

Union Government to draw people-centered plan to achieve goals: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan — To achieve the short-term and long-term goals for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, the Union Government will draw a people-centered plan which will be in conformity with the needs of Myanmar and the political, economic and social relations of neighbouring countries, said President U Thein Sein at the fifth meeting of the Planning Commission here today.

Regarding the implementation of the projects, he stressed the need for giving priority to fulfilling the basic needs of the people

such as stable livelihood, transportation, education and health care.

The president also stressed the importance of creating job opportunities for the country's work force which stands at 60 percent of the total population, in order to improve the livelihood of all people.

Though Myanmar has good opportunities for sustainable development, it needs to attract foreign investment to develop technology and human resources, he added.

President U Thein Sein also stressed the need for

doubling domestic production focusing on seven sectors: production, agriculture, basic infrastructure, energy and mining, tourism, financial and communication in order to reach an 8-percent increase of the GDP.

He urged the region and state governments to draw and implement local level development plans for their respective regions and states as part of efforts for proportional development.

President U Thein Sein called on the Union, region and state governments to work together harmoni-



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at the fifth meeting of the Planning Commission.—MNA

ously in order to implement projects and to use the allocated budgets efficiently.

He urged participants of the meeting to work hard for the stability and the rule of law of the country as Myanmar will conduct its first census in 30 years this year and will also chair ASEAN in the 2014-2015 FY.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw reported on drafting the national plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year that will emphasize the importance to improve electricity and water supply, development

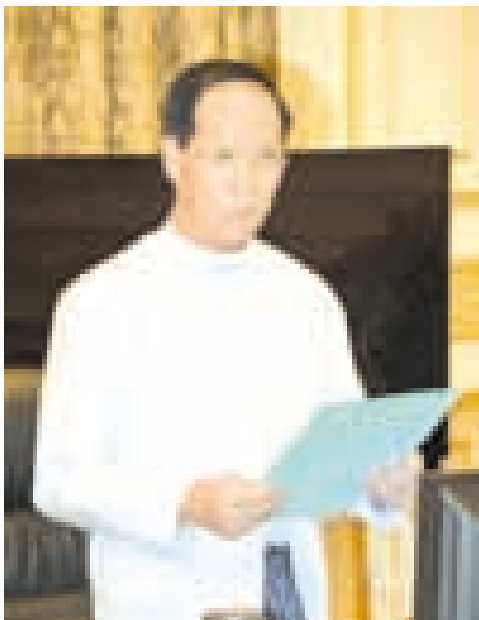
of agriculture, job creation, the tourism industry, monetary affairs, and the trade and investment sectors.

The plans were set to increase 3.9 per cent in agriculture, 10.4 per cent in industry and 12.4 per cent in service sectors. The regions and states must try hard to develop the sectors with 2 per cent in Kachin State, 10.1 per cent in Kayah State, 15.4 per cent in Kayin State, 26.4 per cent in Chin State, 9.6 per cent in Sagaing Region, 9.4 per cent in Taninthayi Region, 8.7 per cent in Bago Region, 8.2 per cent in Magway Region, 12.4

per cent in Mandalay Region, 10.4 per cent in Mon State, 5.7 per cent in Rakhine State, 9.3 per cent in Yangon Region, 5 per cent in Shan State, 6.2 per cent in Ayeyawady Region and 28.2 per cent in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The Chief ministers of regions and states and chairmen of leading bodies of self-administered division and zones submitted reports on their plans and work processes.

Following the meeting, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham expressed his satisfaction about the (See page 8)



Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun take part in the fifth meeting of the Planning Commission.—MNA

Upon completion in the mid of the year, Bayintnaung Bridge No. 2 will ease congestion at the Bayintnaung junction which sees some of the busiest traffic in Yangon, said U Tin Lwin, Superintending Engineer of the Special Project Group-5 of Public Works.

Bayintnaung Bridge No. 2 will be one of four bridges crossing the Hline River and is located about 200 feet upstream from Bayintnaung Bridge No. 1 which was constructed in 1994.

The four lanes of Bayintnaung Bridge No. 1 and the two lanes of Bayintnaung Bridge No. 2 will reduce traffic congestion to a great extent, said U Tin Lwin who is in-charge of

the construction of bridge No.2, which he said can withstand 75 tons of load.

While the first bridge with only two motorways has often been congested, the second one will have a number of benefits according to U Tin Lwin. "The special features of the bridge No. 2 are the ten-foot-in-width walkways for the convenience of pedestrians. The walkways of the bridge No. 1 are just five feet wide," he said.

According to the superintending engineer, the new bridge will improve access to Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State and will also help in the development of those regions.

Kyemon:6-1-2014

Trans: AMS

(Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Bayintnaung Bridge No. 2 to be completed mid of the year

By Win Win Maw & Nandar Win



Photo shows progress in construction of Bayintnaung Bridge No. 2.—MNA

Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

**From Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Prime Minister 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 convey my sincere congratulations to Your Excellency on my behalf and on behalf of the Turkish people and my Government.

It is our sincere desire to further develop the cooperation between Turkey and Myanmar with our joint efforts on the basis of the mutual interest of our two peoples in the forthcoming period.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

**From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of Myanmar, my heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that based on our common aspiration, the relations of good long-standing friendship and close cooperation in all fields between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed in the years to come for the mutual interests of our two peoples as well as for the ASEAN Community Building.

Meanwhile, I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, which has successfully hosted the recent 27th SEA Games.

Please accept Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and all my best wishes for your personal good health, happiness and greater success in fulfilling your noble tasks and for the greater prosperity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Sheik Hasina
Prime Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Excellency,**

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it is great pleasure to convey, on behalf of the Government and

the people of Bangladesh, our warmest greetings and heartiest felicitations to you and the friendly people of Myanmar.

The Bangladesh Myanmar relations are based on commonality to culture and heritage and shared history as well as aspiration for socioeconomic development. It is my firm conviction that the existing bonds of friendship between our two countries will grow further in the days ahead.

I take this opportunity to wish you good health, happiness and long life and the friendly people of Myanmar progress, peace and prosperity.

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

**From Shimon Peres
Prime Minister of Israel
Excellency,**

The Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar offers me the opportunity to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the people of Israel and myself, warm and sincere wishes for your personal wellbeing and for the continued progress and prosperity of your country and its people.

Despite the geographical distance between our two countries, Israel and Myanmar have fostered a special relationship over the last 60 years. I am confident, Your Excellency, that the coming years will bring the strengthening and deepening of this friendship, for the benefit of both our nations and peoples.

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

**From Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Singapore, I congratulate you and the people of Myanmar on the 66th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Under your leadership, Myanmar has made significant progress in national reconciliation and economic development. Your reforms have also paved the way for stronger ties with the international community. Myanmar's assumption of the ASEAN Chairmanship this year is a milestone for Myanmar and ASEAN. Singapore will work closely with Myanmar to make your Chairmanship a success and to achieve an integrated ASEAN Community by 2015.

**From Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan
Excellency,**

On the 66th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, my warm congratulations.

I am deeply grateful for the kind hospitality extended to me during my official visit in May last year, and pleased that I was able to host you in Japan in December for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit Meeting. As I stated on these occasions, Japan will remain committed to supporting the various reform efforts in your country.

Noting the importance of this year as the 66th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries and Myanmar's ASEAN presidency, I believe that we have an excellent opportunity to take our bilateral relations to an even higher ground. I look forward to working with you in our continued efforts to promote broad cooperation between our two countries.

I wish your country and its people great prosperity.

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

**From Li Keqiang
Premier of the State Council 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 government of the People's Republic of China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I am pleased to see that our bilateral relations developed smoothly and fruitfully with frequent high level visits, ever-expanding exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture and etc. The Chinese government attaches importance to the relations with Myanmar, and is willing to make joint efforts with Myanmar to deepen all-area mutually beneficial cooperation, constantly push the healthy development of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

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



GOLFERS AWARDED: 66th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative golf tourney, jointly organized by Myawady District Deputy Commissioner's Office and Min Pyae Son Company, was held at Mya Sandi Golf Club in Myawady on 4 January. Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon, Township Administrator U Thein Kan Zaw and Chairman of the golf club U Kyaw Zeya and officials present prizes to winners on 4 January.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY)

ASEAN, Japanese and gov't experts discuss energy policy

YANGON, 6 Jan—The use of energy and a future energy policy were discussed at a workshop in Yangon attended by experts from the Ministry of Energy, ASEAN and Japan. Top on the agenda was the establishment of a legal

framework according to the ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership-AJEEP Project. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Industry in collaboration with the Energy Conservation Center-Japan (ECCJ) and the ASEAN Center for

Energy (ACE).

Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung made the opening speech, with officials from ECCJ and ACE explaining matters related to the workshop.

The workshop continues tomorrow, with officials saying that an energy management course will be held on 8 January.

MNA(Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Tatkon Township residents receive tetanus shots, health care service

TATKON, 6 Jan—Residents of Saya San Ward in Tatkon Township have been examined and vaccinated against tetanus by a medical team from the Health Department.

The medical team led by Daw Thin Thin Hlaing conducted the immunization campaign on 5 January,

vaccinating 12 pregnant women and 36 children under the age of two.

Several other medical teams have also started providing health care services to residents in the remaining wards of the township, officials said.—Tatkon Township IPRD (Edited by Kerstin Winter)



Those of Mohnyin Township Fire Preventive Committee and members of Township Fire Services Department and Auxiliary Fire Brigade taking fire drills as weekly practice on 5 January.—NLM-001

WORLD

Finance Minister Aso eager to raise sales tax rate to 10% as planned

TOKYO, 6 Jan — Finance Minister Taro Aso on Monday expressed his eagerness to raise Japan's sales tax rate to 10 percent in October 2015 as scheduled, saying the government cannot realize integrated social security and tax reforms without the tax increase.

The reform plan has been mapped out based on the "5-percentage-point" consumption tax hike, Aso said in a New Year address to his ministry staff,

adding, "Unless the tax rate reaches that level, we cannot achieve our intended purposes."

Aso suggested the government will decide by the end of this year whether to proceed with the second round of the two-stage sales tax hike, while watching how the economy moves following the consumption tax hike to 8 percent in April from 5 percent at present.

The tax increase is aimed at covering swelling

social security costs for Japan's graying population, as the nation's fiscal health is the worst among major developed economies with public debt equivalent to more than 200 percent of gross domestic product.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said he will make a final judgment on the tax issue after assessing economic data for the July-September period which will be released through December.

Kyodo News

Bangladesh ruling party wins poll hit by violence, boycott



Activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-E-Islami set fire to an office of ruling party Bangladesh Awami League during a clash in Narayanganj 5 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

DHAKA, 6 Jan — Bangladesh's ruling Awami League won a violence-plagued parliamentary election whose outcome was never in doubt after a boycott by the main opposition

party.

With fewer than half of the 300 seats being contested, voters in modest numbers cast ballots on Sunday amid heavy security in polling that lacked the festivity

typical of Bangladeshi elections and was shunned by international observers as flawed. Low voter participation could pile new pressure on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to find a compromise with the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for holding new elections.

Either Hasina or BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has been prime minister for all but two of the past 22 years. The two are bitter rivals. The Awami League won 105 of the contested seats, on top of the 127 seats where it ran unopposed, giving it a more-than two-thirds majority.

Reuters



Taro Aso, Japan's Finance Minister and deputy prime minister, speaks during a ceremony marking the first trading of the year at the Tokyo Stock Exchange in the Japanese capital on 6 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Former First Lady of Bangladesh to be opposition leader in parliament

DHAKA, 6 Jan — Rowshan Ershad, wife of former Bangladeshi President HM Ershad, will become the leader of the opposition in the country's 10th parliament, a party leader said on Monday.

"We'll join parliament as main opposition led by Rowshan Ershad, " Jatiya Party leader Kazi Firoz Rashid told Xinhua. "She will be leader of the opposition in the 10th parliament."

Out of 300 seats, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League

(AL) has won so far 232 seats, which are more than enough to form a government.

Jatiya Party emerged as main opposition party by winning 31 seats in Sunday's parliamentary election marred by opposition boycott and widespread violence.

Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has called a nationwide 48-hour strike from Monday morning, demanding cancellation of Sunday's poll results.

Xinhua

Nine killed, 4 injured in blast in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, 6 Jan — At least nine people were killed and four others injured on Monday afternoon in a blast that hit a house in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region of Khyber Agency, local media and officials said.

Local civil administrator of the area said that the blast took place in a house of a local weapon dealer in Akakhel area of Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency, Pakistan's restive tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

The huge blast that was heard miles away from the site destroyed the house completely, killing at least nine people including three children.

Local residents and security forces rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and injured to the hospital.

According to local media reports, some people also got seriously injured but there was no reports about their figures.

Nature of the blast was not known yet, but local authorities feared that the blast took place in the stock of multiple weapons that the dealers had stored in his house.

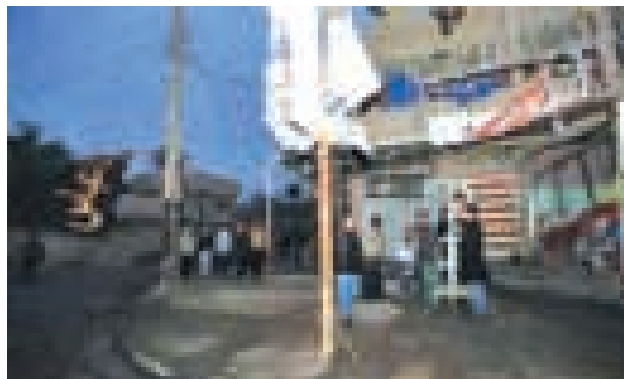
Xinhua

Bombs kill at least 19 people in Iraqi capital

BAGHDAD, 6 Jan — Car and roadside bombs exploded in commercial areas of Baghdad on Sunday killing at least 19 people, police and medical sources said. The deadliest attack took place in northern Baghdad's mainly Shi'ite district of Shaab where two car bombs went off

stepped up attacks on Iraqi security forces and supporters of the Shi'ite-led government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda and tribal fighters have taken control of Ramadi and Falluja, the main cities in the Sunni Muslim-dominated



People gather at the site of bomb attack in Baghdad on 5 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

killing at least nine people and wounding 25.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday's attacks but Sunni Muslim insurgents have

Province of Anbar in a serious challenge to the government's authority. Iraqi troops and allied tribesmen are trying to retake the province.—Reuters

Thai tensions to rise as power struggle intensifies

BANGKOK, 6 Jan — Thailand is heading for a political showdown as protesters plan to shut down Bangkok next week to sabotage an election while the government's supporters have vowed to stage massive counter-rallies in the country's provinces.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is facing swelling opposition in Bangkok ahead of the 2 February election in which her supporters in the rural north and northeast are expected to return her to power — if the vote goes ahead.

Thousands of demonstrators marched through Bangkok on Sunday as a prelude to rallies starting on 13 January, when they plan to block government offices and occupy key intersections for days in a bid to force Yingluck out and scuttle the poll.

The protesters accuse Yingluck of being a puppet of her self-exiled brother and former premier, Thaksin Shinawatra. They want an appointed "people's council" to oversee a vague reform platform, which includes electoral changes and decentralizing power over a 12-month period before any election.

Thai markets are expected to face pressure this week over the growing uncertainty. The baht slid on Friday to its lowest against the dollar since February 2010 and the benchmark stock index has lost 15 percent since early November, when the latest crisis began.

"We will keep walking, we won't stop," protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, a former top opposition lawmaker, said during Sunday's march.



"We will walk until we win and we won't give up." Yingluck, 46, is refusing to postpone the poll, which she says would be unconstitutional. Any election delay could heighten the uncertainty and make it harder for her caretaker government to function.

Yingluck enjoyed two

Thai citizens wearing white shirts take part in a demonstration to support the general election, in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 5 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

smooth years in power until November, when her Puea Thai Party tried to force through an unpopular amnesty bill that would have nullified a 2008 graft conviction against Thaksin and allowed him to return a free man. Protests erupted.

Reuters



A traditional acrobatic performance is shown during the Tokyo Fire Department's New Year event in the Japanese capital on 6 Jan, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

Palestinians to get gas for power plant from Israeli well

RAMALLAH, 6 Jan — A Palestinian company signed a deal with an international energy company and its Israeli partners on Sunday to get natural gas for an upcoming power plant in the West Bank for 20 years, a Palestinian official said.

The agreement was signed in Jerusalem between Palestine Power Generation Co, Texas-based Noble Energy Inc and the latter's Israeli partners to extract gas from Israel's newly-discovered Leviathan gas and oil field.

Under the deal, the Palestinian side will obtain

4.75 billion cubic meters of gas with 1.2 billion US dollars to run a power plant it plans to build near the West Bank city of Jenin, Omar Kataneh, head of the Palestinian Power Authority, told *Xinhua*.

Yitzhak Tshuva, whose Delek Group is one of the Israeli partners, told reporters after signing the deal that he believes "a strong and stable economy shared by the two sides will bring peace and stability to the entire region, so that everyone will enjoy prosperity and economic growth."

Xinhua

Ecuador may arrest suspects in attack on Japanese couple in days

QUITO, 6 Jan — Ecuador's Interior Minister said on Sunday key suspects have emerged in late last month's shooting of a Japanese couple honeymooning in Guayaquil and indicated they may be arrested in a few days. While not disclosing details about the suspects in speaking to Japanese media, Jose Serrano identified the victims as 28-year-old Tetsuo Hitomi, who was shot and killed in the 28 December attack, and his 27-year-old wife Mariko, who was shot and seriously injured. Japanese authorities confirmed their identities but have not yet

disclosed Tetsuo Hitomi's age.

Serrano said the Japanese honeymooners were attacked in a taxi they boarded after dining at a hotel separate from the one they were staying at. Tetsuo Hitomi was shot three times inside the taxi and robbed of cash and other belongings while his wife was shot after the couple was thrown out of the vehicle, according to the minister.

The couple had hailed a passing taxi rather than taking one stationed at the hotel, he said. The belongings taken from the couple included some \$500

Italy's former centre-left leader hit by serious brain problem

ROME, 6 Jan — Italy's former centre-left party head Pier Luigi Bersani on Sunday was rushed to hospital due to a brain problem, local reports said.

According to ANSA news agency, Bersani was hit by a "serious brain problem" and immediately

transported to a hospital in Piacenza, a city in northern Italy, accompanied by his wife and brother.

Bersani reportedly was hit by a malaise and bouts of vomiting, and the brain problem was found after a first examination. He was then transferred to a depart-

ment of neurosurgery in the nearby hospital of Parma.

Hospital sources quoted by La 7 television said he was hit by a "transient ischemic attack."

Bersani, 62, was a former minister of Industry, Commerce, Transport and Economic Development.

He began his career with Italy's Communist party and was Secretary of the Democratic Party (PD), Italy's leading centre-left party which shares power in the current government with the centre-right, from 2009 to 2013.

Xinhua

Czech police find 12 weapons at Palestinian mission

PRAGUE, 6 Jan — Czech police found 12 weapons, including pistols and sub-machine guns, at the Palestinian mission in Prague after an explosion killed the Ambassador at his residence last week, the police chief was quoted as saying on Sunday.

Police said the explosion that killed Ambassador Jamal al-Jamal after he opened a safe might have been caused by mishandling a device meant to secure it.

After the incident, investigators found unlicensed weapons at the complex of the Palestinian mission that includes the embassy and residence. But the police had not immediately detailed the amount or type of weapons.

Daily newspaper *Mlada Fronta Dnes*' website *idnes.cz* reported that 12 weapons discovered, confirming the number with national police chief Martin Cervicek, who declined to say how many pistols

or sub-machine guns were found.

"We have to put the weapons through genetic and ballistic testing, until then we will not release this information," *idnes.cz* quoted Cervicek as saying.

A police spokeswoman was not available to comment. A Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *Reuters* on Thursday that the mission's staff had submitted the arms to the Czech authorities.

He said the weapons had been retrieved from an old sack and had been untouched since Cold War times.

Czech police were not investigating the safe explosion as an attack, although the Ambassador's daughter has alleged he was "deliberately killed".

Adding to the uncertainty, an embassy spokesman said mission staff were not aware of any explosives in the safe, which he said was used on a regular basis.

Reuters

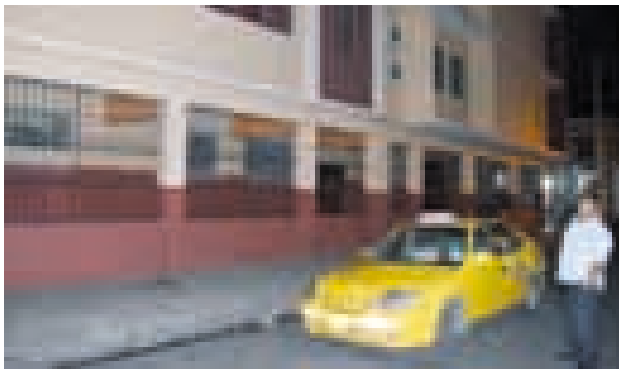


Photo taken 4 Jan, 2014, shows the scene where a Japanese couple were shot by robbers while on honeymoon in Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador, on 28 Dec, 2013. The 28-year-old husband died and 27-year-old wife suffered serious injuries. —KYODO NEWS

in cash, a credit card and a mobile phone. Ecuadorian authorities are focusing their investigations on surveillance cameras at automatic cash dispensers, they said. The couple held a wedding ceremony in Japan on 22 December

and were scheduled to head for Galapagos Islands from Guayaquil, according to their relatives and friends. Tetsuo Hitomi was a native of Saitama Prefecture, and his wife hails from Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture.

Kyodo News



Russian President Vladimir Putin plays ice hockey at a friendly match during his tour in Sochi ahead of the upcoming 2014 Winter Olympics, on 4 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

Arctic cold front bites northern, central regions of United States

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — Wind chills are wreaking havoc in the northern and central parts of the United States while it has snowed heavily from the Eastern Plain to the Great Lakes of the country due to invasion of arctic cold air.

The National Weather Service said in an advisory posted at its website Sunday that the northern and central parts of the US will expect the coldest temperatures in about two decades this week because of the polar cold front, with some 140 million people to be impacted.

Combined with gusty winds, the temperatures will result in "life-threatening wind chill values as low as 60 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit or minus 51 degrees Celsius)" in some areas.

The frigidly cold weather has caused travel nightmares for people who are heading for home from holidays, said local media reports.

In Chicago, the US state of Illinois, a new round of heavy snow started to fall from Saturday. The city's O'Hare International Airport was forced to cancel 1,200 flights as the

snowing weather continued Sunday, coupled with gusty winds.

As the city was bracing for the winter storm Sunday, local officials say they are expecting 25 centimeters to 30 centimetres of snow to accumulate in the Chicago area by Sunday evening.

John F Kennedy International Airport in the East Coast's New York City, which had heavy snowfall from Thursday night to early Friday, also announced to temporarily suspend operations for domestic and international flights due to icing conditions early Sunday morning. It reopened for arriving and departing flights later in the day, but with residual delays.

More than 3,000 flights were canceled on Sunday at the country's airports nationwide because of the bone chilling cold and icy weather, according to flight-tracking website flightaware.com.

Schools and governments in some cities will remain closed because of the deep freeze which will also affect certain southern US states, said local news reports.

Xinhua

WORLD

Egypt convicts activists in one case, opens probe into another

CAIRO, 6 Jan — Twelve Egyptian activists were given one-year suspended jail terms on Sunday in a case brought over an attack on the campaign headquarters of defeated presidential candidate Ahmed Shafik during the 2012 election.

The activists include siblings Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mona Seif, leading figures in the protest movement that triggered the 2011

uprising against autocrat Hosni Mubarak. The movement has been targeted in a widening crackdown by the army-backed authorities.

In a move that could open the way to more legal measures against prominent dissidents, the authorities opened an investigation into allegations that six activists took part in the storming of Egypt's domestic spying agency in 2011 — an

important moment in the revolt against Mubarak's order.

It intensifies what activists see as an effort to discredit the secular protest movement as the government also pursues a crackdown on Islamist supporters of deposed president Mohamed Mursi ahead of elections later this year.

Sunday's verdict related to an attack on Shafik's campaign headquarters ahead of the presidential run-off against the Muslim Brotherhood's Mursi in the 2012 election.

The Cairo court convicted them of "displaying force", a charge they denied. "The ruling was political," Mona Seif told Reuters TV after the verdict was announced.

The case was brought earlier this year by a public prosecutor appointed by Mursi. At the time, activists said it was an attempt to intimidate the pro-democracy movement.—Reuters



Alaa Abdel Fattah (R), one of the activists who was summoned by the public prosecutor on whether he had a role in the recent violent anti-Islamists protests, arrives with his wife and child to the public prosecutor's office in Cairo, on 26 March, 2013.—REUTERS



Officers and soldiers on the amphibious docking vessel Jinggangshan of the 15th Chinese naval escort fleet wave goodbye to people and prepare to set sail at the Mbaraki Berth in Mombasa, Kenya, on 5 Jan, 2014. The amphibious docking vessel Jinggangshan and the missile frigate Hengshui of the 15th Chinese naval escort fleet finished their four-day visit to Kenya on Sunday.—XINHUA

At least 29 injured in plane's emergency landing in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, 6 Jan — At least 29 passengers sustained injuries Sunday morning during their plane's emergency landing due to a technical fault in the western Saudi city of Medina, according to Saudi Press Agency.

With 315 passengers

onboard, Saudi Arabian Airline's Boeing 767 from Iran's Mashhad, failed to open its right rear wheels when landing at Medina's Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport, said Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khibiri, a spokesperson of the Saudi

Civil Aviation.

He attributed the injuries to the passengers' rush during evacuation, adding that among the injured, 11 were sent to hospital and the other 18 with minor injuries were treated at the airport's clinic.

Xinhua

Syria rebels push al-Qaeda back; US open to Iran role



A Free Syrian Army fighter mans a checkpoint in Idlib, to stop members of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from enter Haas village, on 4 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

AMMAN/JERUSALEM, 6 Jan — Syrian rebel fighters loyal to al-Qaeda ceded ground near the Turkish

border to rival Islamists on Sunday, activists said, in what seemed to be a tactical withdrawal to end clashes

between Syrian- and foreign-led opponents of President Bashar al-Assad.

As Syria's civil war gets ever more complex amid a broad regional confrontation between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, the United States raised the prospect of Assad's sponsor Iran, the Shi'ite power long at odds with Washington and its Sunni Arab allies, playing some role in this month's Syrian peace talks.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said Tehran still should not take formal part in the peace conference scheduled to

start on Lake Geneva on 22 January because it had not endorsed a 2012 accord calling for a new Syrian leadership. But he said there might be ways that Iran could "contribute from the sidelines".

There is little prospect of a rapid end to the Syrian conflict but the resurgence in Iraq of mutual enemy al-Qaeda, and a recent rapprochement with the new Iranian president, have raised speculation about a common effort between the United States and Tehran to contain instability in the region.—Reuters

Ex-NBA star Rodman heads for N Korea for exhibition game

BEIJING, 6 Jan — Former US basketball superstar Dennis Rodman on Monday headed to Pyongyang for an exhibition game to mark North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's birthday.

"He is my friend," Rodman, heading a team of former National Basketball Association players, told a crowd of reporters at Beijing airport before board-

ing a flight to Pyongyang, referring to Kim.

"This time you will see me with him the whole time," Rodman, wearing dark sunglasses and a cap, also said about Kim.

The game, scheduled to take place on Wednesday between the former NBA players and North Korea's national team.

Kyodo News



Former US basketball superstar Dennis Rodman is pictured at Beijing Airport in China on 6 Jan, 2014, en route to Pyongyang for an exhibition game to mark North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's birthday.

KYODO NEWS

Bahrain calls on neighbouring countries to monitor security threats

MANAMA, 6 Jan — Bahrain's interior minister on Sunday called on neighboring countries to crack down upon weapons trafficking, which is part of strategy by some radical elements to export terror to Gulf States, the Bahrain News Agency reported.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa highlighted

this issue during a meeting here with Under-Secretaries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Interior Ministries in which he spoke about the threats the country faces.

During the meeting, Bahrain's Public Security Chief Tariq Al Hassan briefed GCC officials on the four terror plots they uncovered recently, which

included defusing of a car bomb, arresting 13 wanted persons, seizing a shipment of ammunition being smuggled from Iraq to Bahrain as well as a raid of a weapons warehouse in Sitra village.

For his part, GCC Assistant Secretary-General for security affairs, Hazaa bin Mubarak Al-Hajeri, said that all GCC countries are against any external se-

curity threat.

He noted that future meetings of GCC interior ministers will consider the unified Gulf police (GCCPOL) project to tackle crime and deter new threats.

The GCCPOL would be similar to Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency that deals with serious organized crime.—Xinhua

kidnapped Turkish journalist in Syria returns to Turkey

ANKARA, 6 Jan — A photo reporter of the Turkish daily Milliyet, who was kidnapped in Syria late November, returned to Turkey on Sunday, private Dogan news agency reported. A special team from the Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT) brought back reporter Bunyamin Aygun after meeting him in Syria following his release earlier Sunday, according to the report.

Aygun and the MIT team entered Turkey from Cilvegözü border gate near the southern province of Hatay, said the report.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Fiat shares could double in two years

NEW YORK, 6 Jan — Italian automaker Fiat SpA's (FIA.MI) shares could double in the next two years as it integrates its Detroit-based Chrysler unit and benefits from synergies in design, engineering, and supply chains,

financial weekly Barron's reported in its 6 January edition. Fiat's operating leverage will get a boost from the US economy's continued recovery and an improving outlook in Europe, according to Barron's.

Fiat shares closed down 2.3 percent at 6.76 euros on the Milan stock exchange on Friday. —Reuters

A Fiat logo is seen on the wheel of a Fiat car in Turin in this picture taken 10 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS



Goose meat tests positive for H7N9 in Chinese city

GUANGZHOU, 6 Jan — Samples of goose meat taken from a Guangzhou market in south China's Guangdong Province have tested positive for H7N9 avian influenza.

Two goose meat samples and one sewage water sample from two poultry booths in a wet market in Zengcheng, a satellite city of Guangzhou, tested positive, Guangdong Provincial Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) confirmed on Sunday. "It's serious that the water sample test is positive, because it means all the birds inside coops have the possibility of being infected with H7N9 avian influenza."

The longer they stay in the coops, the risk of being infected rises," said Yang Zhicong, deputy chief of the Guangzhou municipal CDCP. The city government of Guangzhou, the provincial capital, is tracking the poultry source. The market was shut down on Saturday for three days so disinfection and cleaning can take place. Meanwhile, 17 sales people working in nine poultry booths in the market are undergoing a week-long medical observation. So far, they have shown no signs of being infected with the bird flu, said Yang. —Xinhua

Norwegian Air CEO to meet Boeing over Dreamliner problems

OSLO, 6 Jan — The Chief Executive of budget airline Norwegian Air Shuttle (NWC.OL), Bjoern Kjos, plans to meet Boeing (BA.N) management in the United States next week to discuss problems with its Dreamliner planes, Norwegian media reported on Sunday.

Norwegian Air, Europe's third-biggest budget airline after Ryanair (RYA.I) and EasyJet (EZJ.L), launched long-haul operations last year and hoped to capitalize on the Dreamliner's lower operating costs.

But during the autumn its first two Dreamliners broke down more than half a dozen times, forcing it to lease back-up planes at short notice or cancel flights.

Its newest, the third, plane was grounded in the United States before Christmas, and the company said spare parts had to be ordered for the replacement.

"As far as I know the plane is not back in service yet, we have a wetleased (Boeing) 777 today between Oslo and New York," Anne-Sissel Skaanvik, a spokeswoman for the Norwegian, said in an email

to Reuters.

Wetleasing means hiring a plane with a crew.

Norwegian Air might see whether it needs to replace its maintenance service provider, daily VG quoted Kjos as saying in an interview.

Skaanvik could not confirm the quote, but said Kjos, who was already in the United States, was planning a number of meetings there next week.

The Dreamliner was intended as a game changer for the aviation industry as its lightweight body and sophisticated engines cut fuel consumption by 20 percent.

But it has been beset by problems, including battery fires that grounded the model for months last year and forced Boeing to come up with a new battery design. The first two Dreamliners bought by the Norwegian Air have previously suffered hydraulic and electrical faults.

Boeing promised to fix problems quicker after its executives met with Norwegian Air in Oslo in September.

After that, Norwegian ordered two more Dreamliners for delivery in 2016.

Reuters

Chinese herbal compound may fight chronic pain



Corydalis

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — A plant used for centuries as a pain reliever in Chinese medicine may help fight chronic pain, US and Chinese researchers said on Thursday.

The flowering plant Corydalis, a member of the poppy family, contains a key pain-relieving ingredient known as dehydrocorybulbine (DHCb) in their roots, the researchers wrote

in the US journal *Current Biology*. "Our study reports the discovery of a new natural product that can relieve pain," Olivier Civelli of the University of California, Irvine, said in a statement.

"This analgesic acts in animal assays against the three types of pain that afflict humans, including acute, inflammatory, and neuropathic or chronic pain," Civelli, along with

Xinmiao Liang of Chinese Academy of Sciences, made the discovery as part of the "herbalome" project which aims to catalogue all of the chemical components of traditional Chinese medicine.

The Corydalis plants grow mainly in central eastern China, where underground tubers are harvested, ground, and boiled in hot vinegar. Those concoctions are often prescribed to treat pain, including headaches and back pain.

The researchers found that Corydalis appeared to act in a manner similar to morphine. "We landed on DHCb but rapidly found that it acts not through the morphine receptor but through other receptors, in particular one that binds dopamine," Civelli said.

While Corydalis extracts or isolated DHCb work against all types of pain, they hold special promise for those who suffer with persistent, low-level chronic pain, the researchers said. —Xinhua

New York facility offers to care for brain-dead girl

NEW YORK, 6 Jan — A 13-year-old California girl who was declared brain-dead after complications from a tonsillectomy will be moved to a new care facility "come hell or high water," a family attorney said on Sunday.

The family of Jahi McMath reached an agreement on Friday with Children's Hospital and Research Center in Oakland allowing her to be moved to a different facility if they do so before 5 pm local time on Tuesday, when a restraining order keeping the hospital from removing her from life support is set to expire.

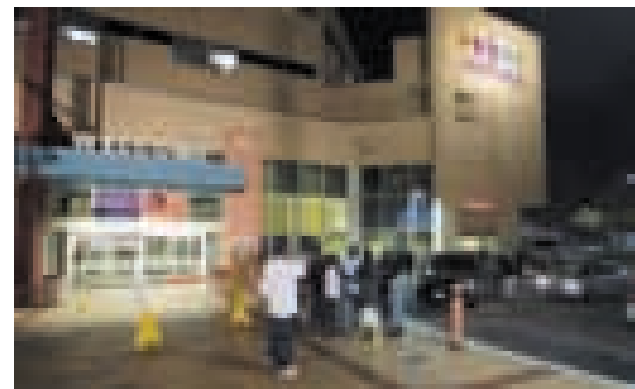
McMath was admitted to Children's Hospital on 9

December to have her tonsils removed and for other procedures to address sleep apnea. After the surgery, she went into cardiac arrest and suffered brain swelling.

The hospital declared her brain-dead three days later, and made plans to remove her from the ventilator, but her family has fought in state and federal court to keep her on life support.

The case has drawn international attention, as well as support from relatives of Terri Schiavo, who died in Florida in 2005 after a 15-year battle over whether to keep her body alive in a persistent vegetative state.

"I have everything in



The outside of Children's Hospital and Research Centre is seen in Oakland, California, on 30 Dec, 2013. The family of 13-year-old Jahi McMath, who was declared brain dead after complications from a tonsillectomy, won an 11th-hour court order on Monday requiring doctors to keep her connected to a breathing machine for at least another week, relatives said.

REUTERS

place, I just need to get it moving," Chris Dolan, an attorney for the family, told KPIX 5 in San Francisco on Sunday. He said McMath will be moved "come hell or high water" before the deadline, though he did not

elaborate.

To move the girl, her family would need to provide transportation and find a facility willing to take her, both the hospital and the family have said.

Reuters



CEO of Norwegian Air Shuttle, Bjoern Kjos, poses at a news conference where he spoke about the low-cost airline's plans to buy 222 new aircraft in Oslo on 25 Jan 2012.

REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India successfully launches heavy lift rocket GSLV D5 with satellite

NEW DELHI, 6 Jan — India on Sunday successfully launched its first heavy lift Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) D5 using indigenous cryogenic fuel technology, after two previous failures.

The launch is widely believed to be a great boost to the country's rocket and outer space technology and its international prestige in the field. The white rocket blasted off the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sri Harihot, southeast India, at 16:18 pm local time and successfully boosted a 1,982 kg communication satellite, GSAT 14, into the geosynchronous track.

This launch is also crucial for the launching of manned missions into outer space and other space pro-

jects, as well as for seeking international market share for satellite launch, said officials of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). It can also be very useful for defence purposes, said the officials.

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

The cryogenic technology enables rockets to place satellites weighing more than 2,000 kg in geosynchronous orbits in space which is known to be available to only five countries in



The white rocket blasts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sri Harihot, southeast India, on 5 Jan, 2014. India Sunday successfully launched its first heavy lift Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) D5 using indigenous cryogenic fuel technology, after two previous failures. The launch is widely believed to be a great boost to the country's rocket and outer space technology and its international prestige in the field.

XINHUA

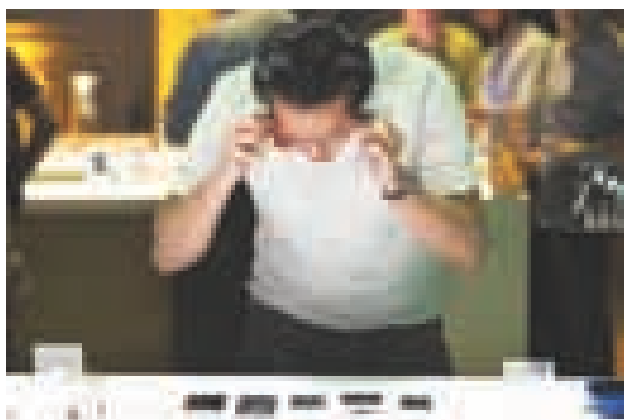
the world — United States, Russia, Japan, France and China.

Indian space scientists have been working on the 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 its nuclear tests in 1998. ISRO subsequently worked with seven cryogenic engines provided by Russia for early development of the GSLV program while working in parallel on its own cryogenic stage for the rocket.—Xinhua

App developers see wearable devices as next big thing



A man uses Google Glass to photograph examples of Motorola's new Moto X phone next to other mobile phones at a launch event in New York, in this 1 August, 2013 file photo. —REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Jan — Wearable computers like Google Glass and the Samsung Galaxy Gear watch may not have caught fire yet, but that hasn't stopped mobile game developers from rushing to create apps for the new devices, eager to seize what they hope is the next big moment in consumer technology.

Niccolo DeMasi, the CEO of mobile games maker Glu Mobile, compares the potential of wearables to that of Apple Inc's iPhone launch in 2007 — an event that was the catalyst to create much of the mobile app world that exists now.

DeMasi and others are betting that by developing

compelling apps designed with the wearables' special features in mind, they can create overwhelming demand for the products.

"A whole new app ecosystem is going to be born," said Shawn Hardin, chief executive officer of Mind Pirate, which will release "Global Food Fight," its first game for Google Glass, this month. "Those who are going to make that happen in a big way are going to be valuable companies because of it, and those who wait too late won't be a part of it."

The market for mobile game apps is expected to grow to \$17 billion this year from just \$6 billion in 2010,

analysts said, and wearables could fuel growth in the years to come.

An array of new smartwatches and devices like fitness tracker Fitbit will go on display this week at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, heralding a potential breakthrough for the devices in 2014. Google Glass is expected to launch broadly sometime this year. So far, its user-testing version has only been available at a \$1,500 price to about 15,000 developers and consumers who registered to be part of its early adopter programme.

Galaxy Gear smartwatches from Samsung have garnered mixed reviews since their September launch, and consumers

have not warmed to them yet. Despite the slow start, Juniper Research expects more than 130 million smart wearable devices will ship by 2018. Moreover, global shipments of wearable "smart glasses" alone will reach 10 million each year by 2018, compared with an estimated 87,000 in 2013, according to the research firm.

Wearable computing devices basically function as mini-computers, mainly strapped on a user's wrist or face, though they may end up being worn on other parts of the body, too. In developing apps for them, programmers will focus on their voice-command features as well as GPS, gyroscope, compass and WiFi capabilities.—Reuters

"UFO lights" may help predict earthquake

BEIJING, 6 Jan — The mysterious "UFO lights" may occur at rifts, or nearly vertical faults as the crystalline structure of the magmatic stones, subjected to intense pressure, releases electrical energy, according to a study published on Saturday in the journal *Seismological Research Letters*. Mysterious "UFO lights", known as "ground

lights" or "earthquake lights", sometimes appear before or during earthquakes and take a number of forms, including spheres of light orbs floating through air.

Some have confused the globular luminous air masses with UFOs. For instance, seconds before the 2009 L'Aquila, Italy, earthquake struck, pedestrians

saw 10cm high flames of light flickering above the Francesco Crispi Avenue in the town's historical city center.

In 1988 a bright purple-pink globe of light moved through the sky along the St Lawrence River near the city of Quebec, Canada, 11 days before a powerful quake. Scientists said the "earthquake lights" are

more likely to occur on or near a rift, an elongated depression in the Earth's crust bounded on both sides by normal faults.

Stress-activated mobile electronic charge carriers, termed positive holes, flow swiftly along stress gradients. Upon reaching the surface, they ionize air molecules and generate the observed light.—Xinhua

Yahoo says some ads on its European sites spread malware

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Jan — Some advertisements on Yahoo Inc's European websites last week spread malicious software, Yahoo said on Sunday, potentially infecting thousands of users.

On Friday, Fox-IT, a Delft, Netherlands-based computer security firm, wrote in a blog that attackers had inserted malicious ads served by ads.yahoo.com. In statement on Sunday, a Yahoo spokesman, said: "On Friday, January 3 on our European sites, we served some

ers of Mac computers and mobile devices were not affected.

Malware is software used to disrupt a computer's operations, gather sensitive information, or gain access to private computer systems. Fox-IT estimated that on Friday, the malware was being delivered to approximately 300,000 users per hour, leading to about 27,000 infections per hour. The countries with the most affected users were Romania, Britain, and France.

"It is unclear which specific group is behind



The Yahoo logo is shown at the company's headquarters in Sunnyvale, California 16 April, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

advertisements that did not meet our editorial guidelines, specifically they spread malware." Yahoo said it promptly removed the bad ads, and that us-

this attack, but the attackers are clearly financially motivated and seem to offer services to other actors," Fox-IT wrote in the January 3 blog post.—Reuters

Ancient official's tomb unearthed in Beijing

BEIJING, 6 Jan — Chinese archaeologists have completed the excavation of a tomb in suburban Beijing that belonged to a high-ranking official during the late Tang Dynasty (618 - 907).

A unique painted jade figure, a gilded epitaph with zodiac animal carvings and other valuable artifacts have been unearthed from the tomb

of Liu Ji located in Beijing's Fangshan District, the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage announced on Saturday.

Liu was a powerful governor during the late Tang Dynasty, administering what is now the city of Beijing and its surrounding areas in north China, researchers said.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 7 January, 2014

Time to share the wealth and give children a future

The most heartbreaking thing for any foreign visitor to see are the many small children that roam the streets of Yangon or the beaches in Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha trying to make a living by selling grilled fish or banana leaf hats.

Some of them might serve you in an upmarket restaurant, mechanically repeating the few phrases of English they have learnt. "How are you" and "Is it ok?" they will ask you with a serious face, looking years beyond their age.

It is good for foreigners to get to know the stories of these children, because none of them has ever seen a school from the inside: A 12-year old who works for K 1,000 14 hours per day in a restaurant is worried because he cannot buy the medicine for his sick mother. A 5-year old who is trying to sell sea shells to Western tourists is scared to go home because he will be beaten if he hasn't earned anything.

And then you look on the streets of Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon where you will see Lexuses, Rolls Royces and Hummers driving by.

The offspring from rich families wear designer clothes, drink champagne and have BBQs with their friends at the swimming pools of their family homes. One of the well-off who does not want to be named said: "Myanmar is a poor country. There is no money to put those children in school."

Indeed?

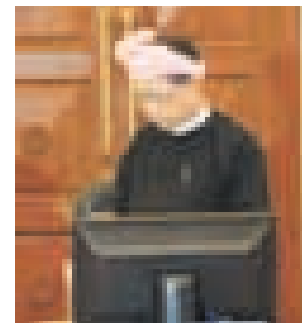
How many children in how many villages could be put in school if you were to donate a diamond ring or one of your six cars?

None of these children has a future without basic education. Without a school certificate they cannot even get a cleaning job in a hotel, no matter how good their English.

People talk about a new Myanmar—new business opportunities and more investment, but perhaps they fail to realize the most important investment is into the future of children.

Those who can leave will try and make money in China, Thailand, Laos or elsewhere. The others will breed yet another generation of uneducated, underprivileged people exploited by those in the big cars.

(by Kerstin Winter)



Officials of Self-Administered Division and Zone participate in the fifth meeting of the Planning Commission.—MNA

Union Government to draw people-centered plan...

(from page 1)

achievements of the Union Government in the past three years. Vice-President U Nyan Tun called on the

Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Electric Power to coordinate with each other to be able to sufficiently supply natural gas to the

five natural-gas fired power plants in Yangon. During the discussion, President U Thein Sein stressed the need for giving priority to implementing projects that will benefit the people within a short time while laying foundations for sustainable

development of the country within the remaining 26 months of the government.

He also urged the participants of the meeting to set up assessment teams to improve on the weak points of the ministries.—MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Conference on commerce and investment opens

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Union Attorney-General Office and ALLEN & OVERY, an international legal expertise organization, jointly organized a conference on commerce and investment at the hall of the Union Attorney-General Office this morning, attended by Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin.

The Union attorney-general said that Myanmar is practising a market-oriented economy according to Section 35 of the Constitution, adding that a special economic zone law and a foreign investment law have already been enacted in the country. Those laws ensure the attraction of foreign investors with tax relaxation and land use rights. Myanmar has signed the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards as a member to protect and promote foreign investment in July 2013, he said. As part of bilateral investment treaties, Myanmar inked contracts with Thailand, India, Vietnam, the



Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin addresses conference on commerce and investment.—MNA

Philippines, China and Laos and a framework agreement with the United States. He expressed his hope that legal officers and legal experts from the Union ministries will apply resolutions from

the conference effectively.

Director Mr. Simon Makinson said that ALLEN & OVERY has been conducting technical courses for two years with a view to facilitating a legal frame-

work for Myanmar focusing on foreign investment to strengthen the legal system, rule of law, arbitration environment and judiciary system.—MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Gurkha graduate students hold get-together ceremony

MANDALAY, 6 Jan—Gurkha graduate students held the first get-together ceremony in conjunction with a traditional dance performance at the National Theatre here on 3 and 4 January.

"We are trying to contribute to the health and education sectors much more than ever before. In

addition, we want each generation to know how to preserve their customs and their fine tradition. The ceremony is organized by Gurkha Stipends Committee," said U Bawkah Lay from that committee.

About 850 Gurkha people attended the ceremony in which the literacy talks were held. Several dance

groups from all corners of the regions where the Gurkha people live performed dances on the evening of 4 January.

The Gurkha people have been living in Myanmar since 1885 and have been proud citizens ever since.—Kyemon-Aye Mya (Mandalay) (Edited by Kerstin Winter)

What a coincidence!
Myanmar is taking ASEAN chair at the same time.
So, we've got a chance to promote our country's image while working in the interests of South-East Asian region.

The role of Asian and South-East Asian countries has become important in the world when the balance of world's political powers is changing.



Cartoon Tha Byay

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—According to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal has crossed North Sri

Lanka Coast and now lies Gulf of Mannar. It would weaken into a low pressure area, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—NLM

Take Fire Preventive Measures

NATIONAL

Civil general cases (writ) passed, heard

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Mya Thein and U Aung Zaw Thein passed

verdicts on five civil general cases (writ) and heard six civil general cases (writ) at Office No (1) of the Supreme Court of the Union this morning.—MNA

China and Myanmar team to produce 1,500 trucks per year

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Chinese and Myanmar truck manufactures have inked a deal that will enable the production of 1,500 vehicles per year as of March, according to officials.

Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint held a meeting with officials of Yangon No. 11 Heavy Industries in Mayangon Township yesterday to discuss details. The Union Minister urged for the project to be completed on time before visiting the production project site and showrooms.

A Memorandum of

Understanding was inked in October 2012 between Yangon No. 11 Heavy Industries and China National Heavy Duty Truck Group Co Ltd to produce a range of trucks in line with market demand, with the factory in Myanmar ready to start the production of midweight trucks by March. Officials said the 1,500 vehicles would be 10-15 ton trucks. No. 11 Heavy Industries has been manufacturing and selling a variety of vehicles, including Myanmar City Bus and TE-31 Firefighting vehicles.—MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)



International experts discuss capacity building in health sector

YANGON, 6 Jan—International experts from health institutions and universities have discussed capacity building in the health sector as well as the sustainable development in Myanmar.

The meeting was organized by Norway's Oslo University, the Prince of

Songkla University of Thailand, and Yangon's University of Medicine-1, among others.

Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin said in a speech that capacity building in accord with development strategies and health policies would contribute to the

promotion of public health.

Among the Norwegian delegates, the ambassador expressed his wellwishes with Prof.

Espen Bjertness explaining matters related to the planned projects.

MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)



Strengthening of Myanmar-Korea ties discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The strengthening of ties between Myanmar-Korea, including relations and co-operation between the two parliaments, as well as the political reforms in Myanmar were discussed today at a meeting between Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and a Korean delegation.

Ms PARK Young-sun, Chairperson of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, led the Korean delegation at the talks in the

Pyithu Hluttaw Building. Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Lee Baek Soon was also present at the talks.

Other officials at the meeting included Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairman U Thurain Zaw, Committee Secretaries U Saw Hla Tun, U Aye Mauk, and Commission member Daw Aye Aye Mu.

MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Organizing committees for ASEO, AEC to meet on 13 January

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Organizing committees for the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials' Meeting and the fifth meeting of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will meet at the Royal Kumudra Hotel here between 13-15 January.

Top on the agenda during the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials' Meeting will be discussions about the establishment of an ASEAN Economic Community, cooperation between the government and private sectors. ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) member countries are also scheduled to hold discussions with their partnership countries.

During the 5th meeting of AEC, the 16 work committees will report to the senior economic officials about the accomplished tasks.

A total of 150 representatives from ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretariat will attend the meetings.

MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo with Ms. PARK Young-sun, Chairperson of Legal Affairs and Legislative Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives First Secretary of US Embassy

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein received a delegation led by First Secretary Mr Machut A. Shishak of US Embassy

at the Hluttaw building here this evening. Both sides discussed parliamentary affairs and legal affairs between the two countries.—MNA (Edited by Kerstin Winter)



Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein receives a delegation led by First Secretary Mr Machut A. Shishak of US Embassy.—MNA

Uncut gemstones & utility jade sale starts in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—A utility jade and uncut gemstones sales started here on Sunday, with the event running until 10 January, according to the central committee organizing the sales.

About 1,300 gem mer-

chants came to inspect the precious stones in the Mani Yadana Jade Hall and showed great interest in the computer numerical control (CNC) machine and other machinery needed for the sale of the gems.

The event is under the

supervision of the Central Committee of Myanmar Gems Emporium which operates under the Ministry of Mines.

The sale will run till 10 January.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)
(Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Religious Affairs

Pyawbwe Tsp to organize exam for Buddhist monks

PYAWBWE, 6 Jan—A meeting to successfully organize exams for Buddhist monks was held in Pyawbwe Township on 4 January. Among the topics discussed were fundraising, accommodation and prize presentation to outstanding candidates.

Abbot Bhaddanta Sujana of Yayle Pali Tekkatho Monastery said the Pyawbwe Pariyatti Dhamma Nuggaha exams will be held during a three-day period from 9th to 12th “Waxing of Tabodwe month”, 1375 Myanmar Era, according to the lunar calendar.

Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Myint Soe highlighted the importance of religious affairs and vowed the exams — the third of such kind in the township — will be held successfully.

*Kyemon-Min Min Htwe/
Edited by Kerstin Winter*

Agriculture

Agriculture Department introduces production of hybrid sunflower seeds



PYAWBWE, 6 Jan— The Agriculture Department of Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region has demonstrated the production process of Yezin-1 hybrid

University of California.

Point B Design & Training is headquartered in the USA.

*Kyemon-694/Edited
by Kerstin Winter*

strain sunflower seeds.

The event was held at the Chaungmagyi seeds production farm on 3 January, with U Hla Myint Aung, Head of the Mandalay Region's Agriculture Department attending.

He urged farmers to follow suit and make use of the production of the sunflower seeds to increase the production of oil.

U Khin Maung Myint, the Head of the Yamethin District Agriculture Department, explained several methods to boost the production of sunflower seeds, with U Hla Nyein, manager of seeds production at the farm, demonstrating the production process of the hybrid sunflower seeds.

*Kyemon-Min Min Htwe/
Edited by Kerstin Winter*

Magway Region schools mark Family Day

MAGWAY, 6 Jan— Family Day in schools was celebrated across Magway Region, with the No 1 Basic Education High School in Magway marking the day on 5 January with several events.

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe

visited several booths that displayed information on computer science, biology and other subjects taught at the school.

Since some of the staff members and students had participated as volunteers in the recent SEA Games, the minister handed out gifts

and awarded several prizes to outstanding students of the 2013-14 academic year.

*Kyemon/Edited by
Kerstin Winter*

HRD

International NGO and Mawlamyine University sign MoU on education

MAWLAMYINE, 6 Jan— Mawlamyine University and a Bangkok-based NGO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on education focussing on marine science.

Dr Htay Aung, Rector of the university and Design Director Rochelle Ardesher of Point B Designer & Training

inked on 30 December the MoU that focuses on conducting training courses on education and social development with the support of international universities, including the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California.

The institutions will cooperate in research and

development of marine science subjects.

The signing of the MoU was attended by high-ranking officials, including Mon State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Hla Oo in Mawlamyine.

Rochelle Ardesher has worked for the marine science and academic research survey team of the

National Sports

Women's Futsal tournament kicks off in Magway Region

GANGAW, 6 Jan— A Women's Futsal Tournament kicked off

4 January in Gangaw township in the northwest of Myanmar, with officials

awarding the winners with several prizes.

Daw San San Oo, Chairperson of Gangaw District Women's Affairs Organization awarded the first prize to the Lapoh Village Basic Education Post-Primary School and the second prize to Gangaw Basic Education High School.

Six teams from basic education schools competed in the tournament.

*Kyemon-465/Edited
by Kerstin Winter*



Singu Tsp in Mandalay Region to increase cooperative activities

SINGU, 6 Jan— Officials of Mandalay Region and representatives from 65 cooperatives met on 2 January to discuss the management of micro-credits

and boosting the activities of the cooperatives in Singu Township. Singu Township has put an emphasis on rural development and poverty alleviation by disbursing

loans to micro-credit organizations to increase cooperative activities.

*Kyemon-Zaw Htaik
(PyinOoLwin)/Edited by
Kerstin Winter*

Medicines worth K 5 million donated to Hospital in Sagaing Region

DABAYIN, 6 Jan— A ceremony to hand over assorted medicines donated by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint to Dabayin People's Hospital

was held on 4 January in Shwebo District, in Sagaing Region. On behalf of the union minister, Taze Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Tin Myint

handed over 10 different kinds of medicines worth K 5 million to the Township Hospital.—*Kyemon-KK (Dabayin)/Edited by Kerstin Winter*

Journalists, reporters in meeting to develop PSM

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan— A meeting of journalists and reporters was held at Thabyaykon ward (in front of Aung Thabyay cinema), Zeyathiri Township, Nay

Pyi Taw Council Area, on 5 January.

In the meeting they discussed participation in surfing the difficulties, sharing news items to

emerge a news network and developing public service media.

*Min Min Latt (Mann
Tekkatho)/Edited by
Kerstin Winter*



REGIONAL

First community-led smoke-free zone on trail in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 6 Jan — Singapore's first community-led smoke-free zone went on trail on Sunday in the constituency of Nee Soon South, leaving only "designated points" in public areas that people could light up, local paper the *Straits Times* reported on Monday.

The one-year pilot project is aimed at improving the air quality in the communal spaces of the community. Under the project, six designated smoking

points are set up in the trail area named Nee Soon South Zone D.

The designated smoking points, each measuring 3 metres by 3 metres, are located in open-air areas like grass patches. Each has partitions on three sides, a parasol shelter and a cigarette disposal bin, the report said.

Smokers are urged to keep to the six designated points when they smoke in public in the zone. But the smokers will not be

penalised if they are caught lighting up away from the designated points, the *Straits Times* added.

"It's a voluntary ground-up initiative by residents," the paper quoted grassroots adviser Lee Bee Wah as saying.

The initiative follows the extension of the smoking restrictions that areas such as covered linkways and walkways, outdoor hospital compounds and common areas of residential

buildings are also included as the smoke-free zone one year ago. The offenders may be fined a penalty of up to 1,000 Singapore dollars (788.6 US dollars).

The residents in the area raised their concerns when the community initially announced their plan to be the first "100 percent smoke-free" constituency, which means smokers cannot puff in any place other than "designated points" in public areas.—*Xinhua*



Sushi made from a bluefin tuna that was bought for 7.36 million yen in the first auction of the year at Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market on 5 Jan, 2014, is offered later the same day at the nearby flagship restaurant of the Sushizanmai sushi restaurant chain.

KYODO NEWS

14 killed in stampede during religious gathering in NW China



An injured woman receives medical treatment at a hospital in Xiji Town of Guyuan City, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 5 Jan, 2013. Fourteen people were killed and ten people injured in a stampede during a religious gathering in Xiji on Sunday afternoon, according to the local government.

BEIJING, 6 Jan—14 people were killed and ten people injured in a stampede during a religious gathering in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on Sunday afternoon, according to the local government.

The stampede occurred at one o'clock pm during the process of handing out

traditional religious food to attendees at an event to commemorate a late religious figure in a mosque in Ningxia's Xiji Town of Guyuan city.

The injured were hospitalized immediately, with four in critical condition. Investigation is underway.

Xinhua

Nearly decade after tsunami, Aceh eyes becoming tourist destination

BANDA ACEH, 6 Jan — On a night in late December, in a coffee bar along a street in Indonesia's northernmost Aceh Province, around 70 young men and women were still hanging around, laughing and chatting.

This is Banda Aceh, nine years after a tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake devastated the provincial capital.

The disaster that struck on 26 December, 2004, wiped out Aceh's 800-kilometre coastline, leaving about 180,000 people dead in Aceh alone and some

100,000 others dead in other Indian Ocean countries such as India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Nine years on, Aceh is now thriving.

"Aceh has improved a lot," 55-year-old Banda Aceh resident Nurjanah said. Following the natural disaster, international assistance flowed into Aceh. More than 50 countries contributed to its infrastructure reconstruction. About 140,000 houses have been rebuilt, more than 250 km of roads have been paved and hundreds of schools have been built. The government



Photo shows a large ship in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on 26 Dec, 2013. The vessel, pushed inland by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, has become a local tourist attraction.—KYODO NEWS

has also preserved many reminders of the disaster as heritage sites. A 2,600-ton floating generator ship that was pushed some 3 km inland in Banda Aceh by the tsunami has become one of the local tourist attractions.

A smaller fishing boat that was lodged in a house

150 flights hit as thick fog envelopes Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 6 Jan—Some 150 flights were severely hit due to dense fog which enveloped the Indian capital since late Sunday night, a senior aviation official said on Monday.

"A total of 150 domestic and international flights have been affected. While a large number of domestic and international flights to the Indira Gandhi

International Airport were diverted to other cities, others have been delayed as the runaway visibility dropped below 50 meters due to thick fog," the official said.

The fog set in at the airport around 9.30 pm Sunday and stayed till 3.30 am this morning, he added.

Meanwhile, some 40 trains to the national capital

have also been running behind schedule and 10 others to different parts of northern India were delayed due to the fog, a senior Indian Railways official said.

The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted clear sky later in the day. Fog is common in northern India during the winter months of December and January.—*Xinhua*

Computer at Monju reactor found infected with virus

TOKYO, 6 Jan — A computer at the offline Monju experimental nuclear reactor complex in central Japan was found to be infected with a virus, a source close to the project said on Monday.

The server administrator noticed last Thursday that a single employee-use workstation at the prototype

fast-breeder reactor in Tsu-ruga, Fukui Prefecture, was not operating normally, the source said.

According to the source at the reactor operator, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, while data on the computer could have been breached outside the server, none of it is crucial to safety at the reactor. The JAEA is

investigating how the infection occurred while going over the data that could have been accessed.

The operator was admonished by the Nuclear Regulation Authority last November for breaching security rules aimed at protecting nuclear material from terrorism and other malicious acts.—*Kyodo News*

Gov't campaign to ensure migrant workers' wages

BEIJING, 6 Jan — The Chinese government on Monday launched a wages overhaul to ensure that millions of migrant workers from the country's rural regions get properly paid before they return home for a major traditional Chinese holiday. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said in a statement that five working teams will be sent to eight provinces including Zhejiang and Hubei to inspect employers' salary payments to migrant workers as well as local governments' related supervisory

work. The statement said that the campaign will urge local authorities to take effective measures to ensure migrant workers get paid in full before the Spring Festival, which falls on 31 January.

According to the statement, 10 ministries are participating in this campaign.

Violations by employers such as wage deductions and delays are an old problem in China that has pressed the government to conduct such a yearly overhaul in recent years to protect workers' rights.—*Xinhua*

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TRANS PACIFIC-5 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRANS PACIFIC-5 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S FORTUNE SHIPPING
AGENCY PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BLUE ANGEL VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE ANGEL VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VAN BLOOM SHIPPING
LTD CHINA

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ROYAL-18 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ROYAL-18 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256924/256914



Herdsman compete during a camel racing in Xi Ujim-qin Qi, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 5 Jan, 2014. A camel culture festival was held here on Sunday.—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 Enterpris
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (032)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DUN CAN BAY VOY NO (D 131301)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUN CAN BAY VOY NO (D 131301) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S DHL PROJECT AND
CHARTERING (CHINA) LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (833)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (833) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Kate Winslet was spotted doing her mommy chores on the streets of New York City, taking her children Mia, 8, and Joe, 5, to school. It's sweet to see a successful actress like Kate taking time off of her busy schedule to spend time with her children.

PTI

Kate Winslet: I prefer natural look

LONDON, 6 Jan — Actress Kate Winslet feels that she would rather go bare-faced than going too over the top with her make-up.

The 38-year old actress says she prefers a natural look as her children, who are her fashion critics, don't want her to overdo her make-up, reported *Contactmusic*.

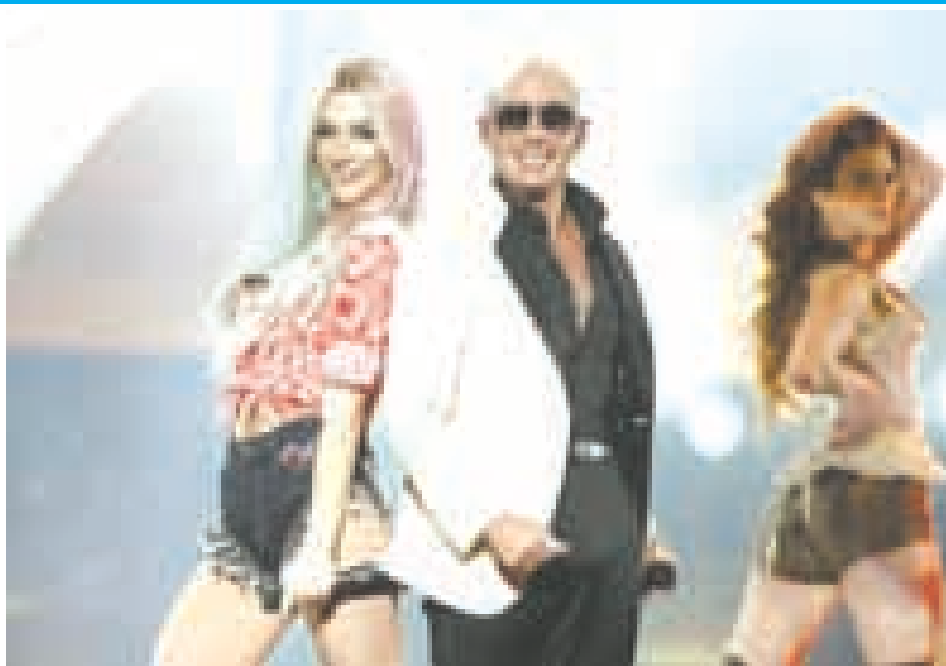
"I don't like wearing too much. I prefer a fresh look instead of heavy, smoking eyes. My children are great critics. They'll say, 'Why have you got all that stuff around your eyes?' and then I know it's

not a good look," Kate said.

Winslet has a 13-year old daughter Mia, 10-year old son Joe, and a 4-week old son Bear.

The Titanic star says her daughter is always asking to borrow her beauty products, but she only allows her to wear a few items on special occasions.

"I lend my daughter my beauty products but only as a treat. If she's going to a party I'll let her borrow mascara or moisturiser. She's only 13 and I always remind her how lucky she is to be using mummy's things," Kate added.—PTI



Pitbull performs his song "Timber" with Ke\$ha (L) at the 41st American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California on 24 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Pitbull and Ke\$ha top British music charts

LONDON, 6 Jan — American musicians Ke\$ha and Pitbull claimed the first British number one single of 2014 on Sunday, after their collaboration "Timber" racked up above-average sales for early January.

The newly-released single sold 139,000 copies to knock "Happy" by Pharrell Williams off the top spot and into second place, the Official Charts Company said.

Chart-toppers Ke\$ha

and Pitbull have each held the number one title twice before with solo singles or collaborations, but neither had hit the number one spot for more than two years until Sunday.

Avicii and Jason Derulo held on to third and fourth places respectively while British singer Ellie Goulding climbed to fifth spot with her charity single "How long will I love you".

Goulding had more to celebrate after racking up

her second number one album with "Halcyon" — an album first released in October 2012 and re-released in August 2013.

Its slow rise to the top pushed last week's number one artist, Robbie Williams, down to fourth, with Gary Barlow holding onto second place and Beyonce remaining at number three. John Newman's album "Tribute" made up the top five.

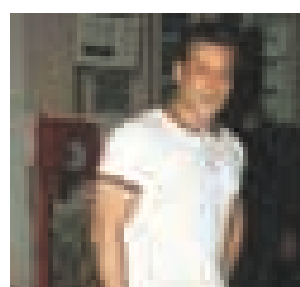
Reuters

Sholay the "dada of all movies" for Salman Khan

MUMBAI, 6 Jan — Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is in awe of Sholay 3D and the stars associated with it.

The 3D version of the cult movie Sholay came out on Friday.

Director Ramesh Sippy had pulled a casting coup for Sholay, which featured big names like Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Sanjeev Kumar, Amjad Khan, Hema Malini and Jaya Bachchan.



Salman said Sholay was like a journey.

Produced by G P Sippy, it became the biggest hit of 1975.

"Sholay — the dada of all movies. Go and see it, Amitji, Dharamji, Sanjeev Kumar, Hemaji, Amjad Khan, Jayaji, Aasraniji and Jagdeepji are superb," Salman, whose father Salim Khan co-scripted it with Javed Akhtar, tweeted on Friday.

The 48-year-old has called the movie "a journey", and said that he has never seen such a performance in any movie.—PTI

Margot Robbie feared getting sued for slapping Leonardo DiCaprio

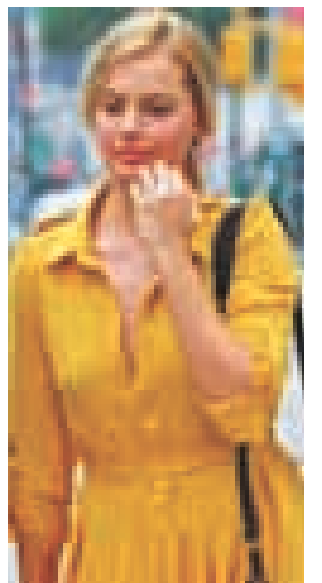
LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan — Actress Margot Robbie, who slapped Leonardo DiCaprio on the set of *The Wolf Of Wall Street*, says she was afraid that she will be sued for her action.

"I got a little lost in the moment. I slapped his face and said, 'F**k you!' There was a stunned silence then they all burst out laughing," *femalefirst.co.uk* quoted Margot Robbie.

"I'd thought they were going to sue me. I apologized profusely but Leo said, 'That was brilliant. Hit me in the face again!'" she added.

Directed by Martin Scorsese *The Wolf of Wall Street* is based on the true story of stockbroker Jordan Belfort. It also features Jonah Hill.

PTI



Actress Margot Robbie

Robert Pattinson dating British artiste?



LONDON, 6 Jan — Hollywood heartthrob Robert Pattinson has fuelled another dating rumour after he was reportedly spotted enjoying a couple of dates

Robert Pattinson visited a number of pubs with Nettie.

with a British artiste.

The 27-year-old Twilight star, who previously dated co-star Kristen Stewart, was recently seen visiting a number of London

pubs with Nettie Wakefield over the festive season, reported *Contactmusic*.

"They were very touchy-feely. They were trying to keep a low profile but Rob teased Nettie by messing with her hair and they had a flirty play fight. Afterwards they were giggling like teenagers," a source said.

Pattinson and Stewart fell for each other while filming the vampire romance series but suffered

a setback when Stewart's affair with her *Snow White* and the Huntsman director Rupert Sanders became public.

After the scandal and the couple tried to patch things up after a brief split before finally ending their three-year-old romance in May, last year.

The actor has been linked to many women post-split including Sean Penn's model daughter, Dylan.—PTI

SPORTS

Man United humbled by Swansea, West Ham humiliated by Forest



West Ham United's Modibo Maiga (bottom) challenges Nottingham Forest's Jamaal Lascelles during their FA Cup third round soccer match at the City Ground in Nottingham on 5 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

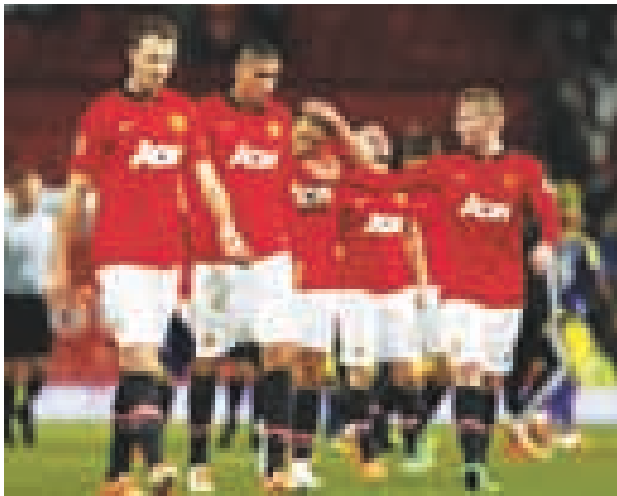
LONDON, 6 Jan — Manchester United suffered a stinging 2-1 home defeat by Swansea City in the FA Cup third round on Sunday as their former fortress of Old Trafford was ransacked for the fifth time this season.

Reduced to 10 men for the closing stages after Fabio was sent off, Swansea's battering ram striker Wilfried Bony climbed high to head home a powerful 90th-minute winner and leave United boss David Moyes to face questions about his management.

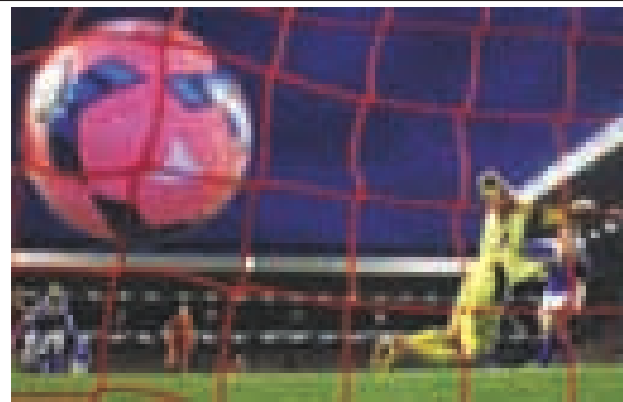
West Ham United's woes intensified as the Premier League club were thrashed 5-0 by second tier Nottingham Forest,

increasing the heat on their manager Sam Allardyce. Forest's Jamie

Paterson netted a hat-trick in the humiliating rout, but the spotlight was on



Manchester United players walk off the pitch after losing their English FA Cup soccer match against Swansea City at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 5 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS



Oldham Athletic's goalkeeper Mark Oxley fails to deflect teammate James Tarkowski's own goal during their FA Cup third round soccer match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool on 5 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Allardyce who was accused of waving the white flag by making nine changes to his starting line-up with an eye on the League Cup semi-final at Manchester City on Wednesday.

Chelsea showed their fellow Londoners how to negotiate a potentially tricky Cup tie in the east

Midlands, winning 2-0 at second tier Derby County.

Liverpool avenged last season's Cup defeat by Oldham Athletic, winning 2-0 at Anfield with Iago Aspas scoring his first goal for the club, and Sunderland also came through 3-1 against Carlisle.

Reuters

Hewitt grinds down Federer to claim Brisbane title

BRISBANE, 6 Jan — Roger Federer's hopes of starting the year with a long-overdue title ended in failure on Sunday when the Swiss was beaten by local hero Lleyton Hewitt in the Brisbane International final.

The 17-times grand slam champion, who won the last of his 77 titles last June, was beaten 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 by a typically gutsy Hewitt who ended a more than three-year title drought.

World number six Federer, who had led their rivalry 18-8 before the final, looked to have turned the match his way after recovering from a slow start but Hewitt showed responded to claim the title in a little

over two hours.

"To beat possibly the greatest player in the final means a lot," Hewitt said. "It's not an easy tournament to win. 'In the first set I was seeing the ball like a football. Didn't really matter where he served I was on it.'"

Federer had seven



Lleyton Hewitt

break points in the third set but failed to convert any of them as Hewitt ended a 15-match losing run against his fellow 32-year-old.

Despite the disappointment Federer remained hopeful for this month's Australian Open.

"I was able to sort of serve better overall, more consistent this week than I have in a long time — so that's very good," Federer, who had not dropped serve before the final, said.

"I definitely needed a little bit more confidence to play well and hopefully win the tournament and so forth.

"I have a clear idea what I need to work on and I have a clear idea where



Roger Federer

my mind and body is at."

Federer can scarcely have opened a match in worse touch.

He hit 22 unforced errors in the first set, lost three service games and performed a complete air-shot off one attempted backhand service return.

"I was really struggling with all sorts of rhythm,"

Federer said. "I wouldn't say I was serving poorly, but it was just a tough set for me. I was put on the back foot very often."

Hewitt did not lose a point on his first serve in the opening set, making just three unforced errors as he took command with his trademark precision.

Reuters

Clippers' Paul out for up to six weeks, no surgery needed

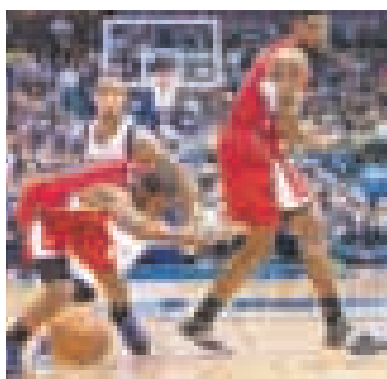
LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan — All-Star point guard Chris Paul will be sidelined for up to six weeks because of a separated right shoulder but will not require surgery, the Los Angeles Clippers said on Sunday.

The Clippers announced the prognosis after Paul, 28, had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam earlier in the day and was also re-evaluated by team doctors.

Paul suffered the injury during the third quarter of

the Clippers' 119-112 win against the Mavericks in Dallas on Friday when he tripped over guard Monta Ellis.

He has since been diagnosed with a joint separation and "will be out up to six weeks", the Clippers said in a statement. Paul, a six-time All-Star, has appeared in 34 games for the high-flying Clippers this season, averaging 19.6 points, a league-high 11.2 assists and 4.6 rebounds. The 23-13 Clippers, who sit tied for fourth in the 15-team Western Conference, were hammered 116-92 by the San Antonio Spurs on Saturday in their first game without Paul.—Reuters



On 3 Jan, 2014; Dallas, TX, USA; Los Angeles Clippers point guard Chris Paul (3) falls to the court while dribbling past Dallas Mavericks shooting guard Monta Ellis (11) during the second half at the American Airlines Centre.—REUTERS

Sanchez hat-trick returns Barca to La Liga summit

BARCELONA, 6 Jan — Alexis Sanchez hit a hat-trick as Barcelona swept aside Elche 4-0 to return to the top of La Liga on goal difference ahead of Atletico Madrid on Sunday. Showing no sign of missing the injured Lionel Messi and rested Neymar, Barca took an early lead through Sanchez and Pedro made it 2-0 after 15 minutes.

Xavi Hernandez missed a penalty at the start of the

second half before Sanchez added another and completed his hat-trick with a free kick. "It was important to win and not make mistakes at home. We scored good goals and worked hard. There are five tough months still to go," Pedro told reporters.

Barcelona play Atletico next weekend. "We know it is going to be difficult and we will go step by step," Pedro added. "First we face Getafe in the (King's) cup."

Barca and Atletico, who beat Malaga on Saturday, both have 49 points, eight more than third-placed Real Madrid who face Celta Vigo on Monday.—Reuters



Alexis Sanchez

No divers at Chelsea, says Mourinho

LONDON, 6 Jan — Chelsea are not a team of divers, according to manager Jose Mourinho, whose side had a player booked for the offence for the second week running on Sunday. Midfielder Ramires was cautioned by referee Andre Marriner for simulation in the FA Cup third round 2-0 victory over Derby County.

Fellow Brazilian Oscar received the same punishment from referee Martin Atkinson in the Premier League



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho

match against Southampton on New Year's Day. Both decisions came after Mourinho accused Liverpool's Luis Suarez of diving in the Londoners' 2-1 win at Stamford Bridge on 26 December.

"I maintain (there are no divers at Chelsea)," he told reporters. "Isolated episodes. The referees attacking it. The manager supporting the referees. I think we are doing well. Let's see if the others do the same as us. 'I was happy with the card because the referee, in this case (Martin) Atkinson, did well.'"

Reuters

GENERAL



Photo shows a "Red Army" division under the Shenyang Military Area Command (MAC) of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) taking its troops to a snow-covered forest to conduct winter training in Northeast China.

XINHUA

300,000 observers to monitor Afghanistan's election

KABUL, 6 Jan — Afghanistan's election body has revealed that 300,000 national and international observers will monitor the country's upcoming presidential elections slated for 5 April, local newspapers reported on Sunday.

"Up to 300,000 national and international observers would monitor the coming presidential elections," the English Daily Outlook Afghanistan reported, quoting Noor Mohammad Noor, the spokesman for the election commission.

Another newspaper, the *Mandegar Daily*, also quoted Noor in its Sunday

edition, as saying, "Invitations have been sent to international observers from the European Union and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation countries."

The spokesman for the Independent Election Commission (IEC) said "1,400 representatives of 120 local and international entities have already been listed by the election body to monitor."

Around 12 million of Afghanistan's 27 million population are estimated to be eligible voters.

However, the Hasht-e Subh newspaper reported

that the majority of the remote and militancy-plagued provinces including Nuristan, Daikundi and Helmand have not received voting cards so far.

Citing Nuristan provincial governor, Tamim Nuristani, the paper said that only 16,000 out of 70,000 eligible voters have obtained voting cards in one of the districts in the province. Legislator Nahid Farid has called on Afghan youth to fully use their suffrage in the coming elections, which is the third in the post-Taliban central Asian state, reported the newspaper.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(7-1-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am	2:45 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	19. Business News
6:30 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	20. News
6:40 am	3:15 pm
3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies	21. India Drama Series
6:50 am	4:00 pm
4. Documentary	22. News
7:00 am	4:15 pm
5. News/Weather Report	23. India Drama Series
7:20 am	4:45 pm
6. People Talks	24. University of Distance Education
7:35 am	(TV Lectures) - First Year (English)
7. Documentary	5:00 pm
8:00 am	25. News
8. News/ International News	5:15 pm
8:25 am	26. Business News
9. India Drama Seires	5:30 pm
9:00 am	27. India Drama Series
10. News/ International News	6:00 pm
9:25 am	28. News/Weather Report
11. Business News	6:20 pm
9:40 am	29. Teleplay
12. Documentary	6:45 pm
10:00 am	30. Documentary
13. News	7:00 pm
10:15 am	31. News
14. Documentary	7:20 pm
11:40 am	32. Teleplay
15. Tamyethnar Takwetsar	8:00 pm
12:00 pm	33. News/ International News/ Weather Report
16. News/International News/Weather Report	8:35 pm
12:25 pm	34. Hit Songs of Stars
17. Myanmar Video	9:00 pm
2:30 pm	35. News
18. Traditional Boxing	36. Sing A Song
	36. India Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

7-1-14 07:00 am ~ 8-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * Sittway, Evergreen Seaside Town
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- * Local News
- * Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)
- * World News
- * Quality Pearls from Myanmar Oysters
- * Local News
- * Lannakha Waterfall
- * World News
- * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- * 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

Australians buy record number of cars in 2013

SYDNEY, 6 Jan — Australians bought a record number of 1.14 million cars in 2013, figures released by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) showed on Monday.

The FCAI said Toyota Corolla was the top-selling car in 2013 market in Australia, with 43,498 sales recorded nation-wide during the year, followed by the Mazda3 (42,082), Toyota HiLux (39,931), Hyundai i30 (30,582) and Holden Commodore (27,766).

Toyota also took the title of top selling brand with 18.9 percent of the market.

FCAI Chief Executive Tony Weber said passenger cars remained the most

popular, accounting for 49.9 percent of the market.

"However, this is a slight decrease compared to 2012, where passenger cars held 51.7 percent of the market," Weber said in a statement.

"The SUV (sports utility vehicles) and light commercial segments increased their share of the market in 2013, holding 29.4 and 18 percent, respectively, compared to 27.6 and 17.8 percent in 2012."

The Australian-made Holden Commodore, Toyota Camry and Holden Cruze were all in the top ten list for sales in 2013, the FCAI said.

Xinhua

Holder Johnson in three-way tie for lead



Dustin Johnson

HAWAII, 6 Jan — Long-hitting Dustin Johnson remained on course for a successful title defence at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Hawaii as he ended a wildly fluctuating third round in a three-way tie for the lead on Sunday.

Johnson, who spectacularly eagled the par-five ninth after hitting a four-iron 211 yards to within two feet of the pin, fired a four-under-par 69 in sunny but breezy conditions at the picturesque Kapalua Resort.

He had a chance to

seize the outright lead at the par-five last but narrowly missed his birdie attempt from 15 feet to finish at 14-under 205, level with fellow Americans Webb Simpson (68) and Jordan Spieth (69).

Overnight leader Zach Johnson was two ahead of the chasing pack with seven holes to play but bogeyed 14 and 16 on the way to a 74 and fourth place at 12-under.

Dustin Johnson won last year's title, his seventh on the PGA Tour, by three shots in a tournament reduced to three rounds and forced to a rare Tuesday finish because of relentless howling winds at the Kapalua Resort.

He began Sunday's third round three strokes off

the pace and launched his timely surge up the leaderboard with his stunning eagle at the ninth.

"I hit a great drive down there right to the end of the fairway and had a good number, 211 (yards) with uphill," Johnson told Golf Channel. "I just hit a great four-iron right at the flag and it ended up being pretty close."

Asked how he would attempt to close the deal in Monday's final round in pursuit of his ninth PGA Tour victory, Johnson replied: "I've got to take advantage of the par-fives."

"Today, I made a birdie and an eagle but I parred the two on the back nine which is poor for me, especially (after) hitting good drives."—Reuters

President says development partners instrumental in policy making process



President U Thein Sein addresses Central Committee for Foreign Aid meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—President U Thein Sein has called for the recognition of development partners as stakeholders rather than donors and said their cooperation should be utilized as development tools in the policy making process.

Speaking today at the meeting of the Central Committee for Foreign Aid at the President's Office, U Thein Sein stressed the need to build trust between the government's foreign aid management committee and international donors.

He highlighted the importance of the development of strategies and tactics best

suited for a local context.

Chairing the committee, he said that foreign assistances would be sought as required by the country's development objectives, reform strategies and areas of priority.

He revealed that poverty alleviation and socio-economic improvement of the rural population that makes 70 percent of the entire population are priorities in the government's development scheme.

The government has been working on its framework on economic and social reform through a people-centered approach for 34

months.

It has set accessibility of electricity and water, agricultural development, employment, tourism development, monetary sector development, and trade and investment development as priorities for the last 26 months of its term.

The President said international grants, loans and technical assistances have been flowing into the country, a shift from the government-funded development projects to projects funded by international development partners.

A brief on projects needing foreign grants and loans

was given by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw.jklul"

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein elaborated on loans and due dates for payment.

The President also called for the participation of all stakeholders in the policy making process by initiating regional development projects.

He said the government recognized the assistances of the international community, institutions, non-governmental organizations and supporters of development projects.

He also called for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of each project.

The president urged those present at the meeting to ensure transparency, effectiveness and thorough administration in managing the projects.

He also said a series of reforms initiated by the government has put the country again on the world map.

Myanmar organized the first-ever Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum from January 19-20 followed by the declaration of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord. The second forum will be organized later this month, according to the President.

He also said most of the projects are in implementation process and the systematic management of the loans, aids and technical assistances would show significant outcomes within 26 months.

The meeting was attended by several officials, including Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Civil Services Board Chairman, Region and State Chief Ministers and Chairmen of Leading Body of Self-Administered Division and Zones.

MNA(Edited by Kerstin Winter)

Merkel in skiing accident, cancels visits

BERLIN, 6 Jan—German Chancellor Angela Merkel has fractured her pelvis in a cross-country skiing accident and is walking with the help of crutches, forcing her to call off some foreign vis-



File photo of German Chancellor Angela Merkel standing next to the Egi Glacier near the town of Ilulissat in Greenland, 17 August, 2007.

Credit—REUTERS

its and official appointments, her spokesman said on Monday. Merkel fell while skiing over the Christmas vacation. What she first thought was heavy bruising turned out to be a partial fracture, meaning

she must take it easy for three weeks and work from home where possible, said her spokesman Steffen Seibert.

The news comes a week after Germany was shocked by the far more serious skiing accident of former Formula One champion Michael Schumacher, who is in critical condition in a French hospital.

"The chancellor is of course able to work and is in full communication," said Seibert. He added that Merkel's accident occurred "at low speed" but he declined to give further details.

The 59-year-old chancellor, a keen hiker who has said she prefers cross-country to downhill skiing, has

postponed a visit to Warsaw scheduled for Wednesday and a meeting in Berlin with Luxembourg's new prime minister, Xavier Bettel.

But she will lead her first cabinet meeting of 2014 on Wednesday. Merkel began her third term last month after sealing a "grand coalition" of her conservatives and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD).

Merkel will not attend the World Economic Forum later this month but not because of her skiing accident, Seibert said, adding that the meeting in Davos at the end of January clashed with a scheduled German government meeting.

Reuters

Arrangement for media to cover AMM (Retreat)

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan — Journalists can register at the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information to cover the ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting Retreat, AMM (Retreat) which will be held in Bagan from 15 to 18 January. Contact persons for the registration are U Ye Naing (General Manager), Ph: 067-36137; 067-412119; 09-8306358, U Hlaing Myint (Director), Ph: 067-412126; 09-49205014. Journalists can send their registration forms to npemai@gmail.com and myogyi.npe@

gmail.com and media can collect accreditation cards at the NPE to cover the vents of the meeting. Foreign Journalists can apply visa at nearby Myanmar embassies and can download the visa format asean2014 summit, more detail, ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meetings Retreat, AMM (Retreat) on www.asean2014.gov.mm. The media persons are to arrive there not later than 10th January.

For more information, anyone can contact U Hlaing Myint, Director, News and Periodicals Enterprise.—MNA