Venezuela, on 4 Jan, 2014. XINHUA

Italy confirms port availability for Syrian chemical weapons transfer

ROME, 5 Jan — The Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed it has made one of the country's ports available for the transfer of Syrian chemical materials to an American ship for their destruction, Rai state television reported on Saturday.

The Foreign Ministry said Italy has provided a "port for the transshipment of Syrian chemicals" prior to their "destruction in

international waters," reported Rai. According to earlier reports, a Norwegian and a Danish ships on Friday set sail for Syria to pick up the material.

The chemicals will be brought over "in sealed containers, following strict technical and environmental standards" and will be destroyed through hydrolysis, the Foreign Ministry added. In accordance with the

decision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the removal of Syrian chemical weapons and the UN Security Council Resolution 2118 in September 2013, the materials will be delivered to an American ship for destruction.

Vessels from China, Russia, Denmark and Norway are set to escort the transportation.—Xinhua

Syrian rebels launch fierce offensive against al-Qaeda fighters

BEIRUT, 5 Jan — Syrian rebel factions battled fighters from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) across north-west Syria on Saturday in the heaviest clashes between President Bashar al-Assad's opponents in nearly three years of conflict, activists said.

The apparently coordinated strikes against the ISIL come after months of increasing resentment of the powerful al-Qaeda-linked group, whose radical foreign jihadis and have alienated many ordinary Syrians in rebel-held territory.

Activists said dozens of fighters were killed in the clashes between rival rebel groups which have raged since Friday in Aleppo and Idlib Provinces, close to the border with Turkey. Rebel



Syrian residents flee their homes following clashes between opposition fighters and forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in the Adra area, east of Damascus, in this handout photograph distributed by Syria's national news agency SANA on 3 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

infighting has strengthened Assad's hand ahead of planned peace talks in Geneva on 22 January. The president, backed by Shi'ite fighters from Iraq and Lebanon's Hezbollah

militia, has pushed back rebels around Damascus and in central Syria, and faces little pressure to make

15 Taliban including key commander killed in Afghanistan

GHAZNI, (Afghanistan), 5 Jan — Gun battle between security forces and Taliban in Afghanistan's Ghazni province left 15 militants including a key commander dead on Sunday, a local official said.

"A group of armed Taliban rebels raided a police checkpoint in Jangul area of Abband district late Saturday night triggering fierce gun battle which lasted until Sunday morning during which 15 rebels including their key commander Mullah Alam

were killed," district governor Allah Dad Halimi told Xinhua.

Five of those killed in the firefight were Pakistani nationals affiliated with Taliban, he contended.

Meantime, Zabihullah Mujahid who claimed to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from an unknown location confirmed the conflict, saying two Taliban militants and six police were killed in the fighting. Xinhua

Reuters

Brazil's Silva plans to run for vice president with Campos

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Jan — Former Brazilian Environment Minister Marina Silva has agreed to run for vice president in October elections on the presidential ticket of Eduardo Campos, the governor of Brazil's Pernambuco state, *Globo* newspaper reported on Saturday.

Silva, who will make her intention publicly known by mid-February, could announce her candidacy at a 17 January meeting of leaders of Campos' Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), the newspaper said.

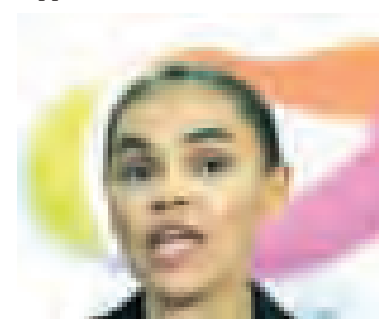
Globo did not cite sources for its story, and officials for Silva and Campos did not immediately respond to telephone and e-mail requests from *Reuters* on Saturday. Silva and Campos, two of the country's most popular opposition leaders, surprised

many when they said in October they would form an alliance but refused to say which of them would stand for president if they made a bid.

Pollsters say their decision to team up could form a serious challenge to President Dilma Rousseff's hopes of re-election. *Globo* reported that in exchange for Silva's pledge to run alongside Campos, his PSB party had agreed to end its support for the re-election

of Geraldo Alckmin of the centrist Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB) as governor of Sao Paulo state.

Sao Paulo is Brazil's richest, most-populous and most industrialized state. Alckmin is also a former presidential candidate. The PSB has been working with the PSDB to create a wider electoral alliance in several states in hopes of boosting their chances to win governorships and the presidency in October.—Reuters



Former Senator Marina Silva speaks during a news conference on her decision to join other parties to run for presidential elections in 2014 in Brazil, in Brasilia on 4 October, 2013.—REUTERS

Nine dead after attackers dressed as police enter Mexican prison

MEXICO CITY, 5 Jan — Nine people were killed during a gunfight at a prison in Mexico's violent Guerrero state, after a gang dressed as police officers gained entry on Friday, authorities said.

Six gunmen wearing police uniforms were allowed to enter the prison by unsuspecting guards who believed the men were delivering another prisoner, state prosecutors said.

"Once inside the prison, the armed group began

Prison unrest is common in Mexico, where the government's human rights agency has drawn attention to the killing of dozens of inmates and prison guards as well as the presence of criminal gangs attempting to take over correctional facilities.

"We currently do not know if they were planning a mass escape or if this was simply a rivalry between two criminal groups," said a security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.



Inmates lie on the ground as riot policemen keep watch after a shooting in the Tuxpan prison in Iguala, in the Mexican State of Guerrero on 3 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

an attack on inmates and then on guards in a security tower, where four prisoners and five attackers were killed," the attorney general's office of Guerrero said in a statement.

A prison guard and one of the alleged gunmen remained hospitalized with gunshot wounds.

Guerrero, along Mexico's southwestern coast, is one of the country's most violent states. It is home to several drug cartels, including the Zetas and the Knights Templar, who compete for control of territory and trafficking routes.

Reuters

One dead, three trapped in China coal mine explosion

CHENGDU, 5 Jan — One person has been killed and three others are trapped after a coal mine explosion in southwest China's Sichuan Province on Sunday.

The blast happened around 11 am at a coal mine in Xiaohu Township of Weiyan County, when eight miners were carrying out a routine safety check, according to the county's information office.

Five miners were rescued, but one died on the way to hospital, while three others remain trapped.

The injured four are in a stable condition, according to the office.

An investigation into the cause of explosion is underway.

Weiyan is about 200 kilometres from the provincial capital of Chengdu.

Xinhua

Boeing machinists approve contract securing 777X jet

SEATTLE/NEW YORK, 5 Jan — Boeing's machinists on Friday narrowly approved a crucial labour contract that secured thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity for Washington state but will cost workers their pensions.

The vote of 51 percent to 49 percent to accept the deal means Boeing Co will build its new 777X jetliner and wings in the Seattle area, where Boeing has built aircraft for more than 90 years.

Had the workers rejected the offer, Boeing would have considered making the successor to its popular 777 widebody jet elsewhere, and had received offers

from 22 states interested in hosting the new factory.

"This decision means Boeing hopefully will stop pursuit of another site for its 777X programme," said a somber Jim Bearden, administrative assistant to machinist District 751 President Tom Wroblewski.

"They held a gun to our head and our people were afraid," said Lester Mullen, a District 751 council delegate who works on the current 777 wing production line. Boeing's reaction was in stark contrast to the mood in the Seattle union hall where the results were announced.

"The future of Boeing in the Puget Sound region has never looked brighter,"



Union member Gabrielle Rogano (C) reacts with fellow union members after hearing that a union vote narrowly passed by 51% in support of Boeing's contract with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) District Lodge 751 to construct the wings for the 777X jetliner in Seattle, Washington on 3 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Boeing Commercial Airplanes Chief Executive Ray Conner said in a statement. "This will put our workforce on the cutting edge of composite technology, while sustaining thousands of local jobs for years to come." In clinching the agreement, Boeing secured

the location favoured by analysts and investors, who saw far lower risk in using the factory and workers who now build the 777.

Boeing also ensured that the machinists won't have an opportunity to strike until 2024, when the new contract expires.—Reuters

E-cigarette vapour contains nicotine, not other toxins

NEW YORK, 5 Jan — People standing near someone using an e-cigarette will be exposed to nicotine, but not to other chemicals found in tobacco cigarette smoke, according to a new study.

E-cigarettes, or electronic cigarettes, create a nicotine-rich vapor that can be inhaled, or 'vaped.'

Health in an email.

Goniewicz is a cancer researcher in the Department of Health Behaviour at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York.

"E-cigarettes contain variable amounts of nicotine and some traces of toxicants. But very little is known to what extent



Construction sector growth indicates continued UK economy recovery



Photo shows construction site of city hall in London.

LONDON, 5 Jan — Healthy growth in the British construction sector over December was welcomed by economists on Friday as evidence that the economic recovery is continuing.

All three construction sectors showed a good level of activity in December, with the housing market growing especially strong expansion with it growing for the 11th consecutive month, only just behind the November rate which had been a 10-year record. Civil engineering growth held up well in December to almost match the near six-year high seen in August.

New orders in December were growing at their fastest rate since 2007, up for an eighth consecutive month.

Employment in the sector rose for the eighth month running, indicating the likelihood of continued job creation which could

mean the Bank of England's 7 percent unemployment threshold for bank rate review could be reached sooner than the mid-2015 current target.

Martin Beck, UK economist with Capital Economics in London, told *Xinhua* "The economic recovery is proceeding; the PMI reading was quite high, driven in large part by recovery in the housing sector."

He added, "Although the economic recovery in the UK is fairly broad based it appears some part is driven by the housing market. House prices are rising at quite a rapid rate now so there are risks looking forward. How will house prices continue to rise? Will the recovery founder?"

Beck said that the construction sector was about 6 percent of the British economy.

He cautioned, "The sector is so volatile. It has

fallen back so much in recent years that the recovery we are seeing in housing is driving a large part of the construction sector recovery." Howard Archer, chief UK and European economist with IHS Global Insight, said the strength of the housing sub-sector was good news for the structure of the British economy, but growth in that area needed to be sustained over a long period.

He explained, "Improving housebuilding is particularly welcome news given that a shortage of properties is a major factor repeatedly putting upward pressure on UK house prices. Nevertheless, the fact remains that there needs to be extended, very strong housebuilding to make significant inroads into the problem."

He added, "While housing activity remains the strongest performing sector fuelled by an improving housing market, and helped by the government's Help to Buy initiative, the survey shows that the commercial and civil engineering sectors are now seeing robust activity."

Archer said that the survey was further evidence that the economy in the fourth quarter of 2013 could have at least matched the 0.8 percent quarter-on-quarter expansion achieved in the third quarter, which could give growth of up to

2 percent for 2013.

"Much will clearly depend on how well the services sector performed in the fourth quarter and how well consumer spending held up. Most evidence suggests that the services sector had a good fourth quarter, but there is a lot of uncertainty over just how strong consumer spending was," said Archer.

Xinhua

Action call on smog, mental health link

BEIJING, 5 Jan — Senior clinical psychiatrists have called for closer studies on the negative impact of smoggy days on mental health.

Severe pollution has been linked to respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis, but few people realize it could trigger "smog depression", said Tian Chenghua, a professor at the Institute for Psychiatric Research at Peking

University's No 6 Hospital.

He said it is scientifically proved that some types of depression are closely associated with conditions such as seasonal change and lack of sunlight. These are related to the production of the hormone melatonin, which lightens skin pigmentation.

Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau said on Thursday that the capital saw 58 days of serious

pollution in the past year, with residents enduring on average a smoggy day every six to seven days.

PM 2.5 — airborne particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter — is the major pollutant on most of these days, with the worst pollution occurring in autumn and winter, the bureau said.

"China lacks scientific studies and investigations into how smog relates to human emotions and mental health," Tian said. "Experts in public health and clinical psychiatry could collaborate on this to better protect physical and mental health amid worsening air pollution."

Pu Chengcheng, a psychiatrist at the hospital, said cases of increased anxiety and feelings of hopelessness caused by weather conditions such as smog, cloudy skies, rain and lack of sunlight are no longer rare.—*Xinhua*



Commuters brave the pollution in Huai'an, Jiangsu Province, China.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BlackBerry sues Ryan Seacrest's company over iPhone keyboard

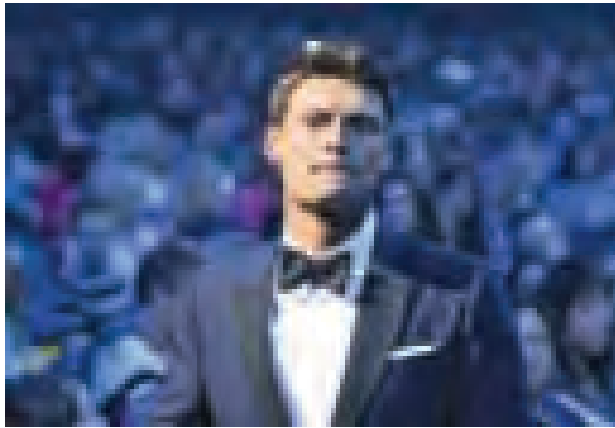
TORONTO, 5 Jan—BlackBerry Ltd said on Friday it had filed a lawsuit against a company co-founded by “American Idol” host Ryan Seacrest that offers a physical keyboard that can be attached to some of Apple Inc’s touchscreen iPhone 5 models.

The company, Typo Products LLC, is currently taking pre-orders for the \$99 keyboard, which features angled miniature keys similar to those used on many of BlackBerry’s devices.

Canada’s BlackBerry, a once dominant smartphone maker that has lost market share to the iPhone and other touchscreen devices, said Typo’s keyboard infringes its own design.

The allegation has not been proven in court. Typo and Seacrest could not immediately be reached to comment on the legal proceedings.

“We are flattered by the desire to graft our keyboard onto other smartphones, but we will not tolerate such activity without fair compensation for using our



Host Ryan Seacrest is seen during a commercial break at the Season 12 finale of “American Idol” in Los Angeles, California on 16 May, 2013.—REUTERS

intellectual property and our technological innovations,” Steve Zipperstein, BlackBerry’s chief legal officer, said in a statement.

BlackBerry posted billions in losses in recent quarters as its latest devices sold poorly, but it has

maintained a loyal niche of customers who prefer to type on a physical keyboard. The BlackBerry complaint is case no. 3:14-cv-23 in the United States District Court for the northern district of California.

Reuters

Nepal can compete in digital world

KATHMANDU, 5 Jan—Nepal has the potential to play a role in the software industry in the future as the ICT industry is growing rapidly in the country, an expert said here on Thursday.

“We may not be able to manufacture hardware products like China, but in terms of software, Nepal has a latent potential. We have a great human resource in the IT sector, but we must pull our experts and professionals currently abroad back to Nepal,” Binod Dhakal, president of the Computer Association of Nepal (CAN), told Xinhua.

According to statistics

of the Nepal Telecommunication Authority, a total of 22.09 million people are now connected to telecommunications in the country, including mobile phones and fixed lines, which is more than 80 percent of Nepal’s total population.

Despite the leap forward, Nepal still lags behind other countries in terms of technological development.

“We have realized that the private sector still lacks adequate support. We expect the government to promote the ICT sector in the future since technology is becoming an integral part of people’s lives in Nepal,” said Dhakal.—Xinhua

AT&T pushes to lure T-Mobile customers; may herald price war

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—AT&T Inc on Friday offered customers of No 4 US mobile provider T-Mobile US Inc a \$200 credit to switch to its service, firing the first volley this year in what may become a price war that benefits consumers but plays havoc with profits across the industry.

AT&T, the No 2 US mobile provider, announced the promotion after months of direct marketing against it by T-Mobile, and in anticipation of a new offer from its smaller rival on 8 January. The news depressed shares in T-Mobile and Sprint Corp — which have been rallying in recent weeks on optimism about potential consolidation — and to a lesser extent industry leader Verizon Communications.

The move could kick off a year of discounts from US wireless operators, who are increasingly dependent

on price to compete because they all offer similar phones and any network advantages are hard to prove, according to analysts.

MoffettNathanson analyst Craig Moffett described AT&T’s move as the “early makings of a price war” that would boost customer switching, also known as churn, and in turn hurt profits.

“Everybody’s fighting for market share because there simply isn’t an organic market share left to be had,” Moffett said. “The natural upshot to any strategy that pays customers to change service is higher churn.”

Analysts also worry that No 3 US rival Sprint, which has been losing customers for years, will unveil dramatic promotions in 2014 as its new 80 percent owner, SoftBank Corp, is expected to push Sprint to regain lost ground.

Reuters



An AT&T wireless store front is pictured in San Diego, California on 23 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

2013 confirmed as Australia's hottest year on record

SYDNEY, 5 Jan—Australia experienced its hottest year on record in 2013, breaking the previous record set in 2005, the government’s Bureau of Meteorology said on Friday. The bureau said in its Annual Climate Statement that average temperatures in the country last year were 1.2 °C above the long-term average of 21.8 °C, breaking the previous record set in 2005 by 0.17 °C.

All states and territories recorded above-average temperatures in 2013, with Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia breaking their previous annual average temperature records.

Last year started with a heat wave in January in which Australia recorded its hottest day, hottest week, and hottest month on record. On 12 January, the temperature reached 49.6 °C at Moomba in South Australia, the highest in the country since 1998. The meteorological bureau said Australian temperatures have warmed approximately 1 °C since 1950, consistent with global climate trends. It noted that globally, each of the past 13 years has ranked among the 14th warmest on record.

Kyodo News



Photo shows 2014's first meteor shower observed in E China's Shandong.

XINHUA

Indian heavy lift satellite launch vehicle to blast off on Sunday

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan — India is set to launch at 16:18 PM local time on Sunday its heavy lift Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) using indigenous cryogenic fuel technology, after two previous failures.

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will attempt to launch a 1,982 kg Indian communication satellite GSAT 14 aboard its new and improved version of the indigenous GSLV called the GSLV D5.

This launch is crucial for the launching of manned missions into space, said ISRO officials.

The scheduled launch of the GSLV D5 will be ISRO’s second attempt at

deploying indigenously developed cryogenic upper stage fuel technology for its heavy lift rockets, after the first attempt on 15 April, 2010 ended with the cryogenic third stage of the GSLV failing to fire. A second attempt on 19 Aug, 2013 was aborted as well.

The cryogenic technology which enables rockets to place satellites weighing more than 2,000 kg in geosynchronous orbits in space is known to be available to only five countries in the world — the United States, Russia, Japan, France and China.

Indian space scientists have been working on cryogenic fuel technology for nearly 20 years, according

to Indian Express daily.

ISRO had tried to source the technology in the 1990s from the United States but was denied the “strategic technology” in the aftermath of the nuclear tests in 1998. ISRO subsequently worked with seven cryo engines provided by Russia for early development of the GSLV programme while working in parallel on its own cryogenic stage for the rocket, according to the newspaper.

GSLV launches with Russian cryo stages have been a mixed bag for ISRO with two fully successful flights and two partially successful flights out of the seven attempted.

Xinhua

OPINION

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 6 January, 2014

Time for many to step up, some to step back

Regional and global eyes will be on Myanmar this year.

After successfully hosting the 27th SEA Games in December last year, Myanmar is now preparing for regional and international meetings related to its assuming the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for 2014.

Tourism is also growing apace and visits to this country by people from around the world seem to grow by the day.

This is a perfect opportunity for Myanmar to show the world what is happening in this country and what can happen.

It is also a year in which everyone in the country needs to step up and do their part in making

2014 successful.

Whether a person is a foreign visitor or a local resident, much needs to be done in making that person feel welcome, important and properly served.

Too often, the reality is that unless someone higher up directly tells a person on the frontline exactly what to, nothing gets done at all.

Too often is the answer to the simplest of questions is "I don't know" or "It's not my job."

This "who cares, my boss didn't tell me what to do" attitude needs to change, and it needs to change fast.

Everyone needs to step up, make decisions and serve.

It doesn't matter if it is in the corridors of power, on the shop floor, in a hotel lobby or in the local market, when someone needs help, it is our duty to provide it.

Sitting back waiting for a "higher up" to make the simplest of decisions not only gives an extremely bad impression to visitors, it is inefficient in the extreme and irritates locals and visitors alike.

Waiting for word from "on high" does no one

any good.

There is a children's game in which one person whispers an instruction to the next person in a line. That person whispers to the person beside her and so on, for maybe 10 people. Then the final person says out loud what the first person whispered.

By the time the phrase is repeated "Let's go to the market" it can change into "He doesn't like peas."

The meaning is lost and nothing has been learnt.

Person No. 2 needs to accept responsibility and go to the market if anything is to get done.

This is "stepping up."

Similarly, some at the top need to step back, encourage those in their charge to make their own decisions and allow them to make mistakes.

The only way people learn is by making a mistake every now and then.

The only way people never make a mistake is if they never do anything.

Hardly the best way to impress our visitors!

ARTICLE

Tears of joy

U Han Nyunt is a retired director-general of the Attorney's General Office now living in Nay Pyi Taw. Ed

Tears

"Men never cry," my dad once said.

I have remembered the phrase every struggling moment of mine.

Fewer successes, more losses, more defeats, more struggles, more shattered hopes.

That's the nature of life.

There were times I was depressed. I was sad. I felt unfulfilled and unappreciated. Tears welled up in my eyes. I was about to weep. I was about to cry. No, remember dad's words! I am man and I am a Myanmar. Men don't cry.

SEA Games

It takes 44 years for the SEA Games to return to Myanmar's soil. Everyone was happy to welcome it

back, but we had doubts.

Infrastructure, spaces, international experience, technology, security, there were a host of things we worried about. We could not afford to lose face on the international stage.

Impressive host

We hosted XXVII SEA Games successfully. Eleven nations participated in the games where 33 sports were played. Thailand stood first, followed by Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Brunei according to their standing in medal tally.

We could show what Myanmar is. What Myanmar culture is, what Myanmar's morale is and Myanmar,

how we are united and how much we love our nation.

Seeing is believing

Many foreigners flocked to the SEA Games—leaders, athletes, politicians, businesspeople. They witnessed Myanmar's sportsmanship.

Fish-paste lovers

I have been in foreign countries as a legal officer or a delegate by the State. I talked to chief justices, attorneys general and directors general of foreign countries.

I was in meetings. I was in luncheons, but no matter how special their menus are and how delicious their food, I couldn't help missing typical Myanmar dinner with fish paste.

Shwedagon Pagoda

Shwedagon is somewhere you can't skip on a Myanmar visit. All the lovely guests from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Brunei showed their respects to Myanmar, the golden land, the clean land and the land of hospitable people.

'Myanmar'

I love the word 'Myanmar', but I don't know why. It was a combination of two separate words in Myanmar language 'myan' and 'mar': 'Myan' means quickness, and 'mar' means strength. We are literally strong and quick people. Once, it was known 'Burma'. We have now replaced the phrase 'Union of Burma' with 'Union of Myanmar'. The words 'Burma', 'Burman' and 'Burmese' have now been replaced by 'Myanmar'. The name change was legislated with Law No. 15/89. Myanmar! Myanmar! Myanmar!

We overwhelmingly heard chants, "Myanmar! Myanmar! Myanmar!" It reached every nook and corner of the nation. The state flag flew high, the national anthem sung enthusiastically.

Still the dark side

There are achievements, yet there are still losses and frustrations

as well.

The SEA Games became the success thanks to those who devoted all of their times and efforts to the games. It would not be perfect, but weaknesses and failures are lessons learnt.

Football

"Football loss is most devastating," a son of mine murmured. He then cried. He wasn't the only one who wept on Myanmar football team's loss. It was all the 60 million people who were reduced to tears. I myself shed tears as well.

Review

The SEA Games was hosted successfully. Now it is time to review our strengths and weaknesses. We prayed for the success. Yes, we did make it happen.

Sports and Culture Ministries

The SEA Games was overseen by Vice-President U Nyan Tun and the Sports Ministry, the Culture Ministry, the Home Ministry and the Information Ministry and other ministries shared major duties. Volunteers' hard work was seen. It is the sign that we embrace love for the nation, rule of law, politeness, honesty, unity, tolerance, philanthropy and civic responsibility. That's why we succeeded.

Winner or loser

Every game will have winners and losers. We

learnt to accept loss. The law enforcement will not tolerate any one running riot on loss.

Myanmar Police Force

The Myanmar Police Force must be congratulated. They proved their capacity. They ensured security. They also showed, "We can do it." They have become the police force loved by the people.

All those worth

acknowledgement

Volunteers received certificates of honours from the president, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker and MPs. Athletes, volunteers, artists and the people are worthy of acknowledgement for their united efforts.

That's Myanmar

I was in tears watching the opening and closing ceremonies which featured Myanmar's unique characters. That's Myanmar. We could show what Myanmar is.

I was in tears, yes. And who wasn't?

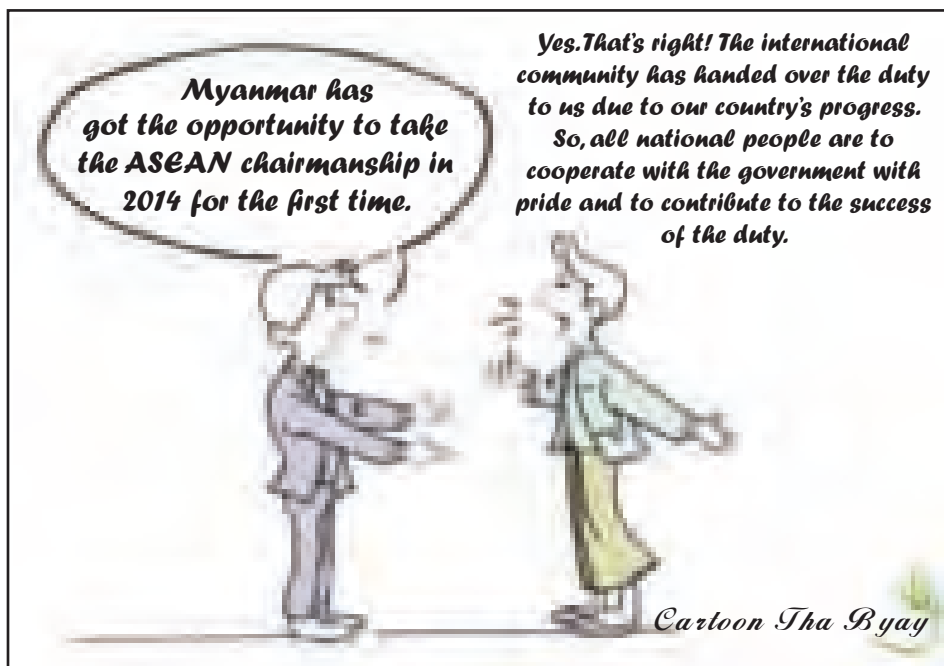
Tears of joy

I am not forgetting Myanmar dad's words that men are not supposed to cry. Dad, these are neither coward's tears nor tears of rage. These are happy tears. These are tears filled with pride, kindness and joy.

These are Myanmar tears.

Myanma Alinn: 25.12.2013

Trs: HKA



President meets Mutu Sae Po

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein makes discussion with KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po and party.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po and party.—MNA



Union Industry Minister inspects Sugar Mill



Union Minister U Maung Myint at Sugar Mill in Pyu Township in Bago Region.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint inspected a sugar mill

Vice-President attends pre-Golden Jubilee...

(from page 16)
The Luyechun were role models for students and parents of Myanmar's society in the past.

in Pyu Township in the Bago Region yesterday.

The Union minister called on the employees of Sin Phyu Taw Sugar Mill to participate in solving the problems of the factory and increase production.

The mill produces 100 tons of white sugar and over four tons of molasses every day. Mill officials plan to produce about 150 tons of sugar in future using Thai sugarcane.

MNA

A 27-member executive body of the association was set up today that

is obliged to collect all outstanding students selected during the period from 1964 to 1988 and to become a think tank for the country.

MNA

Seasonal farming offers "honest work"...

(from page 16)
Sandar Win's family got K1.1 million from selling their two draught cattle and invested the money in 9,500 cabbage plants and 5,000 potato plants.

"Like in last winter, we hope again that we will get a good price for our cabbage, because we hear that the current price for one cauliflower has reached 350 kyats these days," Sandar Win said.

But they also know that by time their crop reaches market the prices may have fallen, particularly if other farmers across the country are also harvesting cauliflower and cabbage and bringing them to market at the same time.

"Sometimes we feel depressed, but we have no choice but to work. Our fate is fixed to the price for our crops," Sandar Win said.

New market opens in Magway



MAGWAY, 5 Jan—To mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day, three new storey market building opened in Magway region.

The construction work was started last 4 September.

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe formally opened the new market and about 200 local people attended the opening ceremony.

The local people were also satisfied with upgrading of roads in downtown areas, the repairing of drains and extensions of infrastructures construction.

MMAL-Ko Htay
(Magway)



Sunflower plantations thriving in Kalay Township

KALAY, 5 Jan—Kalay District Management Committee Chairman U Maung Htoo made an inspection tour of cultivable lands in Indin Village in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region on 4 January as part of making the regional development.

The chairman viewed the sunflower plantation of farmer U Myint Naing and left instructions to boost edible oil crops production.

Farmers in Kalay Township grow edible oil

crops such as sunflowers, groundnuts and sesames.

Last year, 92,414 acres of plantations in Kalay Township produced edible oil.

In late December, 58,245 acres of farmland were growing edible oil crops in the township.

MMAL-Chindwin Tha
(IPRD)

Tamu border trade expected to top K 35 million in 2013-2014

TAMU, 5 Jan—Trade volume at the India-Myanmar Tamu border trade camp is expected to surpass K 35 million in the 2013-2014 financial year.

The camp has free access to trade with the use of ICT cards by any person who is 18 years old or older.

At least 152 kinds of exports and 151 kinds of imports are now trading in the camp where export of ginger from Mandalay, Pakokku and Kalay is on increase.

Last year, trade at the camp topped K 23 million.

MMAL-Chindwin Tha

Haka City marks 66th Independence Day with ceremony, sports events

HAKA, 5 Jan—A flag-hoisting ceremony and various sports events were held in the capital of Chin State, Haka, yesterday to mark the 66th anniversary of Independence Day.

The ceremony was held at Vamthumong sports ground, with Chief Minister of Chin State Thiri Pyanchi U Hong Ngai reading out a

message sent by President U Thein Sein. Among the various events held to celebrate the day, prizes were given to the winners of the best essay and poem contest. Officials had also organized many sports events, with several state, district and township officials watching the contests.—MMAL-Chin State (IPRD)

Electrification

Thingangyun residents get full electrification

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Electricians installed a 315 KV transformer at the corner of Bawga Street in Ward-8, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region recently to

supply electricity to the people at full capacity.

The work was supervised by officials of Thingangyun Township Administrator and engineers



under the Yangon City Electricity Supply Board (YESB).

The installation of the transformer was funded by YESB to supply electricity through 66 KV power lines to the people.

MMAL-Mway Mway
(Thingangyun)



Yamethin District Deputy Commissioner reads message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of 66th Anniversary Independence Day on 4 January.—MMAL-ZAW WIN AUNG

Prisoners released from Myeik Prison

MYEIK, 5 Jan—The government released 115 prisoners from Myeik Prison under Order No (1/2014) of the President yesterday.

A ceremony to free prisoners took place at the hall of the Myanmar Correctional

Department in Myeik on 3 January. Commander of the District Police Force Police Lt-Col Shwe Nyar Maung, Township Administrator U Thein Win and Assistant Director U Nyunt Win from Myeik Prison gave advice to the inmates and

presented prison departure certificates and K 1,000 to each of them. The prisoners from Dawei Prison, Myeik Prison, Kawthoung Prison and Hsinbyupyin work camp in Taninthayi Region were released at the ceremony.

MMAL-Myeik District IPRD



Kyimyindine Township Administrator U Kyaw Ye Thway reads message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Kyimyindine on 4 January.—MMAL-SHWE TAING LWIN

Health Care

Ottarathiri residents receive health care

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—A medical team from Ottarathiri Township Health Department conducted health care services for local residents at the 50-bed hospital on 3 January.

At the hospital, the team gave vaccinations to 50 children under 2 years and tetanus vaccinations to 20 expectant mothers.

MMAL-District IPRD

REGIONAL



Zhong Quanfeng spray water over succulent plants in his plant tent in Xiaocaoe Town of Yuyao, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 4 Jan, 2014. Zhong, who planted organic vegetables and fruits after retiring from army in 2006, had an idea to build the first succulent plant base of Ningbo in August of 2013. After raising money and construction, his 5-mu (about 0.33 hectare) succulent plant was finished one month later. Now there are more than one thousand kinds of succulent plants, such as kalanchoe eriophylla Hilsenb, Echeveria cv. Mebina, Echeveria agavoides and Echeveria minima, in his garden, which attract many enthusiasts and visitors.

XINHUA

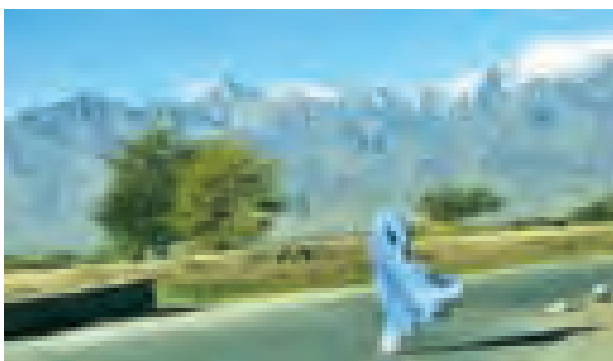
Violence against Afghan women more frequent, brutal in 2013

KABUL, 5 Jan — Violent crime against women in Afghanistan hit record levels and became increasingly brutal in 2013, the head of the country's human rights commission said on Saturday, a sign that hard won rights are being rolled back as foreign troops prepare to withdraw.

Restoring women's rights after the Taliban was ousted by a US-led coalition of troops in 2001 was cited as one of the main ob-

jectives of the war.

Under Taleban rule, women were required to wear the head-to-toe covering burqa and barred from leaving their homes without being escorted by a male relative. Schools for girls were shut down. Sima Samar, chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), told Reuters in a telephone interview that the brutality of attacks on women had greatly intensified last year.



An Afghan woman in a burqa walks along a road on a windy day on the outskirts of Kabul on 16 April, 2013.

REUTERS

"The brutality of the cases is really bad. Cutting the nose, lips and ears. Committing public rape," she said. "Mass rape... It's against dignity, against humanity." She attributed the increase in crime to a culture

of impunity and the imminent departure of international troops and aid workers, leaving women more exposed to attack. In addition, more cases were reported as women became aware of their rights.—Reuters

Indonesia's volcano erupts again, more people evacuated

JAKARTA, 5 Jan—Mount Sinabung, one of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia, erupted again on Saturday, shooting a column of ash 4,000 meters to the sky as the number of evacuees rose, official said.

Powerful burst of hot ash and gravel erupted from the rumbling volcano, located in Karo district of North Sumatra, at least 30 times

since Saturday morning and hot ash has slid off by up to 5 kilometres from the crater to southeast, pushing the authorities to extend evacuation zone to 20 km from 5 km previously, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency said.

"The column of hot ash now is the biggest ever compared with those frequently

spewed (since the volcano erupt in Sept.) The hot ash has slid off to the southeast, covering two villages," he told Xinhua by phone.

The authorities evacuated all the villagers on Friday, adding the total number of displaced person to 20,331 on Saturday from 19,286 on the previous day, said Sutopo. Besides, the authorities also extended

emergency relief period ended on 5 to 18 January, he said. "The people are recommended to persistently be cautious and abide the authorities' guidance," said Sutopo.—Xinhua



Bank employees count money thrown into offertory boxes by well-wishers during the first three days of the new year on 4 Jan, 2014, at Fushimi Inari Taisha, a Shinto shrine in Kyoto. It will take four or five days to tally the money.

KYODO NEWS

14 killed in building collapse in W India

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan — At least 14 workers were killed while some 60 trapped in the debris of a building that is under construction in the western Indian state of Goa, said local media.

Manohar Paarikar, the chief minister of Goa, said faulty design and unqualified columns were blamed for the collapse of the building in Canacona town, 60 km from the state capital Panaji, according to local TV channel CNN-IBN.

TV footage showed the part of the three-story building collapsed and rescuers were looking for possible survivors under the concrete and mud.

Police said a portion

of a three-story building, Ruby Residency, located in the Chawdi ward of Canacona, collapsed burying over 50 persons working at the site, according to Indo-Asian News Service.

The army has been called in for relief and rescue work.

Meanwhile, 13 injured workers have been shifted to various hospitals depending on the seriousness of their injuries and there are at least a dozen or more trapped under the debris, said officials.

Officials from police, health and fire service departments were at the scene using heavy equipment, gas cutters and crane to

get to the trapped workers throughout the night.

The construction was being carried out by a Navi Mumbai-based real estate development firm, Bharat Developers and Realtors Pvt Ltd, according to police.

"An FIR first information report or criminal complaint has been filed against the builder, contractor and the municipal engineer in charge. We will not spare anyone," Chief Minister Parrikar told the media.

Building collapse occurs from time to time in India, due to bad design, running down conditions, over-habitation and illegal construction.—Xinhua

Cambodian court summons opposition leaders over protests

PHNOM PENH, 5 Jan—A Cambodian court on Saturday issued summons to two leaders of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party for questioning over recent protests that turned violent.

According to the summons, Sam Rainsy, president of the CNRP, and his deputy Kem Sokha are to separately appear before the Phnom Penh Municipal Court on 14 January.

According to the summons, seen by Kyodo News, both are to be questioned on "incitement to a criminal act or committing an act that leads to serious chaos which affects social security."

The summons were issued just hours after the authorities cracked down on a CNRP protest at Freedom Park in central Phnom

Penh. More than 500 protesters from the CNRP who had been gathering at the park were evicted in the morning.

On Friday, four people were killed and 37 others injured in a clash between protesters and security forces in a suburb of Phnom Penh.

In recent weeks, antigovernment protests by the CNRP have been joined by garment workers demanding the minimum wage be substantially raised.

On his Facebook page, Sam Rainsy acknowledged late Saturday that he and Kem Sokha had been summoned by the court. He appealed to Cambodians of all walks of life to stand up with the CNRP and also to adhere to non-violence in order to achieve victory.

Kyodo News

India to hold general election from mid-April to early May

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan — India will start its general election in mid-April and complete it by early May in five phases, said Press Trust of India on Sunday.

The country's election commission is all set to hold Lok Sabha or Lower

House of Parliament election starting mid-April and spread it over at least five phases till early May, said the report.

The announcement for the polls is likely to be made by the end of February or early March,

for which work has already begun, the news agency quoted top election commission sources as saying.

The term of the current Lok Sabha expires on June 1 and the new House has to be constituted by 31 May, said the report.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



Yuan Zai, the first Taiwan-born baby panda, plays at the Taipei City Zoo in Taipei, southeast China's Taipei, on 4 Jan, 2013. Yuan Zai was unveiled to media on Saturday and will meet the public on 6 January.

XINHUA

US urges "rapid, tangible" progress in South Sudan peace talks

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — The United States on Saturday urged the warring parties in South Sudan to achieve "rapid, tangible" progress in ending their conflicts through direct talks, stressing there is no military solution.

The appeal from State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf came as forces loyal to South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar were set to start talks on Sunday in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia.

"The parties must use these talks to make rapid, tangible progress on a cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access, and the status of political detainees," Harf

said in a statement.

"There can be no military solution to this conflict," she added. "Forging a durable and lasting peace depends on resolving the underlying political causes of the conflict."

About 1,000 people have been killed and up to 190,000 others displaced since deadly clashes erupted between the warring parties in Juba, South Sudan's capital, on 15 December and spilled over to other parts of the country.

US special envoy Donald Booth was in Addis Ababa for the talks, sponsored by the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Xinhua

E China road accident kills three, injures seven

JINAN, 5 Jan — Three people were killed and seven others injured in a road accident on Saturday morning in east China's Shandong Province, sources with Jinan government said.

The accident happened around 7:30 am when a

large goods vehicle collided with a motorized farm tricycle on a section of No 105 national road in the provincial capital of Jinan.

The injured are receiving treatment in hospital.

A further investigation is under way.

Xinhua



Construction workers are seen at a roof collapse site in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 4 Jan, 2014. One person was killed and at least 16 hurt in the collapse, according to the local press.

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

Putin eases curbs on protests in Sochi for Olympics

MOSCOW, 5 Jan — President Vladimir Putin has eased curbs on demonstrations in the Winter Olympics venue of Sochi in a gesture likely to burnish Russia's image ahead of an event dogged by security and human rights worries.

Keenly aware that the success or failure of the Games will help shape his legacy, Putin has closely identified himself with the \$50 billion project. He made a surprise inspection of venues in the Black Sea resort on Friday and was shown on Russian state television skiing down a slope in dark glasses and a helmet.

Putin, who on Saturday attended a rehearsal of the Games' opening

ceremony in Sochi, amended a decree to allow groups to hold some marches and gatherings at sites approved by the security services, the Kremlin said in a statement.

"Gatherings, rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets, which are not directly connected to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, could be staged on 7 January-21 March 2014... only after agreeing with... a local security body," it said.

Campaign groups, calling for everything from gay rights to political reform, have complained that the ban on rallies, imposed in August as part of a security crackdown, violated Russia's own constitution.

Putin's move came shortly after he ordered



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) and Sberbank President German Gref (L) visit Olympic venues near Sochi on 3 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

a further security clampdown following two suicide bomb attacks in the southern Russian city of Volgograd which killed at least 34 people.

No one has claimed re-

sponsibility for the blasts, but they were a reminder of the continuing threat posed by militants who want to carve an Islamic state out of a swath of southern Russia that includes Sochi.—Reuters

One killed, two wounded in Houston party shooting

HOUSTON, 5 Jan — One person was killed and two others were wounded in a shooting at a large party in Houston on Saturday, US media reported.

Police responded to a call of a shooting early Saturday at a home in north-west Houston, local media KHOU reported.

Police said a cream-colored car pulled up to the party where there were about 50 to 60 teenagers and a gunman in the back-seat opened fire. As many as 10 shots were fired into the crowd which was in a parking lot next to the home.

Three male victims

were shot and were taken to local hospitals. One of the victims died later.

Nobody has been arrested over the gunfire. Police are interviewing witnesses and trying to determine a motive for the shooting. No further details are available now.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Leonardo DiCaprio defends The Wolf of Wall Street

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Leonardo DiCaprio has denied that his latest collaboration with Martin Scorsese in *The Wolf of Wall Street* is a glorification of a criminal but glamorous lifestyle.

The film has generated mix reviews and some of the critics have blamed Scorsese of glorifying the lifestory of Jordon Belfort, a Wall Street stockbroker who defrauded investors with fraudulent stock sales.

However, in an interview to HitFix, producer and film's star Leonardo DiCaprio said their attempt was to create something

that will endure and tell a cautionary story about modern time.

"I think that at least the attempt going into it was to try to do something really outside of the box and I think Marty (Scorsese) had the same approach... In that regard I feel very proud of this performance. I think we took a lot of chances, and no matter what people think of the movie, we swung for the fences on this one," he said.

"... I keep referencing 'Caligula' but you think about 'Scarface' films like that, I don't know how

people are going to react to it right off the bat, but I think as the years roll by people will appreciate what we were trying to do here."

Responding to the controversy that the film celebrated Belfort's hedonism, Leonardo DiCaprio said that they were condoning such behaviour but without being judgemental.

"...the unique thing about Marty is that he doesn't judge his characters. And that was something that you don't quite understand while you're making the movie, but he allows the freedom of this

almost hypnotic, drug-infused, wild ride that these characters go on. And he allows you, as an audience—guilty or not—to enjoy in that ride without judging who these people are.

I mean ultimately I think if anyone watches this movie, at the end of *Wolf of Wall Street* they're going to see that we're not at all condoning this behaviour.

In fact we're saying that this is something that is in our very culture and it needs to be looked at and it needs to be talked about," he added.

PTI



Leonardo DiCaprio plays the role of a Wall Street stockbroker in the movie.

Miley Cyrus thanks Ryan Seacrest for midnight kiss

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Pop star Miley Cyrus kissed anchor-producer Ryan Seacrest to ring in the New Year 2014. She later thanked him for it.

The 21-year-old first thought that her lip-lock with Ryan Seacrest had evaded the cameras, so she took to microblogging website Twitter in the wee hours of Wednesday to talk about it, report eonline.com.

"They missed our New Years kiss," she tweeted.

Ryan Seacrest retweeted to that "Oops".

Miley later tweeted the photograph during the day, tweeting, "Yay! They caught our New Year midnight kiss! Happy New Year Ryan Seacrest and thank you for having me."

PTI



This picture was posted on Twitter by @MileyCyrus

Beyonce Knowles worked hard for post baby figure

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Pop star Beyonce Knowles has said that she

'worked crazily' to get back in shape after giving birth to Blue Ivy.

The 32-year old tried extra hard to get back in shape after giving birth to her daughter in January 2012.

That is why she wanted to show off the results with sexy

videos for her newly released album *Beyonce*, which came out earlier this month.

"I was very aware of the fact I was showing my body. I was 195 pounds (approximately 88.50 kg) when I gave birth. I lost 65 pounds (approximately 29.50 kg). I worked crazily to get my body back and I wanted to show my body," she said.

"I wanted to show that you can have a child, and you can work hard, and you can get your body back," she added.—PTI



Beyonce gave birth to her daughter in January 2012.



Jennifer Aniston splurges every month on anti-ageing products

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Actress Jennifer Aniston reportedly spends over \$19,500 a month on anti-ageing beauty products. The *Friends* star is said to spend a bomb on skincare products and laser treatments, reports femalefirst.co.uk. "She

takes looking and feeling her best very seriously.

Make no mistake, it takes a lot of money and effort to look as good as she does at 44," mailonline quoted a source.

PTI



The actress is 44 years old.

Jennifer Lopez's new video to premiere on 16 January

NEW YORK, 5 Jan—The video of pop star-actress Jennifer Lopez's new single *Same Girl* will reportedly premiere on 16 January on singing reality show *American Idol*. Aceshowbiz.com reports that an undisclosed person, who worked with Jennifer Lopez on the video, gave out the release date on microblogging Twitter by posting, "New Video Same Girl from JLo on the premiere of *American Idol* 16 January 2014".

Jennifer Lopez, who will reprise her role as a judge on the upcoming season of the show, was



Jennifer will soon be seen reprising her role as the judge in the next season of *American Idol*.

recently spotted filming the video in the Castle Hill neighbourhood of The Bronx here.

The 44-year-old was wearing jeans, a black jacket and a Yankees cap.

The new video is directed by Steven Gomillion and Dennis Leupold. Same girl was written by Lopez in collaboration with Chris Brown and Cory Rooney. The three of them were pictured hitting a studio recording together back in March.

The track will feature in her tenth studio album which is expected to drop later this year.—PTI

SPORTS

Serena fires her way to victory, Federer sets up Hewitt showdown

BRISBANE, 5 Jan — Serena Williams laid down an imposing marker ahead of the first grand slam of the year by powering to a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka at the Brisbane International.

The American won the battle between the world's top two players to pick up her 58th career title.

In the men's draw, Roger Federer will be chasing a 19th win over home favourite Lleyton Hewitt when the two 32-year-olds renew their friendly rivalry in Sunday's final.

Both players needed three sets to reach the final with top seed Federer beating Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 6-3, 6-7, (3-7), 6-3, and Hewitt downing Japan's Kei Nishikori 5-7,

6-4, 6-3, in stifling conditions.

The women's final lacked the intensity of Williams' victory over Maria Sharapova on Friday but lived up to its promise in a pulsating second set.



Serena Williams of the US

The world number one's serve was far more consistent than in her previous match and she did not face a break point in taking the first set.

She was gifted the only break in the seventh game when Azarenka blasted a forehand wide down the line.

The American then sealed the set with an ace and an early end to the match seemed likely when she broke the Belarusian in the first game of the second set, but instead it brought her opponent to life.

Azarenka

broke Williams twice to take a 4-2 lead but lost her own serve to restore parity.

In the crucial 11th game, Williams hit a vicious backhand down the line to secure her third break of the set and then served out for victory.

Her second set efforts showed Azarenka is not far off from toppling Williams, who she split four matches with last year, and after the match said: "I hope to meet you in Melbourne."

Williams is also eyeing another meeting between the pair before they leave Australia.

"I hope we do play in Melbourne too because that would mean we'd be going the farthest," Williams said.

Conditions were far easier for the women finalists than for the first men's semi-final between Hewitt and Nishikori, where both



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus

players struggled as the temperature reached 42 degrees.

"When you just come off the court it feels like it's the worst you've played in," Hewitt said.

"It was a really heavy humidity feel out there. I was sweating just walking out to have my warm-up."

Federer was far from his best against Chardy, losing the second set in a tie-break. However, crucially

as his French opponent's serve fell apart in the third set, Federer swooped to set up a 27th meeting with Hewitt.

"Jeremy has a great serve and made it tough for me," said Federer, who has won 16 of his last 17 meetings with the Australian.

"It will be very different against Lleyton. He has the game to cause me a lot of problems."

Reuters

Solskjaer makes instant impact as Cardiff stun Newcastle



Cardiff City's manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

LONDON, 5 Jan — As a baby-faced striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer made his name coming off the bench to score vital goals for Manchester United and his knack of making a dramatic impact appears undiminished.

On Saturday, however, it was his tactical nous rather than his lethal feet which did the trick as the Norwegian marked his first game in charge of Cardiff City with a 2-1 come-from-behind victory in the FA Cup third round at Newcastle United.

His big day looked like being ruined as the Welsh club trailed 1-0 to Papiss Cisse's 62nd minute goal at

St James' Park. The Norwegian then introduced Craig Noone into the fray and he equalised after 73 minutes before fellow substitute Fraizer Campbell earned Cardiff their first win at Newcastle for 51 years with a header 10 minutes from time.

It was the perfect start to life in British football management for the man who came off the bench to win the Champions League for United in 1999.

It was also a much-needed boost for Cardiff who have slid towards the Premier League relegation zone during a tumultuous few weeks that saw former coach Malky Mackay

sacked after falling foul of owner Vincent Tan.

"It's not about me as such, but it's a perfect start for the new times," Solskjaer was quoted as saying by the Wales Online website (www.walesonline.co.uk).

"The lads have had a lot to deal with lately and, of course, it's nice for them to start off with a win in the cup.

"It's never easy to come up to Newcastle and play especially when you go 1-0 down. There's not many games that get turned around here. The lads showed great character to do that."

Reuters

Sharp wedge game helps Johnson take control in Hawaii

HAWAII, 5 Jan — Zach Johnson failed to take advantage of the par-five holes but his renowned, razor-sharp wedge game helped him seize a three-shot lead after Saturday's second round of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Hawaii.

One stroke off the lead overnight after opening with a six-under-par 67, the American broke clear of a log-jammed leaderboard as he fired a seven-birdie 66 in the elite, winners-only PGA Tour event at the

picturesque Kapalua Resort.

Though Johnson did not birdie any of the four par-fives on the hilly Plantation Course, he hit a series of wedge shots close to the pin on the par-fours and putted well as he posted a 13-under total of 133.

Matt Kuchar (68), Jordan Spieth (70) and champion Dustin Johnson (66) were tied for second place, with fellow Americans Webb Simpson (71) and Michael Thompson (71) a further stroke back at nine

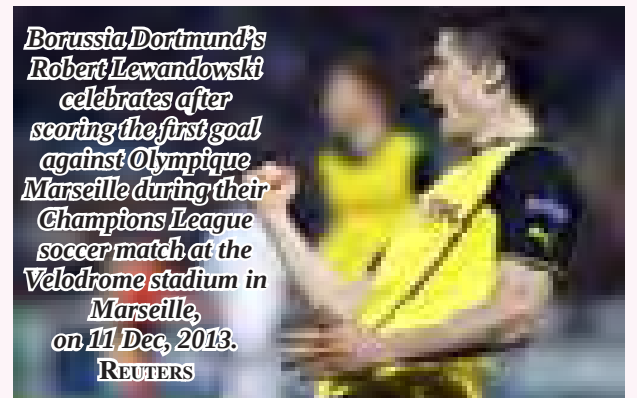


Zach Johnson

under.

Zach Johnson, who upstaged tournament host Tiger Woods in a playoff to win the Northwestern Mutual World Challenge in California last month, was delighted to see the prevailing trade winds return to Kapalua on Saturday.

"If you have the proper winds, for me not being a bomber, I feel like I can take advantage," Johnson, who is known for his accuracy off the tee and brilliant short game, told Golf Channel.—Reuters



Dortmund's Lewandowski to join Bayern next season

DORTMUND, 5 Jan — Borussia Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski will join Bundesliga arch-rivals Bayern Munich next season, the German champions said on Saturday.

The Poland

international, who helped Dortmund win successive Bundesliga titles in 2011 and 2012, has signed a five-year contract, Bayern said on their website (www.fcbayern.de).

Reuters

Nadal beats Monfils to win Qatar title

DOHA, 5 Jan — Rafa Nadal began his year in perfect fashion with a three-set victory over Frenchman Gael Monfils in the Qatar Open in Doha on Saturday as he warms up for this month's Australian Open.

Spain's world number one put down an ominous marker for the year's first grand slam by claiming his 61st career title with a 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-2 win over flamboyant Monfils in the desert city. The triumph took Nadal past American Andre Agassi into eighth spot on the all-time list of ATP Tour title winners and helped him

extend his lead at the top of the world rankings over Novak Djokovic who opted not to play this week.

"Every victory is important and the title today means a lot to me. It is the first time in my career that I am able to start the season with a victory. That's always important," Nadal said after adding Qatar to his long list of successful venues. Nadal is now one title behind Argentine Guillermo Vilas and closing in on the 64 of Sweden's Bjorn Borg and American Pete Sampras, who are joint fifth on the all-time list.

Reuters

GENERAL



Illegal immigrants are captured in Tripoli, Libya, on 4 Jan, 2014. Due to the massive flow of illegal migrants throughout Libya to Europe, the European Union has recently carried out a counter illegal migration program called "Mare Nostrum," which deployed joint Libyan and Italian forces in the Mediterranean Sea.—XINHUA

China to help Uganda develop sports sector

KAMPALA, 5 Jan — China is in talks with Uganda to help the East African country develop its sports sector, China's envoy here said on Saturday. Zhao Yali, China's Ambassador to Uganda told *Xinhua* that China is ready to have more partnerships with the Ugandan government in the area of sports.

"We are ready to help Uganda especially in the field of coaching exchange. We shall do what we can to promote corporation between the two countries. We have already spoken with the National Council of Sports on the way how to help Uganda," said Zhao who added that they are open to several initiatives.

In 2012, fifteen Chinese youth volunteers arrived in Uganda in another

measure to boost the cooperation between China and Uganda. The 15 volunteers according to agreements signed between the two governments were to offer their expertise to teaching Chinese language, sports and aquaculture.

Zhao was at the MTN Arena in the capital Kampala where the Chinese community in Uganda were taking part in the game of table tennis. "It is good to bring together all Chinese in Uganda to unite and through sporting activities like this we get together and get to know each other better," said Zhao who was also a participant.

There were about 100 Chinese living in Uganda who were taking part in the table tennis event. The best participants were awarded trophies.—*Xinhua*

Nigeria government assures of regular fuel supply

LAGOS, 5 Jan — The Nigerian government has assured the country's citizens of steady fuel supply.

Reginald Stanley, the Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), said in Abuja on Saturday that the state run oil company and other marketers had sufficient fuel in stock.

He said the agency gave the assurance to remove the fears created in the minds of the public that there might be fuel scarcity.

Stanley expressed regret that some marketers usually hoarded petroleum products so as to make profit during festive periods.

"We wish to assure Nigerians that there is steady trucking out of products across the country and the trend shall continue without any hindrance," he added.

The National Petroleum Products Stock Data indicated that the country had been consistent with land-based stock and supply, he said. According to him, daily products discharged by vessels at the depots nationwide also indicate that more than 200 million liters of fuel were discharged as of 31 December, 2013.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(5-1-2014, Monday)

6:00 am	12:35 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	18. Myanmar Movies
6:20 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	19. News
6:40 am	3:15 pm
3. Nice & Sweet Song	20. Teleplay
6:50 am	4:00 pm
4. Documentary	21. News
7:00 am	4:15 pm
5. News/Weather Report	22. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Law)
7:20 am	4:35 pm
6. People Talks	23. Teleplay (Traffic)
7:30 am	5:00 pm
7. Documentary	24. News
8:00 am	5:20 pm
8. News/ International News	25. Songs Of Yeater Years
8:25 am	5:30 pm
9. Pyi Thu Ni Ti	26. India Drama Series
9:00 am	6:00 pm
10. News/ International News	27. News/Weather Report
9:25 am	6:20 pm
11. Cartoon Series	28. Teleplay
10:00 am	7:00 pm
12. News	29. News
10:15 am	7:15 pm
13. Documentary	30. Teleplay
10:25 am	8:00 pm
14. Joint Performance by State Orchestra and Traditional Orchestra	31. News/ International News/ Weather Report
10:45 am	8:35 pm
15. Documentary	32. People Talks
11:10 am	8:45 pm
16. New Melody	33. Hit Songs of Stars
12:00 pm	9:00 pm
17. News/International News/Weather Report	34. News
	35. Documentary
	36. India Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

6-1-14 07:00 am ~
7-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Products of Myanmar - Craft of Blacksmithing
- * World News
- * Have a Jaggery...after your meals...
- * Local News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food-(Ep-6) (Myeik Noodle)
- * World News
- * Historic Temples of Massiveness And Unique Structure
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip To Upper Myanmar Sagaing Kawlin
- * World News
- * Beautiful Sun Rise in MraukU
- * Local News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea)
- * World News
- * Art Students: Sculpture
- * Local News
- * Made of Jade
- * World News
- * While I visited around Taunggyi
- * Local News
- * A Day Trip To Thanlyin
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Impact "So Cool-2"

Arsenal advance as Walcott provokes Spurs fans

LONDON, 5 Jan — Arsenal winger Theo Walcott angered Tottenham Hotspur fans while being carted off on a stretcher during his side's comfortable 2-0 win over their London rivals in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Arsenal were already heading into the fourth round draw, with goals from Santi Cazorla and Tomas Rosicky, and the mood of the visiting supporters was not helped by Walcott gesturing the scoreline with his fingers after injuring his knee.

His actions could yet take some of the gloss off an impressive Gunners display if the FA take a dim view of his actions, although Arsenal manager

Arsene Wenger played down the incident which saw a grinning Walcott showered with coins.

"The doctor said to me that the coins were already raining over his head and they had to protect him before he made the gesture, but what he did was not offensive," Wenger told reporters. "I don't think the FA will take any action, I've seen the pictures and he's not being aggressive, he's smiling. I hope he's not banned or doesn't miss any matches because of the injury. "With Theo, he has a knee problem. We don't know if it's a stretched ligament or just a kick, he got two kicks on to his knee," added Wenger. "Of course, if we lose Theo for a longer

period, it's a problem."

However, he did have some positive news on Denmark striker Nicklas Bendtner, who was injured scoring Arsenal's first goal in Wednesday's 2-0 Premier League home win over Cardiff City.

"For Bendtner, it will be for one month, we expected it could have been more, but we had good news," said the Frenchman.

Arsenal's victory over their arch-rivals Tottenham handed Wenger's opposite number Tim Sherwood his first defeat since being permanently appointed as the club's head coach last month in place of the sacked Portuguese Andre Villas-Boas.

Cazorla's arrowed

drive after 31 minutes and a second goal by Rosicky just past the hour mark following a mistake from Tottenham left back Danny Rose on the halfway line when he lost possession to Rosicky, secured Arsenal's place in the last 32. Czech

international Rosicky's goal all but ended the contest after he ran half the length of the pitch before lifting the ball over keeper Hugo Lloris with Kyle Walker chasing him down. Mainly restricting Spurs to half-chances and

the occasional counter-attack, Premier League leaders Arsenal held out for a deserved win even though they played the last few minutes with 10 men after Walcott was carried off with a knee injury.

Reuters



Arsenal's Theo Walcott is stretchered off the pitch as a paramedic (L) protects himself from objects being thrown by supporters during their English FA Cup soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates stadium in London, on 4 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS



Vice-President attends pre-Golden Jubilee dinner of Luyechun outstanding students

YANGON, 5 Jan — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called on Luyechun outstanding students (1964-1988) Association to use their knowledge, experience and wealth they gained in the interests of the country.

Speaking at the gathering of the outstanding students and the dinner hosted to mark the pre-Golden

Jubilee of the association at the University of Medicine-1 here today, the vice-president urged them to work for the future of the country, making the best use of the gathering.

According to the vice-president, the number of outstanding students had reached 8,000 during the period from 1964 to 1988.

(See page 9)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets a veteran outstanding student at the gathering.—MNA

C-in-C meets with chairman of KNU

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Saw Mutu Sae Po, chairman of the Karen National Union (KNU) and his party at the hall of Bayintnaung Yeiktha here this afternoon.

At the meeting, both sides had a cordial discussion on the peace-making processes, regional development, ongoing processes in line with democracy and further strengthening relations between the government and the KNU.

After the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented gifts to the

KNU chairman and party.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and the senior officials from the Commander-in-Chief's Office.

The KNU chairman was accompanied by Secretary-General Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, CEC members Pado Saw Roger Khin, Pado Mahn Nyein Maung and Pado Saw Tar Domu, senior officers of the KNU (Headquarters) and brigade commanders.—Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.
MYAWADY



Seasonal farming offers “honest work”, but no profit guarantees



By Aye Min Soe

Farmers in Myanmar have no choice but to tempt the profit fates when they plant their seasonal crops.

“We are working, but must leave the profits to our fate,” Sandar Win, 24, a mother of two, said as she dug small ditch to irrigate her cabbage plants in Kya-ThayAing Village in Tatkon Township.

She has worked together with her husband and her father-in-law on their farmland since she got married five years ago.

Sandar Win works on her farm in Kya-ThayAing Village in Tatkon Township.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

In their village about 200 acres of farmland are owned by the farmers.

Sandar Win said the vagaries of price fluctuations mean some of her friends have lost their land or their draught animals because at harvest times prices turned out not to be high enough to pay off debts incurred at planting time.

With good prices at harvest, the farmers can gain decent profits, but as many need to borrow to pay for seed and other needs at planting time, a poor crop or low prices at harvest can mean hardship, if not loss of their livelihood altogether.

Last year, cabbage and cauliflower prices in early winter were good, but by the late winter harvest prices

had fallen significantly.

Sandar Win's family lost money on their cauliflower and cabbage last year, even though had expected good profits. But good prices for their potato crop offset the losses on the other vegetables.

“We are able to defeat pests and to harvest good crops, but we can't say definitely that we will profit from our crops,” Soe Htike, 31, Sandar Win's husband, said. This winter, they decided to avoid borrowing money at 10 per cent to 15 per cent interest rates from private lenders, but they had to sell two draught cattle to make ends meet. Other farmers made the same decision.

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