

Athletes urged to make utmost efforts in 7th ASEAN Para Games to be able to sweep gold medals for bringing honour to the State

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— Every country that hosted the SEA Games must hold the 7th ASEAN Para Games and Myanmar will hold the games in the near future, adding that stadiums and gymnasiums are now ready to host the games, said President U Thein Sein in meeting with the athletes who will take part in the ASEAN Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, this morning.

Myanmar has successfully hosted the XXVII SEA Games, winning praises of ASEAN countries and globe. Myanmar selected athletes uplifted the prestige of the nation by securing the second prize in the medal tally of the XXVII SEA Games. Now, the government is fulfilling all requirements of the ASEAN Para Games for successes of the games and athletes.

He stressed the need for athletes to make utmost efforts in the games to be able to sweep the gold medals for bringing honour to the State. The Myanmar athletes are to show off their brilliant skills in all events of competitions fairly. The government attends to the needs of food and accommodation, health and



President U Thein Sein gives words of encouragement to athletes.—MNA

training and will honour the medalists with deservedly awards.

The 7th ASEAN Para Games will take place at the stadium and gymna-

sium of Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex from 14 to 20 January. The games consist of archery, athletics, Boccia, blindfold chess, football 7-a-side, football

5-a side, goal ball, power lifting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball sitting, and wheelchair basketball events. Over 1100 athletes from 11 ASEAN countries

including 213 from host Myanmar will take part in the Games.

Before meeting with the athletes, the President viewed training of wheel-

chair athletes at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B).

The ceremony was also attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Chairman of (See page 8)

Rural Development Ministry to initiate Jade Green Project to encourage farmers



Article: Ye Khaung Nyunt & Myat Thanda Maung

The Ministry of Livestock and Fishery and Rural Development is initiating Jade Green Project with focus on development of farming, according to Deputy Chief Engineer of Rural Development Department U Khant Zaw.

The ministry will spend K 30 million for each village covered by the scheme. "We will implement the project in about 1000 villages across the nation. As it is only about to take off the ground, our project can't still cover the whole country," U Khant Zaw said. He continued to say that the loan scheme under the project would be drafted

in detail.

The ministry has currently shortlisted more 1000 villages from 45 townships around the country for the project coverage, according to the department.

The government will solely fund the project which will offer stimulus packages for local farmers including small loans for farming and other business activities.

"We have intended to provide low-interest loans to the poor. It would increase production and income," said one of its organizers.

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Poster of anti-human trafficking in person erected in Mongphyat



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Kayin State Minister for Agriculture and Live-stock Breeding U Saw Christopher and officials together with U Saw My-int Than and workers of Phayagon Village Peace Group release fingerlings into Kawkadahlaing Lake near Kawkada Village of Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on 7 January.
MMAL-KAYIN STATE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Kennedy Green Group in activity of conservation of flora and fauna in Chin State

KENNEDY, 10 Jan—A sticker campaign on conservation of cherry and rhododendron at cars was held in Khinekam Village of Tiddim Township, Chin State, last month.
Chin Hill Kennedy



Green Group aims its campaign to share knowledge conservation of environment on Chin Hill.

The activity was based on climate change due to deforestation on Chin Hill year after year, gradual scarcity of cherry and rhododendron flowers in Chin State and protection of flora and fauna in the region, said a responsible person of Chin Hill Kennedy Green Group.

It was reported that Chin State Government is expected to allow the activity on conservation of cherry and rhododendron plants.

The green group runs its activities with participation of about 30 members in regrowing flowery plants, conserving forests and undertaking philanthropic works in Tiddim Township as part of efforts for environmental conservation in Chin State.—Kyemon-Zo Hae Hsa (IPRD)

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines. Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander

of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).—MNA

Construction

Inter-village road creates smooth transport among 10 villages

MEIKTILA, 10 Jan—The people residing in 10 villages of Meiktila Township, one of the large city in Mandalay Region of central Myanmar, have enjoyed smooth transport thanks to completion of three miles long and 18 feet wide Myaukle-Thayetbin inter-village road.

“People from villages of Myaukle and Thayetbin village-tracts get easy access to various villages in the township as the inter-village road has been completed. The people can now take about one hour from Kyosu village to Thayetbin village located near Meiktila-Kyauk-padaung Road. In the past, they spent about



Photo shows newly-completed inter-village road from Myaukle to Thayetbin villages.

two hours for the route by cart. Now, vehicles large and small use the new inter-village road smoothly,” said a local of Kyosu Village.

The region government spent K 20 million on con-

struction of the earthen road through the rural development fund. It was completed in the first week of January this year.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Poster of anti-human trafficking in person erected in Mongphyat



MONGPHYAT, 10 Jan—A ceremony to put up the poster bearing the anti-human trafficking was held beside the Union Highway near the

people’s park in front of Basic Education High School in Mongphyat, Eastern Shan State, on 8 January.

Responsible persons

from Myanmar Police Force and World Vision gave lectures on prevention against trafficking and smuggling in persons, rights of the child, and traffic rules at the hall of Mongphyat BEHS.

A similar talk was given in Hona Village.

Police officers and township law officer explained crime reduction, penalties and present efforts for anti-human trafficking.

The ceremony were attended by students, departmental officials and local people.—Kyemon-Wai Yan Lin (Mongphyat)

Anti-human Trafficking Drives

Anti-human trafficking in persons clarified in Gangaw

GANGAW, 10 Jan—Magway Region Women’s Affairs Organization held the talks on anti-human trafficking in persons at Basic Education High School in Shonshi Village of Gangaw Township, Magway Region, in the northwest of the nation on 26 December.

At the talks, prevention of girls against violence was clarified.

Patron of the organization Daw San San Myint and departmental officials explained prevention against human trafficking in persons and protection of girls against violence.

Next, the patron presented uniforms to the village organization chairperson.



The chairperson of the township organization handed

over membership applications to Chairperson of Region

WAO Daw Thin Thin Htwe. Kyemon-465

WORLD

Obama announces first five “promise zones” to tackle poverty

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Thursday announced five “promise zones” as part of his efforts to focus on income inequality and poverty.

“I will work with anybody who’s willing to lay out some concrete ideas to create jobs, help more middle-class families find security in today’s economy, and offer new ladders of opportunity for folks to climb into the middle class,” said Obama at an event in the White House as he unveiled the first five “promise zones.”

The five designated zones are located in San

Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Southeastern Kentucky and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. They would be eligible for tax breaks and other forms of federal support.

Obama first announced the “promise zone” initiative in his State of the Union speech last year.

Obama said then his administration planned “to partner with 20 of the hardest-hit towns in America to get these communities back on their feet. We’ll work with local leaders to target resources at public safety, and education, and housing.”



US President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington DC, the United States, on 9 Jan, 2014. Obama on Thursday announces five “promise zones”, located in San Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Southeastern Kentucky and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, as part of his effort to focus on income inequality and poverty. —XINHUA

The initiative is part of Obama’s plan to create a better bargain for the middle class by partnering with local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, expand

educational opportunities, increase access to quality, affordable housing and improve public safety, according to the White House. Another 15 zones will be launched in the next three years.—Xinhua

Japan, Oman agree to bolster cooperation in maritime security



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Oman’s Sultan Qaboos bin Said shake hands before their talks in Muscat, Oman, on 9 Jan, 2014. KYODO NEWS

MUSCAT, 10 Jan — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Oman’s Sultan Qaboos bin Said agreed on Thursday to expand cooperation to ensure the security of sea lanes through steps that include anti-piracy measures, Japanese officials said.

On the first leg of his weeklong trip to the Middle East and Africa, Abe met the sultan and they reaffirmed that making the sea lanes safe is vital to international peace and prosperity, the officials said.

In a joint statement

released after their talks, Tokyo welcomed Oman’s continued efforts to supply petroleum and natural gas to Japan.

Japan has sharply increased fuel imports to boost power generation due to the idling of all its nuclear reactors amid safety concerns following the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in March 2011. The two nations agreed to encourage Japanese companies to take part in Oman’s oil and natural gas projects, the officials said.

Abe and the sultan also welcomed a basic agreement on a bilateral investment deal to facilitate the operations of Japanese and Omani companies in each other’s country. Abe vowed that Japan will work toward achieving peace and stability in the international community including the Middle East based on his policy of making Japan

a “proactive contributor to peace.”

Other agreements included launching a strategic dialogue between their foreign ministries, promoting defense exchanges and stepping up their cooperation in the energy sector using Japan’s advanced technology, the officials said.

With the trip to Oman, Abe has visited all six oil producers making up the Gulf Cooperation Council since taking office late 2012, underscoring his government’s emphasis on the Middle East.

Japan has been in talks since 2006 with the GCC -- which also includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar -- on liberalizing trade in goods and services.

Kyodo News

Iran’s Khamenei says nuclear talks show US enmity

TEHERAN, 10 Jan — Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Thursday that nuclear negotiations with world powers had revealed US enmity towards the Islamic state.

Khamenei was speaking hours before the resumption of talks between Iran and the European Union in Geneva. “We had announced previously that on certain issues, if we feel it is expedient, we would negotiate with the Satan (the United States)

Abbas Araqchi, told state television in Geneva.

US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman took part in the meeting between Iran and the EU and held a separate bilateral meeting with Iranian officials, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a briefing in Washington. The Geneva deal was designed to halt Iran’s nuclear advances for six months to buy time for negotiations on a final settlement. Scope for diplomacy widened after Iran elected the pragmatic Hassan



Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. REUTERS

to deter its evil,” Khamenei told a gathering, reported by the official IRNA news agency.

Talks between Iran and the EU started in Geneva on Thursday to discuss the practical details of implementing a nuclear agreement reached in Geneva in November, an EU spokeswoman in Brussels said.

“I hope during the two-day talks we can resolve the remaining technical issues which are based on our different interpretation of text of the November accord,” Iran’s top negotiator,

Rouhani as president in June.

He had promised to reduce Teheran’s isolation and win an easing of sanctions. Despite fierce criticism by political and religious hardliners, who see the agreement as an infringement of Iranian sovereignty, Khamenei had previously backed the accord.

Under the deal, Iran will curb its atomic activities in return for some easing of the international sanctions that have battered the oil producer’s economy.

Reuters

Yingluck says gov’t can control situation during “Bangkok shutdown”

BANGKOK, 10 Jan — The government is capable of controlling the situation during the planned “Bangkok shutdown” by protesters next Monday, caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said here on Friday, adding people should continue living their lives in the city as usual.

Yingluck said more than 20,000 police and military would be deployed in important areas in Bangkok on that day to maintain

peace and order.

She called on all parties to look for ways out of the political crisis through the stage of the government’s reform council, which will operate in parallel with the 2 February election.

Yingluck said a general election is necessary, because the country’s administration would be disrupted without a House of Representatives, and insisted that she could not step down at this moment as required by

law until the new government is in place.

However, Yingluck admitted that she is concerned the “third hand” groups would take this opportunity to incite violence.

On the report that the armed force would act as a mediator in arranging peace talks between the government and the anti-government People’s Democratic Reform Committee, Yingluck said she is ready for talks.—Xinhua

Afghanistan to free 72 inmates seen “dangerous” by US

KABUL, 10 Jan — The Afghan government said on Thursday it would set free 72 out of 88 suspected Taliban inmates regarded by the United States as “dangerous” prisoners from Bagram prison near the capital.

“A judicial and justice meeting chaired by Afghan President Hamid Karzai was held in Presidential Palace earlier today,” the palace said in a statement.

The meeting ordered a

board which is in charge of reviewing the Bagram prisoners’ cases to free 45 prisoners who are innocent and against whose cases there is no evidence, the statement said.

The statement noted that there was inadequate and insufficient evidence on another 27 cases, and the captives were jailed only for simple intelligence tips.

The prison, which was named Parwan Detention Center after the United

States handed it over to the Afghan government in March, houses more than 3,000 suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda operatives.

Afghanistan had recently released more than 650 prisoners and said more detainees will be freed in coming months, a decision opposed by the US military, who said some of the detainees are dangerous and would rejoin Taliban if released.

Xinhua

Afghan's Karzai not seen meeting US deadline on security deal

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — US efforts to persuade Afghan President Hamid Karzai to sign a long-term security agreement according to Washington's timetable will likely fail,

the lead American negotiator has warned the Obama administration, the *Washington Post* reported on Thursday.

In a classified cable that the *Post* said was

transmitted in recent days, US Ambassador James Cunningham wrote that he did not think Karzai would agree to sign the agreement before Afghanistan's presidential election in April, the newspaper said, citing US officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States wants the Afghanistan government to sign the agreement in matter of weeks if a contingent of US troops is to remain there after 2014, the White House said on Monday. Without a deal, the United States could pull out all troops, the "zero option," leaving Afghan forces to battle the Taliban on their own.

Karzai has called that an empty threat and

suggested any security deal could wait until after the April elections. The United States has 46,000 troops in Afghanistan, but that figure is set to fall to 34,000 by early 2014.

In another move likely to strain US-Afghan ties, a spokesman for Karzai said on Thursday that Afghanistan had enough evidence to try only 16 of 88 prisoners the United States considers a threat to security and plans to free the remaining detainees.

Washington strongly opposes their release because it says the prisoners being held in Afghanistan have been involved in the wounding or killing of US and coalition troops.

Reuters



Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai addresses media representatives during a Press interaction in New Delhi on 14 Dec, 2013. — REUTERS



Photo shows the Great Temple of Ramses II in Abu Simbel, Egypt, a UNESCO World Heritage site, on 21 Dec 2013. —KYODO NEWS

US presses sides in South Sudan to sign pact to cease hostilities

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — The White House on Thursday urged both sides in the deadly conflict in South Sudan to sign an agreement to cease hostilities immediately.

South Sudanese rebels rejected a government plan on Wednesday to end a dispute over detainees and unblock peace talks aimed at halting fighting that has killed at least 1,000 people in the world's youngest state.

Three weeks of fighting, often along ethnic faultlines, has pitted President Salva Kiir's SPLA government forces against rebels loyal to former vice president Riek Machar and brought the oil-exporting nation close to civil war.

President Barack Obama's national security adviser Susan Rice said in a statement it was the responsibility of both leaders to make sure their country was not marred by more violence. "Mr Machar, in particular, must commit to a cessation of hostilities without precondition," Rice said.

"His continued insistence on the release of detainees as a pre-condition for a cessation of hostilities is unacceptable and runs counter to the express will of the detainees."

Both sides met face-to-face for the first time on Tuesday in Addis Ababa in a bid to agree a ceasefire but faced new delays after Kiir refused a rebel demand to release 11 detainees, who were arrested last year over an alleged coup plot.

On Wednesday, the government proposed to shift the peace talks to the United Nations compound in Juba, enabling the 11 detainees to attend the negotiations during the day and return to custody in the evening.

South Sudan's presidential spokesman said the rebels appeared to reject that. "The United States is disappointed that the detainees being held by the government of South Sudan have not yet been released," Rice said. "The United States reiterates its call upon President

Reuters

S Korean, US marines to hold large-scale landing exercise

SEOUL, 10 Jan — South Korean and US marines are scheduled to hold a large-scale landing exercise in late March in an apparent show of force against a possible provocation from North Korea, a Seoul daily reported on Friday.

"A solid defence posture between South Korea and the United States is absolutely necessary to cope well with a contingency in North Korea, and the landing exercise of South Korean and US marines will become an example," an unidentified South Korean senior military officer told the *Dong-A*

Ilbo newspaper.

Calls have been mounting in South Korea to be prepared for a possible emergency situation that may arise from the execution of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle Jang Song Thaek.

North Korea's state media announced Jang's execution last month, labeling him a "traitor for all ages."

The exercise, involving about 10,000 troops in total and the second of its kind since the first held in 2011, will be staged off the southeastern port of Pohang. The number of

participating troops will be increased from the previous one and more weaponry will be mobilized for the exercise, another military officer said in the report.

Meanwhile, a Defence Ministry spokesman, asked to confirm the exercise during a news briefing, declined to go into details.

"Annual joint exercises with the United States are previously scheduled and held entirely of a defensive nature," Wi Yong Seop said.

Separately from the landing drill, South Korea and the United States will next month begin their annual command-post exercise.

The computer-based simulation, called Key Resolve, will be held for two weeks in late February to early March to improve the combined forces' operation and combat capabilities to deter threats from the North, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

Following Key Resolve, a joint field training exercise called Foal Eagle will run through the end of April to test the combat readiness of South Korean and US forces.

Spokesman Wi said details on the joint exercises have not yet been finalized and talks are under way.

Kyodo News

Singapore supermarket tycoon's mother abducted in rare kidnap case

SINGAPORE, 10 Jan — Two men were charged with kidnapping on Friday in Singapore after the elderly mother of a supermarket tycoon was abducted and held for ransom, a rare instance in a country that prides itself on its low crime rate. Lim Hock Chee, founder and chief executive of Sheng Siong Group Ltd, said his mother, 79, was lured into a car on Wednesday morning by a man who said he had seen her son injured in a bad fall.

The kidnappers then called Lim and demanded a S\$20 million (\$16 million) ransom. After almost 12 hours of negotiations, Lim

left S\$2 million in a bag under a tree in a park, and his mother was then released in the early hours of Thursday morning.

"This was a very scary experience, every minute was in fear," Lim said in a video posted on the website of the *Straits Times* daily.

The two men were arrested an hour after the victim's release, according to the Singapore Police Force and the money recovered. They were charged in court on Friday morning. Lim is the 35th richest man in Singapore according to *Forbes Singapore* in 2013, with a net worth of S\$654 million.

Reuters



Policemen guide a dog to exercise a drill of seeking out explosive devices and materials held at Yinchuan train station in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 9 Jan, 2014. Several measures have been taken to ensure the security of Spring Festival travel rush, as China's transportation system has to undergo a challenge during every Spring Festival holidays.

XINHUA

Brazil, Singapore agree to waive tourist visas requirement

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Jan — Brazil and Singapore agreed to mutually waive tourist visas requirements for their citizens, according to Thursday's Government Gazette.

The agreement, set to take effect in the next few days, applies to leisure visits of no more than 30 days, and will only require travelers to produce valid passports.

No changes are made to requirements for work,

resident or other types of visas.

Brazil has similar agreements with other countries. For example, citizens of Mercosur (Southern Common Market) member countries only need official ID cards to travel to any other member countries.

European Union countries do not require visas from Brazilians who stay for less than 30 days, but valid passports are necessary.—Xinhua

WORLD

Pakistan's ex-president Zardari appears before anticorruption court

ISLAMABAD, 10 Jan—Pakistan's former President Asif Ali Zardari appeared before an anticorruption court on Thursday in connection with graft allegations dating from the 1990s, for the first time since his five-year presidency ended last September.

Zardari's lawyer Farooq Naik told reporters outside the Accountability Court that the five cases filed against the former president, who is currently co-leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, are all "baseless."

Thursday's case relates to the illegal construction of a polo ground at the prime

minister's official residence during the 1993-1996 premiership of wife, the late Benazir Bhutto.

He is also accused of receiving kickbacks or commissions related to the import of gold and silver and the import of tractors, as well as kickbacks and money-laundering related to customs contracts given to two Swiss companies.

The cases could not be pursued during Pervez Musharraf's decade-long rule that ended in 2008 as Zardari was abroad, while during his own 2008-2013 presidency, he enjoyed immunity from prosecution.

Kyodo News



The batch of rebels who have joined the ranks of the Libyan army board a plane to Italy to receive training under a plan of rebuilding the Libyan army in Tripoli, Libya, on 9 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

Syrian pro-gov't activists protest "UN inaction" on rebels attacks

DAMASCUS, 10 Jan — A group activists on Thursday held a sit-in before the UN headquarters in the Syrian capital of Damascus to express discontent to what they called "UN inaction" on the rebels' attacks in some Syrian cities.

Hoisting Syria's flags, dozens of activists protest before the UN headquarters in al-Mazzeah District, western Damascus. They said there was "inaction and lack of condemnation" from the UN toward the rebels' attacks, particularly the latest one that targeted Adra Umaliyeh city north of Damascus.

"We are here to say that we are fed up with the UN's silence toward the crimes that have been taking place in Syria, especially the ones committed in Adra Umaliyeh. So how long are they going to remain silent and do nothing

about the crimes?" Taif Ali, a pro-government activist, said at the sit-in.

Rebels from al-Qaeda-linked groups stormed Adra Umaliyeh last month and started sectarian-motivated mass killing against the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam to which the ruling elites in Syria belong.

People fleeing the city spoke of unimaginable atrocities committed by jihadists.

The Syrian army have been besieging the city where the rebels have entrenched in residential areas and taken civilians as human shields, according to state media.

Yet, the military forces evacuated about 10,000 people from Adra, a city of 100,000 residents, who are largely government supporters.

Xinhua

Photo shows a cleaner working on a main street of Singapore on 9 Jan, 2014. Singapore, whose government has persistently rejected calls to adopt minimum wages for low-paid jobs, will soon make an exception for cleaners, obligating companies to pay them at least \$1,000 (US\$786) a month, and will later act to ensure decent pay for security guards.

KYODO NEWS



Mubarak's last PM interested in running for Egyptian presidency

CAIRO, 10 Jan — Ousted Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak's last prime minister, Ahmed Shafik, said in a television interview broadcast on Thursday that he would run for president if the army chief does not contest elections.

"I believe now I will run for the presidency," Shafik told Al Qahira Wil Nas television, adding that he would compete if army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi stayed out of the race that is expected later this year.

Shafik left Egypt last year after being defeated in the presidential election by Mohamed Mursi, the Muslim Brotherhood politician since overthrown by the army and now on trial for conspiracy and inciting violence while in office.

Last month, Egyptian courts acquitted him in one corruption case and shelved another.

Shafik's return would reflect a shift in the balance of power in Egypt since the army removed Mursi and set the Arab world's

largest nation on a new course designed to lead to presidential and parliamentary elections.

The next milestone is a 14-15 January referendum on a new constitution.

Shafik, a former air force commander who cited Mubarak as a role model during his election campaign, lost narrowly to Mursi in the run-off. Speaking from the United Arab Emirates, Shafik said it was possible he would return to Cairo to vote in the referendum.—Reuters

15 killed in clashes, attacks in western in Iraq

RAMADI, 10 Jan — At least 15 people, including eight al-Qaeda militants, were killed and eight others wounded in clashes and attacks in Iraq's western province of Anbar and near Baghdad on Thursday evening, police said.

A police commando force fought a fierce clash with al-Qaeda militants in a desert area near the town of Khaldiyyah, some 80 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, killing eight militants and destroying three of their vehicles, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Also in Anbar, a car

bomb detonated near the house of Sheikh Zamil al-Ghanimi, a tribal leader and a leader of a government-backed Sahwa paramilitary group in al-Soufiyah district in the northeast of the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding two others, the source said. Ghanimi himself escaped the attack as he was not at home when the blast occurred, the source added.

Meanwhile, an army force chased three gunmen carrying roadside bombs in their car and shot them dead in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of

Baghdad, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

Earlier in the evening, a provincial police source told Xinhua that three police commandos were killed and six others wounded when a suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near a crowd of members of a Special Weapons and Tactics force in al-Soufiyah district in Ramadi. Earlier on Thursday, Anbar Province has been the scene of sporadic fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi in late December.—Xinhua

The wreckage of a destroyed vehicle is seen at the blast site in Karachi, Pakistan, on 9 Jan, 2014. At least four policemen including a senior officer were killed and 11 others injured when a bomb went off near a police convoy in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Thursday afternoon, local media and officials said.—XINHUA



Australia welcomes top ranking in nuclear security

CANBERRA, 10 Jan—Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop on Friday welcomed Australia's top ranking in a global review of nuclear security by the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

As in the previous ranking in 2012, Australia has been ranked first this year in the Nuclear Threat Initiative's assessment of nuclear security in 25 countries with weapons-usable nuclear materials. The rest of the top five country in the ranking are Canada, Switzerland, Germany and Norway. Nuclear Threat Initiative, a non-government organization that works to reduce global threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, said Australia improved its score from 2012 by reducing quantities of materials and ratifying a key international legal agreement that commits states to criminalize acts of nuclear terrorism.

The ranking complements the findings of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Physical Protection Advisory Service mission in November 2013 which concluded that nuclear security within Australia has long been of a high standard and has been significantly enhanced in recent years. "Australia looks forward to promoting strong outcomes at the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands and will continue its active engagement on nuclear security and safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency and regionally through the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network," the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said in a statement.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

IBM to invest \$1 billion to create new business unit for Watson

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — IBM (IBM.N) said it will invest more than \$1 billion to establish a new business unit for Watson, as the tech giant hopes to get more revenue from the super-computer system that beat humans on the television quiz show “Jeopardy”.

The world’s largest technology service provider said the IBM Watson Group will be headed by Michael Rhodin, who was previously senior vice president of IBM’s software solutions group. IBM said the investment includes a \$100 million equity fund to boost innovation at its Watson Developers Cloud, which it opened up to external application developers last year. The unit will have about 2,000 employees and will be based in New York City.

Watson, which beat expert “Jeopardy” quiz show contestants in 2011, is an artificial intelligence super computer system named after legendary International Business Machines President Thomas Watson.

Using natural language

capabilities and analytics, Watson processes information akin to how people think, allowing it to quickly analyze and interpret large amounts of data. IBM said it has shrunk Watson to the size of three stacked pizza boxes from its

original size of a master bedroom. Under the Watson Group, IBM will offer the technology, which is delivered over the cloud and can power new consumer and enterprise apps, to businesses and industries as well as to consumers. IBM said it decided to establish the unit because of strong demand for cognitive computing.

Reuters



A worker is pictured behind a logo at the IBM stand on the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 26 Feb, 2011.—REUTERS

ECB on “wait and see” mode: economists

LONDON, 10 Jan — The European Central Bank (ECB)’s decision to leave interest rates on hold but to step up the verbal tone put it on “wait and see” mode, economists said on Thursday. The ECB’s assessment of economic conditions remained unchanged despite the latest drop in headline inflation and the fall of core

inflation to an all-time low. The ECB kept the refi rate at 0.25 percent as expected and the deposit rate at 0 percent. It still expects a gradual and weak recovery, with risks surrounding the economic outlook still on the downside, which is no change from the December meeting.

According to ECB

President Mario Draghi, the latest inflation drop was mainly driven by statistical quirks. Risks to the inflation outlook remain balanced, with Draghi saying there were “limited upside risks and limited downside risks.” Matteo Cominetta, eurozone economist with HSBC Global Research, said, “The ECB is not

currently considering immediate action.” Cominetta said the ECB’s “wait-and-see mode” was spelled out quite clearly by Draghi with his reiteration of the fact that the ECB stands ready to act, but that it will do so in two specific circumstances that both entail deterioration from the current situation.—Xinhua



The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is pictured on the company’s headquarters in Basel on 4 Feb, 2009. REUTERS

Roche’s Tamiflu for children temporarily in short supply in US

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — In what is shaping up to be a tough and widespread flu season in the United States, one of the leading medicines used to treat children with the sometimes deadly virus is in short supply. “There has been strong and early demand for Tamiflu Oral Suspension (OS) and we are experiencing a temporary delay in the packaging of Tamiflu OS,” said Tara Iannuccillo, a spokeswoman for Roche Holding AG’s Genentech unit which manufactures the drug and uses distributors

to supply retail pharmacies with the product.

“A brief shortage of OS is expected through mid-January. We may be unable to fill complete orders from distributors for a limited time,” Iannuccillo added. Tamiflu is used to reduce the severity of the flu when taken at the onset of symptoms. The oral suspension of the drug is primarily prescribed for children under the age of 13 and for people who have difficulty swallowing. The delay in packaging of the liquid version has not

impacted supplies of regular Tamiflu 75 milligram capsules, Genentech said. The flu is spreading quickly this season, with 25 states already reporting cases, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thousands of people die every year from flu, which typically peaks in the United States between the months of October and March. This season’s virus has killed six children in the United States so far, according to CDC data.

Reuters

Eating tree nuts tied to lowered obesity risk

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — A new US study adds to growing evidence that nuts — once considered too fattening to be healthy — may in fact help keep weight down, in addition to offering other health benefits. Researchers found that study participants who ate the most tree nuts — such as almonds, Brazil nuts, pistachios and walnuts — were between 37 and 46 percent less likely to be obese than those who ate the fewest tree nuts. People who ate the most nuts were also less likely to have a suite of risk factors known as metabolic syndrome, which is tied to increased risk of heart disease and diabetes.

“This is another study that shows there is an association between eating nuts and not being obese and having less tendency to have metabolic syndrome,” Dr Joan Sabaté told Reuters Health. Sabaté is the study’s senior author from Loma Linda University in California. The study, which was published online in PLOS ONE, was partially funded through a grant from the International

Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research and Education Foundation (INC NREF). In another recent study, also funded by INC NREF, researchers found that people who reported eating the most nuts were less likely to die over a 24-year period than those who ate the fewest nuts.

While such evidence can’t show that nuts cause the differences seen between people who love them and those who pass them by, there are reasons to believe nuts provide a direct benefit, Sabaté said. For example, nuts are high in unsaturated fat, which is known as a “good” fat compared to the saturated fat found in animal products. The high protein content of nuts may also lead people to feel fuller and eat less unhealthy foods. They also contain a host of other nutrients and plant chemicals that are beneficial to health, Sabaté said.

For the new study, the researchers used data on the diets of 803 Seventh-day Adventist men and women in the US who were already enrolled in another study.—Xinhua

Lung cancer rates drop in US due to tobacco control

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan —The rate of new lung cancer cases decreased among men and women in the United States from 2005 to 2009 as a result of tobacco control efforts, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Thursday. The CDC drew the conclusion based on a study published in the agency’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The study found that lung cancer incidence rates went down 2.6 percent per year among men, from 87 to 78 cases per 100,000 men and 1.1 percent per year among women, from 57 to 54 cases per 100,000 women.

The fastest drop was among adults aged 35 to 44, decreasing 6.5 percent per year among men and 5.8 percent per year among women, the CDC said. Lung cancer incidence rates decreased more rapidly among men than among

women in all age groups, it said. “These dramatic declines in the number of young adults with lung cancer show that tobacco prevention and control programmes work — when they are applied,” CDC Director Tom Frieden said in a statement.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths and the second most commonly diagnosed cancer among both men and women in the United States. Most lung cancers are

attributable to cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke, but in 2010, US states appropriated only 2.4 percent of their tobacco revenues for tobacco control, the CDC said. Besides, because smoking behaviors among women are now similar to those among men, women are now experiencing the same risk of lung cancer as men, and among adults aged 35 to 44 years, men had slightly lower rates of lung cancer incidence than women, it said.—Xinhua



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Millions of French users flock to 4G mobile services

PARIS, 10 Jan — France's three biggest mobile operators have signed up 1 million customers each to new superfast mobile services, although a hoped for boost in margins from such 4G technology looks unlikely to materialize because of a price war.

Take-up of 4G across Europe, while lagging the United States and Asia, has begun rising in the past year, driven by rocketing demand for mobile data and launches in major markets like Germany, Britain and France. In France, Orange, Vivendi's SFR, and Bouygues Telecom said on Thursday that they had reached the million customer mark — a target each carrier had separately set for

the new year when they began racing to build the new networks in early 2013.

Upstart player Iliad declined to say how many 4G customers it had attracted to its Free Mobile service. Iliad shook up the market in December when it announced it would make 4G available for no additional cost to its customers on its main 19.99-euro (\$27) monthly plan. That prompted the three incumbent operators to react with a round of price cuts, with Bouygues going the furthest, and all adding 4G to their no-frills plans sold without a contract.

"The competitive environment remains difficult, with hectic behaviour from competitors,"



The logo of the Orange telecommunication and internet provider is seen on the facade of a store in Paris on 24 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Frederic Boulan, an analyst at Nomura, wrote in a note. Orange once hoped that the shift to 4G would help it lift its average revenue per user (ARPU) by up to 10 euros a month, but recently its executives have said 5 euros is looking more likely. The four French operators are still in the process of building their 4G networks with Bouygues the furthest along and Iliad far behind.

As of 1 January,

Bouygues had activated 5,523 mobile antennas capable of handling 4G traffic, Orange 4,244, SFR 1,294, and Iliad 824, according to France's ANFR spectrum regulator. Britain's largest mobile operator EE on Tuesday said it had attracted 2 million 4G customers, leading average data use across its network to grow by 70 percent last year, with social media and video driving the biggest increases.—Reuters

Trees destroyed as New Zealand climate change policy fails

WELLINGTON, 10 Jan — Unwanted tree seedlings are being killed with herbicide as New Zealand's attempts to mitigate the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change falter, a leading academic said on Friday.

University of Canterbury forestry expert Professor Euan Mason said a large number of seedlings were grown by the university's School of Forestry in response to the country's emissions trading scheme (ETS), but many were

destroyed after being left unsold during the 2013 planting season.

"These 2-year-old seedlings were grown in anticipation of a well-functioning emissions trading scheme," Mason said in a statement. However, the scheme, which was supposed to do "the heavy lifting in New Zealand's climate policy," was "on its last legs," he said. With a unique emissions profile, New Zealand could offer the world valuable solutions for developing nations

if only the country would accept the opportunity, he said.

"Surprisingly, New Zealand could be completely greenhouse gas neutral between 60 and 100 years by planting radiata pine on approximately 2.4 million hectares, which is 9 percent of our land area, or more than doubling our current plantation area of our marginal lands," said Mason. The emissions trading scheme was lacking effectiveness and credibility, partly because of low credit

prices, and partly because of a piecemeal approach to implementing it, including the total exclusion of the agricultural sector.

"By excluding agriculture from our emissions trading scheme, we give a free ride to the very sector that emits more greenhouse gas than any other single sector in the country," he said. New Zealand has so far failed to respond adequately to climate change and its emissions are among the fastest rising in the world.—Xinhua

Google linking of social network contacts to email raises concerns

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Jan — A new feature in Google Inc's Gmail will result in some users receiving messages from people with whom they have not shared their email addresses, raising concerns among some privacy advocates.

The change, which

Google announced on Thursday, broadens the list of contacts available to Gmail users so it includes both the email addresses of their existing contacts, as well as the names of people on the Google+ social network. As a result, a person can send an email directly

to friends, and strangers, who use Google+. Google is increasingly trying to integrate its Google+, a two-and-a-half-year old social network that has 540 million active users, with its other services. When consumers sign up for Gmail, the company's Web-based email service, they are now automatically given a Google+ account.

Google said the new feature will make it easier for people who use both services to communicate with their friends. "Have you ever started typing an email to someone only to realize halfway through the draft that you haven't actually exchanged email addresses?" the company said in a blog post announcing the feature.—Reuters



An illustration picture shows a Google logo with two one Euro coins, taken in Munich on 15 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Uber cuts prices up to 34 percent for no-frills UberX car service

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Jan — Uber, the red-hot rides start-up known for jacking up town-car fares, is taking the opposite approach with its no-frills UberX service.

Fares on UberX, which offers rides in ordinary cars at lower prices than the company's high-end town car service, will be cut in 16 cities, Uber said in a blog post on Thursday. Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Orange County, in southern California, will see the biggest fare cuts, the blog said. Ten other cities will also see cuts. "We're going all-in on being the cheapest ride in town," Uber CEO Travis Kalanick wrote.

Under the new fare structure, rates in the Los Angeles area between Beverly Hills and Santa Monica would run \$15.83 via UberX, compared with \$26.80 for a cab, he said. In the Boston area, a trip from Beacon Hill

to Harvard Square would run \$12.55 for UberX, compared with \$19.37 for a taxi. Fares for the flagship Uber town car service, which generally run at a premium to taxis, won't change. The company has come under fire in recent months for its "surge pricing," under which it raises rates, sometimes by more than eight times, when demand is high.

Uber connects passengers with drivers via a smartphone app and makes money by taking a cut of the fare. It owns no cars itself. It has entered more than 60 markets, ranging from its hometown of San Francisco to Berlin to Tokyo. Leaked financials in December indicate that the company, which began connecting passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire about 3-1/2 years ago, is generating \$200 million a year in revenue beyond what it pays drivers.—Reuters



An Uber app is seen on an iPhone in Beverly Hills, California, on 19 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Private US cargo ship launched to Space Station

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — A commercial spacecraft operated by US space company Orbital Sciences Corp. blasted off on Thursday, flying its first cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station, NASA TV showed. The unmanned Cygnus spacecraft was launched atop the Antares rocket, also built by Orbital Sciences, at 1:07 pm EDT (1707 GMT) from the US space agency's Wallops Flight Facility in eastern Virginia.

"Liftoff!" Orbital Sciences said in a tweet. "Love feeling the roar of a launch." The mission began the company's first contracted cargo delivery flight to the station through a 1.9-billion-US-dollar Commercial Resupply

Services contract with NASA. Orbital Sciences will fly at least eight cargo missions to the Space Station through 2016." Today's launch demonstrates how our strategic investments in the American commercial spaceflight industry are helping ... keep the United States the world leader in space exploration," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said in a statement.

"American astronauts have been living and working continuously in space for the past 13 years on board the International Space Station, and we're once again sending them supplies launched from US soil," Bolden said. The launch has been delayed for three times, first due to

problems with a cooling system on the Space Station last December, then because of cold weather on Tuesday. So it was rescheduled for Wednesday but cancelled again because of what NASA called an "unusually high level of space radiation" caused by a large solar flare.

The spacecraft is carrying 2,780 pounds (1,260 kilograms) of supplies to the Space Station, including food, spare part and science experiments, 23 of which are from US and Canadian students. These experiments address life sciences topics ranging from vaccine effectiveness and amoeba reproduction to calcium loss in bones and liquid behavior in space, the US company said.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 11 January, 2014

Walk the walk not just talk the talk

“Clean government and good governance” is what the President has articulated as the main objective of the new civilian government just a few weeks after it came into power in 2011. But, if it is merely political rhetoric, people have started to wonder, nearly three years after the government took office.

The wind of change is blowing all over the country, but the mindset of the lower levels of the administration seems to be virtually untouched by the top-down political reforms. Bureaucracy is still in place and bribery and corruption remains one of the high hurdles in democratization process.

The culture of kickback and grease money is as old as the hills in Myanmar, so embedded in the administration and legal system that it is taken for granted. Though it is not the problem of Myanmar alone, the problem is particularly acute here thanks to age-old tradition of “jobs for the boys”.

Nepotism has long served as a major hindrance to effectiveness of the administrative mechanism while effectively discouraging energetic and resourceful young men from devoting their energies into their departmental duties.

You have worked with all your might, but when it comes to promotion or a certain entitlement, you are left out from the list. No one can stand this.

It is high time government departments resolve to make a shift to merit-based system. Unless and until right the men are in the right places, we can't expect to see things going in the right direction.

The government is required to win back public trust in its institutions for national development is impossible without public participation. However, to win back public trust is easier said than done. Despite the fact that red tape has been cut to an extent, the public perception of government has not altered at all with many government officials still can't break themselves of old habits.

While the government has declared its determination to end corruption, it needs to convince people that it is doing so. All in all, deeds are better than words.

Rural Development Ministry ...

(from page 1)

According to the ministry, the rural population needs many basic trainings on rural development works and the programme will encourage them to participate in decision-making process in their own communities.

“The people-centered approach will cover the whole nation someday. We will seek funding from international organizations, get supports from local NGOs and community support groups,” according to

an official of the ministry.

The same source noted that the programme will feature a host of public education activities.

The Rural Development Department helped about 200 villages get access to electricity last year and is considering to increase its extent to 300 villages. The ministry has targeted the coverage of 10,000 villages by its electrification project in coming fiscal year. The ministry has formed a committee on access to electricity

President U Thein Sein cordially meets with athletes of 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

Athletes urged to make ...

(from page 1)

the Leading Committee for Organizing the Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, President of Myanmar Paralympics Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and officials.—MNA

Participation of Myanmar and medal winning in ASEAN Para Games

Sr.	Games	Year	Host	Athletes	Medal Tally			Position
					Gold	Bronze	Silver	
1.	First	2001	Malaysia	31	43	23	11	3
2.	Second	2003	Vietnam	26	24	12	11	4
3.	Third	2005	The Philippines	22	29	13	4	5
4.	Fourth	2008	Thailand	25	14	16	21	6
5.	Fifth	2009	Malaysia	25	14	19	7	5
6.	Sixth	2011	Indonesia	36	11	9	14	6

Implementation of education promotion plans discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—A coordination meeting on successful implementation of uplifting education standard took place at the hall of Ministry of Science

and Technology this afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein emphasized gathering of

universities to enable the students to pursue various subjects in the respective regions and to easily conduct management matters for better education sector.

Chairman of Task Force Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo, Vice-Chairman Dr Myo Myint and officials discussed gathering of universities.—MNA

Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark Mr Rasmus Helveg Petersen signed the agreement.

The Union Minister expressed his thanks to Paris Club including Denmark for cancellation and repaying of debt as he believes that those countries recognized Myanmar's reform and constructive attitude. They discussed matters on promoting of bilateral cooperation and investment between the two countries.

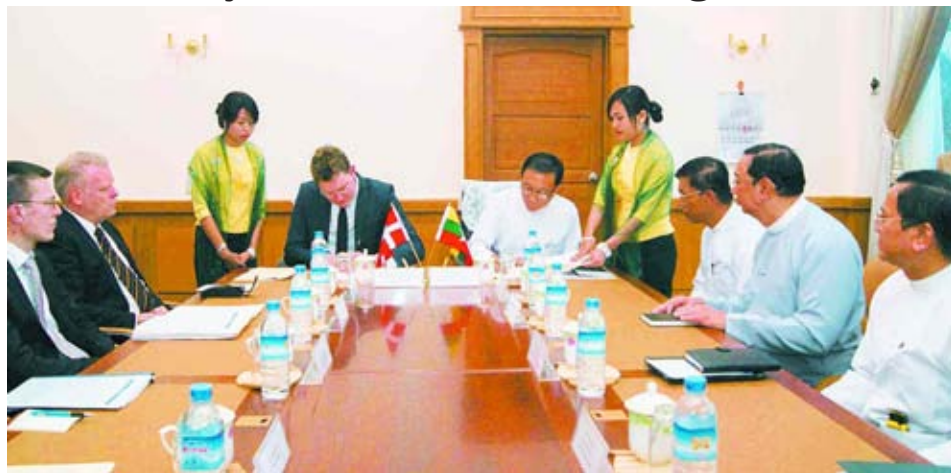
The Danish Minister said he was glad to help Myanmar's reform process and he also would like to support Myanmar's affairs and to promote investment.

Denmark and Norway have cancelled debt completely owed by Myanmar.

MNA

cate of honour to National Prosperity Gold Production Group Ltd that donated two Kubota combine harvesters and ten combine harvesters manufactured by China for the villages in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

Agreement on cancellation of debt owed by Myanmar to Denmark signed



Union Minister U Win Shein and Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark Mr Rasmus Helveg Petersen sign the agreement on cancellation of debt.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—A ceremony to sign an agreement on cancella-

and drinking water.

The new rural development project will encourage the rural population to have their says in the infrastructural development projects of their community.

Trs:HKA

tion of debt DKK 294.967 million (US\$ 51.139 million) owed by Myanmar to Denmark was held at the

Fruit and Vegetable ...

(from page 16)

Thailand explained ongoing work programme for growing vegetables and those

Ministry of Finance, here yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein and present discussed matters on provision of agricultural machinery, construction of storage and prospect for production of value-added products.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing presented certifi-

LOCAL NEWS

Gangaw District Judge inspects Saw Myoma police station's custody



Gangaw District judge views facts and figures related to custody of Saw Myoma Police Station.

GANGAW, 10 Jan—Gangaw District judge U Yu Aung together with Saw Township judge U Zaw Win inspected the custody of Saw Myoma Police Station on 27 January.

Commander of Saw Township Police Force Police Major Win Kyaw and acting head of Saw Myoma Police Station IP

Kyaw Lin Tun reported on numbers of prisoners, foods, health and rights in line with the law.

The district judge

checked convenience of prisoners at the custody, health care services, rights of prisoners.

MMAL-101

Parents of students hope removal of office from school football ground



TOUNGGOO, 10 Jan—Tounggoo District Education Office is being built in the

Letpachaung Village by car.

The police squad also raided the houses of Salai Mahn Thing Thang and Ma Htan Pa in Letpanchaung Village.

Salai Mahn Ting Thang escaped from the scene and seized a Surf car used in drug trafficking and K 40 million from the pile of firewood from the residence.

Kalay Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the law.—MMAL-Shin Nay Min

area of football ground of No 6 Basic Education High School.

An old student said that due to construction of the office, the school football ground will be narrow and may hinder development of sports sector.

“Now is time to specially uplift sports standard so construction of office in the ground is not good prospect for the school children,” said a parent.

The sports ground has been used in selection of athletes for the school football tournaments.

Tounggoo BEHS No 6 was opened in Ward 8 in 1965. It is located on 6.85 acres of land. The school is facilitated with 10 school halls, one football ground

Three suspects seized with tablets of pseudo-ephedrine in Kalay Township.

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Pseudo-ephedrine worth K 100 million seized in Kalay

KALAY, 10 Jan—A police squad of Kalay District Police Force on 8 January afternoon raided the house of Ma Lal Netein of Pyinkhongyi Village.

At the residence, the police found Ma Lal Netein and Christ Rosen. They seized 1,126,600 pseudo-ephedrine tablets weighing 112.66 kilos worth K 112.66 million from the bedroom.

According to the confession, the tablets were sent by Pakye (a) Salai Mahn Thing Thang from



Niger plantations on commercial scale thriving in Katha Tsp



KATHA, 10 Jan—Local farmers in Katha Township, the border of Sagaing Region

and Kachin State, are engaged in cultivation of niger plants on a commercial scale.

“This year, we could grow niger plantations successfully due to proper rainfalls. But we cannot guess its prices in the market. In late January, we will harvest the plants,” said a local farmer from Katha

Township.

Most of the people from Yepok and Tonpaw villages located not far from Katha are engaged in agriculture. Of them, some farmers give priority to growing cold season crops and some, niger on a commercial scale.

MMAL-Than Maung Lay (Kachin Myay)

Umbrella hoisted atop Aungmye Yadana Pahtan Pagoda in Gangaw Tsp

GANGAW, 10 Jan—A ceremony to hoist a umbrella atop Aungmye Yadana Pahtan Pagoda was held in Lonhaw Village of Gangaw Township, Magway Region, on 4 January.

Under the aegis of 30 Buddhist monks, Gangaw District Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Htut

and departmental officials together with donors hoisted the umbrella atop the pagoda.

At the ceremony, the Buddhist monks led the congregation to share merits gained for construction of the stairway and maintenance of the road leading to the village.

MMAL-101

Census taking process clarified in Seikkyi-khanaungto Tsp

YANGON, 10 Jan—Members of ward supportive committee and ward administrators together with teachers held a meeting at the hall of U Tun Oh Ward on 8 January for taking census process and population matters in Seikkyi-khanaungto Township of

Yangon Region.

Chairman of Township Census Committee Township Administrator U Naing Aye, Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Ngwe Thaung and officials explained census taking process.

The township administrator and the head of Township INRD instructed basic education teachers as volunteers to take census on correct data from residents and their guests in four blocks of the township.—MMAL-Myint Oo (Insein)



Census taking process and collection of population in progress in Seikkyi-khanaungto Township.

WORLD

Hagel praises US nuclear forces, gets reminder of morale issues

CHEYENNE, (Wyoming), 10 Jan — Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel praised troops in the US nuclear missile force on Thursday for their professionalism in executing a difficult job, only to be reminded of morale issues facing the unit when two launch officers were suspended in a drug probe.

As Hagel visited FE Warren Air Force Base and toured a missile site in nearby Nebraska, two Air Force officers belonging to a missile launch crew at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana had their security clearances suspended after they were implicated in an illegal narcotics operation.

The force responsible for the 450 nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missiles at three US bases

has been troubled by morale issues, a factor acknowledged by Hagel during a two-day tour of nuclear arms installations in New Mexico and Wyoming.

Major General Michael Carey was fired as head of the ICBM force in October for getting drunk and carousing with Russian women while leading a government delegation to Moscow for talks on nuclear security. Speaking at FE Warren after touring the missile site in Nebraska, Hagel did not refer to the suspended officers in Montana, and he only indirectly spoke to the morale issues in the force, praising the troops for their work and telling them the American people were counting on them.

"You have chosen a profession where there is no

room for error. In what you do every day, there is no room for error, none, and you know that, the American people expect that. They have that confidence in you," Hagel said.

He commended the professionalism and commitment he saw during his visit to the base, saying "we all have a lot of responsibility and we all must deliver."

"How you do the job, really, is as important as the job itself because it sets a standard of expectations for yourselves and everybody around you. People pay attention to that," the defence secretary said. Hagel said he had come away from his tour of the missile alert facility, which was across the border in his home state of Nebraska, with a renewed appreciation for the need to modernize the US nuclear force in order to maintain a secure and reliable deterrent. "It's clear we've got some work to do on modernization," he told the troops.

The United States is at the start of a multi-decade effort to upgrade its nuclear weapons complex, from modernizing 1970s-era bombs with modern electronic components to replacing aging nuclear ballistic missile submarines, long range bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles.—Reuters



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel speaks to reporters at the Al Udeid Airbase, west of Doha on 10 Dec, 2013. — REUTERS

Colorado airports tighten rules on marijuana possession

DENVER, 10 Jan — Colorado's two largest airports have tightened their rules on marijuana possession after the state became the first in the nation to allow recreational pot stores to operate, airport officials said on Thursday.

Noting that marijuana remains illegal for any purpose under federal law, under which airports operate, the main airports in Denver and Colorado Springs have issued new policies to penalize anyone caught with cannabis.

At Denver International Airport — the nation's fifth-busiest — first-time offenders will face a \$150 fine, rising to \$500 for a second offense and \$999 for a repeat offender, said airport spokeswoman Laura Coale.

At the Colorado

Spring's Airport, offenders can be subjected to both fines and imprisonment, interim airport manager Dan Gallagher said in a statement announcing the new rules, which take effect on Friday.

Colorado Springs Police Chief Pete Carey said "amnesty boxes" will be placed at the airport where travelers can leave their pot without being charged.

Anyone caught trying to bring pot into prohibited areas will be cited, he said.

Signs will be posted around the airport warning of the possible penalties, the Colorado Springs airport said in a statement. Colorado Springs allows medical marijuana dispensaries, but the city council voted last summer to ban recreational shops.

Both airports make no distinction between the possession of recreational or medical cannabis products.

"Medical marijuana has been legal in Colorado since 2001, and recreational marijuana has been legal here since January

first of last year, so I don't understand why these rules are coming out now," said Rachel Gillette, the head of Colorado's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Reuters



Various marijuana strains are prepared for sale at the Botanacare marijuana store ahead of their grand opening on New Year's day in Northglenn, Colorado on 31 Dec, 2013. — REUTERS



Residents march during the commemoration of the Martyrs' Day, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 9 Jan, 2014. The Martyrs' Day was a movement occurred in Panama on 9 Jan, 1964, when troops of the US Army clashed with high school students who demanded the right to raise the national flag in the area known as Canal Zone, a strip of land around the Panama Canal, which was ceded to the United States of America in perpetuity as a result of the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty.— XINHUA

Fiji, Bolivia establish diplomatic ties

SUVA, 10 Jan — Fiji and Bolivia established diplomatic relations on Friday, the Fijian government announced.

At a ceremony at the Fiji Mission to the United Nations in New York, Peter Thomson, Fiji's permanent secretary to the UN and his Bolivian counterpart Sasha Llorentty signed a joint communique establishing diplomatic relations between the two states, according to Fiji's Ministry of Information.

The communique expresses the desire of Fiji and Bolivia to establish

their diplomatic relations in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and international law.

It calls for the promotion of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Bolivia and Fiji.

Following the formalization ceremony, the ambassadors held talks on areas of common interest to their two countries at the UN, with focus on the work ahead to achieve sustainable development, the Ministry of Information said.

The ministry added that Thomson was able to provide advice and assurances to Llorentty in relation to the chairmanship of the Group of 77 plus China, following the handover from Fiji to Bolivia of the chairmanship earlier this week.—Xinhua

Mortar attack in Syria's Homs kills seven

DAMASCUS, 10 Jan — Seven people were killed and many others wounded on Thursday evening when mortar shells landed near a mosque in Syria's central province of Homs, the state-run SANA news agency reported.

The mortars struck the Hamara District near Omar Bin al-Khatib mosque, said SANA, just hours after 12 people were killed and 75 others wounded in another mortar attack in Homs.

UN chief calls for end to violence in CAR

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Jan — The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday warned of the risk of further upheaval among communities in the Central African Republic (CAR) and called for an end to violence, which has displaced nearly one million people.

"The horrific cycle of violence and retaliation between communities must stop immediately," Ban said in a message to the extraordinary summit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) held in N'Djamena, Chad.

"The events of last year have caused profound damage in the relationships between Muslim and Christian communities in the CAR.

Distrust is high and violence has fueled anger and a thirst for revenge," Ban said in the message, delivered by Babacar Gaye, special representative in the CAR.

Ban noted that the danger of further upheaval along religious lines is real and poses a long-term danger to the country, adding "I remain extremely concerned."

It is important to rapidly address this challenge and prioritize reconciliation efforts, he said, calling disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups essential.

Ban stressed that the humanitarian situation in CAR remains extremely troubling. According to recent UN estimates, nearly one million people have been displaced with more than half being in the capital, Bangui, alone.

Xinhua

The attack is the latest in a series of mortar attacks and explosions staged by radical rebels in several Syrian cities. Earlier in the day, 16 people were killed and tens of others wounded when an explosion rocked Syria's central Province of Hama.

The blast targeted the town of Kafat in Hama, said SANA, adding that women and children were among those killed.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Singapore detains son of terrorist cell leader

SINGAPORE, 10 Jan — Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs has placed the son of Singapore Jemaah Islamiyah leader Mas Selamat Kastari under detention under the Internal Security Act, the ministry said on Thursday. Masyhadi Mas Selamat, 25, was detained on 21 November last year under the Internal Security Act, which allows authorities to detain certain suspects under detention without trial.

He will be under detention for two years.

Masyhadi was arrested in Indonesia on 20 October last year for his involvement in Jemaah Islamiyah, which has been classified as a terrorist organization. He was deported to Singapore on 30 October.

The ministry said that Masyhadi went to religious schools in Indonesia since he was 13. He imbibed the organization's radical teachings and went through paramilitary training in Indonesia later.

Xinhua



Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and other imperial family members attend a lecture given by a top researcher on 10 Jan, 2014, during the annual "kosho hajime no gi" (ceremony of the first lecture) event, part of the New Year ceremonies at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. — KYODO NEWS

Modi snubs PM, says good times ahead in India after next general elections

NEW DELHI, 10 Jan — India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s prime ministerial candidate for 2014 polls, Narendra Modi, on Thursday snubbed Prime Minister Manmohan Singh by saying he agreed with the country's leader that good times would come, but after the next general elections.

"The prime minister had said a good thing during his speech here yesterday (Wednesday) that there is no need to despair and good times are due to come. I don't need to say anything more, we may have to wait a few months, five or six. But I

sincerely feel that good times are coming," Modi, also the chief minister of the western state of Gujarat, said, apparently ridiculing Singh. Modi was addressing Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the world's largest gathering of Indian diaspora in the national capital.

The prime minister had Wednesday said in his address to the gathering of non-resident Indians that India is changing in a significant way and asked over 22 million expatriate community, the world's second largest, to stay engaged in the future of the country with confidence and optimism.—Xinhua

Abe to address Japan's economy, diplomacy at World Economic Forum

TOKYO, 10 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Switzerland from 21-23 January to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he will speak about Japan's economic and foreign policies, a senior official said on Friday.

Abe will make a keynote speech at the forum's opening ceremony on 22 January, making him the first Japanese prime minister to do so, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

Abe will tell leaders and experts from around the world about his so-called "Abenomics" policies aimed at beating deflation in Japan, as well as the nation's foreign policy

of "proactively contributing to peace" based on the principle of international cooperation.

"It will be a great opportunity for Japan to send a message to the world about its economic and diplomatic policies," said Suga, the top government spokesman.

Abe took office in December 2012, pledging to revive Japan's economy with massive monetary easing and hefty fiscal stimulus as well as a package of growth policies such as deregulation. He did not attend the annual economic forum last year.

Along with Abe, two Cabinet ministers are planning to attend the forum — economic and fiscal policy

minister Akira Amari and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.

Amari, also charged with Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, may meet with US Trade Representative Michael Froman on the sidelines of the forum, according to Japanese officials. Talks between the two key negotiating members of the 12-nation TPP are widely seen as crucial to seek an early conclusion of a trade liberalization deal that would account for around 40 percent of global economic output after they missed the earlier goal of reaching a broad agreement in 2013.—Kyodo News

Convoy travels north to mark Lao Army day, promote tourism

VIENTIANE, 10 Jan — A convoy of vehicles carrying over 270 people will travel across the country to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Lao People's Army and promote tourism, according to state-run daily *Vientiane Times* on Thursday. The convoy carrying members of various government offices and businesses left Lao capital Vientiane Wednesday bound for Xieng Khuang and Huaphan Provinces.

Deputy Prime Minister Asang Laoly was on hand in the early hours of the morning to officially open the tour that's hoped to promote tourism in the north of the country and pay tribute to Lao people who fought in the revolutionary period.

The journey was jointly organized by the ministries of National Defence, Public Works and Transport, Public Security and Information, Culture

and Tourism. According to Minister for Information Culture and Tourism Bosengkham Vongdara, the caravan will travel from 8 to 13 January along Route 13 to Xieng Khuang Province before continuing on to Huaphan Province.

"The caravan will spread the message that Laos is World's Best Tourist Destination for 2013, as well as promote various outstanding natural, historic and cultural sites," said Bosengkham. The country was recently voted the World's Best Tourist Destination for 2013 by the European Council on Tourism and Trade (ECTT). Tourism in Laos is surging and the number of visitors is up 22 percent annually. 3.3 million people are said to have visited the country in 2012. Tourism is currently the second largest income earner in Laos second to agriculture.—Xinhua

Violence in Vietnam-based Samsung factory leaves 11 injured

HANOI, 10 Jan — Eleven people were injured during a violence occurring in Samsung factory in Vietnam's northern Thai Nguyen Province on Thursday.

Serious violence erupted in Samsung factory in

Thai Nguyen Province, some 60 km north of capital Hanoi on Thursday, drawing participation of thousands of workers.

An official from Thai Nguyen 91 Military Hospital told *Xinhua* over phone

that no one was killed as early reported by local media.

Eleven people had been taken to hospital on Thursday morning after being beaten.

As of late Thursday afternoon, three with slight injuries were allowed to go home. The more seriously injured patients are still kept at hospital for further treatment. The official said the current health situations of the patients are quite stable.

According to Vietnamese local Vnexpress online newspaper, security guards at Samsung prevented a worker from getting into Samsung's building site without entrance card. Argument broke out between the two sides. The worker then was hit to faint by security, causing anger of the worker crowd.

Xinhua in Hanoi Bureau on Thursday contacted with police department of Thai Nguyen Province but

they denied to release any details on the case.

Leaders of Hanoi-based Hoa Binh Security Service Company, the one providing security service for Samsung factory, are said to leave for Thai Nguyen to solve the incident, a company staff told *Xinhua* over phone.

In 2013, Samsung, a South Korean multinational electronics company, invested a total of 3.2 billion US dollars to build a high-tech complex in Vietnam's northern Thai Nguyen Province to produce Integrated Circuit, or IC chip, and electronic components for mobile phones.

Upon completion, Thai Nguyen-based factory is expected to be the largest Samsung site in the world that will start running in March 2014. The total number of production and construction workers in Samsung site in Thai Nguyen is up to ten thousand people.

Xinhua



A hiker walks in the area of Yarlung Zangbo River Grand Canyon in Nyingchi, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 4 Jan, 2014. Yarlung Zangbo River Grand Canyon is regarded as the deepest canyon in world, and is slightly longer than the Grand Canyon in the United States, the symbolic scenery of which is the U-shaped Great Bend near Nyingchi County. —XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KULNATEE VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2014 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 KULNATEE SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (361)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (361) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2014 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (018)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
ASEAN Summit and related Summits Committee
Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
ON SPONSORSHIP MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has assumed the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and will hold 24th ASEAN Summit and 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It will be the first time that Myanmar takes ASEAN Chairmanship since it joined ASEAN in 1997.
2. Myanmar has drawn great attention from the International community due to its significant reforms, abundant natural resources and historic and scenic beauties. Hosting of ASEAN Summits and related Summits will be a golden opportunity for the local and foreign companies to promote business and to further expand investment in Myanmar and to the Southeast Asia region.
3. In view of the above opportunities, bids are invited by the Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration for the selection of Sponsorship Management Consultant with the following terms and conditions:—
 - (1) One bidder shall be selected as Sponsorship Management Consultant;
 - (2) Closed Envelope Bidding shall be made on the following categories:-
 - (a) Computers and IT Products support;
 - (b) Internet services and Technical assistance;
 - (c) Conference Management;
 - (d) Food and Beverage;
 - (e) Billboards and Banners;
 - (f) Security equipments;
 - (g) Lighting facilities for Meeting Venue;
 - (h) Dresses for Liaison Officers, Security Officers and Drivers;
 - (i) Floral Services;
 - (j) Mobile Phone Hand sets and Sim Cards;
 - (k) Souvenirs;
 - (l) Meeting Document kits and Collaterals;
 - (m) Financial services and
 - (n) Others
 - (3) Closed Envelope Bidding shall include the following:-
 - (a) Proposed Bidding and Quotations;
 - (b) Financial Background; and
 - (c) Company Profile.
 - (4) The selected Sponsorship Management Consultant shall work on commission basis and deposit of USD 100,000 at the designated bank account after signing the Agreement.
 - (5) No territorial limit of marketing sponsorship.
 - (6) Deposit shall be refunded within 7 banking days after the event.
4. Bids shall be only on the official Bidding Form and to be delivered into the Tender Box located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw no later than (16:00) hours on 24 January, 2014.
5. Bids shall be opened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9 Nay Pyi Taw at on 27-31 January, 2014.
6. Announcement on the successful bidder will be made on 1 February 2014.
7. Official Bidding Form shall be available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.(9), Nay Pyi Taw during the office hour from (17-1-2014) to (24-1-2014) in payment of Kyat 10,000 (Kyat ten thousands).
8. Inquiry can be made at the following contact phone numbers;
067-412052; 067-412352; 067-412354

Secretary

Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration
ASEAN Summit and Related Summits Committee

**Drive
With
Care**

Image provided by Colombia's Presidency shows Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (C) presenting a flag to General Ruben Dario Alzate Mora, in Choco, department of Quindio, Colombia, on 9 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA



CONGRATULATIONS

We heartily congratulate the Construction and Housing Development Bank on the successful opening at No.60, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township on 11th January, 2014. We wish the bank great success in its endeavor to provide financial assistance to all construction enterprises.

BIDV Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam, JSC Representative Office, Yangon

ENTERTAINMENT

Bastille, Disclosure lead top UK music awards, Bowie returns

LONDON, 10 Jan — Pop acts Bastille and Disclosure led the field for Britain's top music awards on Thursday with four nominations each, while veteran singer David Bowie was up for two of the annual BRIT Awards in a list dominated by a newcomers.

Alternative rock band Bastille and the electronic duo Disclosure of brothers Guy and Howard Lawrence were both in the running for best British group and British breakthrough act of the year, while also competing for best single and best album.

Bastille was recognized for its single "Pompeii" and debut album "Bad Blood". Disclosure was put forward for its single with another electronic music duo, AlunaGeorge, called "White Noise" and its debut album "Settle".

"We're completely blown away by the four nominations! When we started the band we never thought we'd be recognized in such a way so the whole thing is an awesome surprise," Dan Smith from four-member Bastille, which formed in 2010, said in a statement.

But while newcom-

ers led the nominations, veteran singer Bowie, 67, reappeared on the list after a comeback last year when he released his first new material for a decade.

Bowie was nominated for best male singer and best album for "The Next Day" with the winners to be announced in a glitzy show on 19 February. He has won two BRIT awards previously including best male singer 30 years ago.

Vying for best British male artist with Bowie are 19-year-old Jake Bugg, 25-year-old James Blake, and John Newman and Tom Odell, who are both aged 23.

Close behind Bastille and Disclosure in terms of nominations with three each were Ellie Goulding, who sang at Prince William and his wife Kate's wedding reception in 2011, and drum and bass dance collective Rudimental.

Goulding was in the running for best female artist against Birdy, Jessie J, Laura Marling and Laura Mvula, and with two singles in the mix - "Burn" and the joint single with Calvin Harris, dance pop anthem "I Need Your Love".

Rudimental was competing with Bowie, Bas-

stille and Disclosure for the night's biggest award, best album, with "Home". The fifth contender in the field was Arctic Monkeys with "AM".

Absent from the album list was boy band One Direction which notched up the biggest seller of 2013 when its third album "Midnight Memories" sold 685,000

female, while Arcade Fire, Daft Punk, Haim, Kings of Leon, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis compete for best album.

The awards come at a time when data from British record industry association BPI and the Official Charts Company show total retail-value sales of recorded music fell 0.5 percent year-on-



Musicians Howard (L) and Guy Lawrence of the British electronic band Disclosure, nominated for the Mercury Music Prize, poses for a photograph ahead of the ceremony in north London, on 30 Oct, 2013.

REUTERS

copies in six weeks.

One Direction, which has achieved fame with teens worldwide since being formed for the TV singing contest The X Factor in 2010, was nominated in two categories — best British group alongside Arctic Monkeys, Bastille, Disclosure and Rudimental, and best single with "One Way Or Another".

The five-boy band was seen a likely winner for the "global success award" that recognizes overseas record sales. In the international categories, Bruno Mars, Drake, Eminem, John Grant and Justin Timberlake were nominated for best male.

Janelle Monae, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Lorde and Pink were up for best

year to 1.04 billion pounds (\$1.7 billion) in 2013.

But British business group, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), on Thursday forecast good growth for UK artists over the next decade with the right support.

"Artists like Adele and One Direction are renowned across the globe, and we believe the UK music industry has the potential to double its share of US album sales by 2025," said CBI Chief Policy Director Katja Hall in a statement.

Figures from CBI showed British artists accounted for 13.7 percent of the \$7.1 billion US recorded music market in 2012, up from 11 percent the previous year.—Reuters



British singer David Bowie performs during the first concert of his UK tour in Manchester, on 17 Nov, 2003. Pictures of the month November 2003.

REUTERS

Shakira, a 'sport' in male-dominated world

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan — Shakira says that people should avoid taking jokes personally

Pop star Shakira says she took some time to get used to the male-dominated music industry, but she learnt to be a sport.

According to people.

com, the 36-year-old told *Glamour* magazine: "Dealing with boys at work and being the only girl can be challenging. I have my insecurities, but I've learned I have to be a good sport."

The Whenever Wherever singer feels that a person should be strong

enough and should avoid taking jokes personally.

"I have to be able to take certain jokes and not take them personally. There are jokes made almost every second of the day. I had to develop a tough hide," she said.

PTI



André 3000 and Big Boi of OutKast address the audience during the 2006 VH1 Hip Hop Honors ceremony in New York City on 7 Oct, 2006.—REUTERS

OutKast, Arcade Fire, Muse headline Coachella 2014 music fest

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan — Hip-hop duo OutKast will reunite for the first time since their last album eight years ago to headline this year's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, organizers said.

Canadian-American rock band Arcade Fire and British rockers Muse will headline the other dates of the festival in the Southern California desert town of Indio, organizers said in a post on Twitter late on Wednesday.

The annual music festival, set for two consecutive weekends in April over a total of six days, has become one of the largest US music festivals, attracting more than 80,000 people, including many Hollywood celebrities.

Grammy-winning OutKast, which consists of Atlanta rappers Andre 3000 (Andre Benjamin) and Big Boi (Antwan Patton), last released the album "Idlewild" together in 2006. It was the soundtrack to a musical film of the same name.

After focusing on electronic music in recent years, the festival last year went back to its rock-and-roll roots and stays in character

in 2014 with Beck, Queens of the Stone Age and The Replacements featured as some of the top acts.

Electronic and dance acts include DJs Skrillex, Calvin Harris, Girl Talk and Fatboy Slim.

The festival has also become a top venue for top acts of the 1980s and 1990s to reunite: British rocker groups the Stone Roses and Blur reformed last year to headline the festival, while alternative rock pioneers the Pixies reunited at Coachella in 2004 and seminal indie rockers Pavement in 2010.

The festival will take place on the weekends of April 11-13 and 18-20, with the same line-up both weekends.

Other top acts this year include Swedish electronic-pop duo The Knife, British pop singer Ellie Goulding, sisterly Los Angeles rock group Haim, New Zealand teenage singer-songwriter Lorde and British heavy metal band Motorhead.

Previous years have seen acts such as Prince, Kings of Leon, Beastie Boys, Madonna, Jay-Z and Kanye West take the headlining slots.

Reuters



Shakira, a 'sport' in male-dominated world

SPORTS

Dedicated Walcott will come back stronger, says Wenger

LONDON, 10 Jan — Theo Walcott's mental strength and dedication will help him come back stronger from the knee injury that has ended his season and ruled him out of the World Cup, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday. "Theo is handling it as well as you can when you have had such a shock because he's mentally strong, he's very balanced as a person and he can put it into perspective," Wenger told the club website (www.arsenal.com).

"We know that he will

have the dedication and the serious attitude to come back as strong as ever."

The Arsenal and England forward is out for six months after he ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in Saturday's FA Cup third-round win over north London neighbours Tottenham Hotspur. Arsenal, who visit Aston Villa on Monday, hold a one-point lead over Manchester City at the top of the Premier League.

While Wenger is disappointed to lose the 24-year-old, he is confident he will

make a full recovery. He said he felt Walcott was getting back to his very best at the time of his injury.

"We lost a very talented player, a very intelligent player and a player who was just grabbing his form again," he said.

"From game to game he became more influential, you've seen a complete player. He can always decide a game through a final ball or through a goal.

"Sometimes in the same game he does both. I felt against Tottenham he had a very convincing

performance because he integrates well into our style of play as he's been here for so many years now," said Wenger. "When we combine at a high pace he's involved in it because he understands exactly what we want to do." Wenger admitted that Walcott's injury has "accelerated" his plans in the January transfer window. But he emphasised that the Tottenham game showed he still had options already at his disposal.

"has accelerated speculation first and of course my desire as well — but



let's not forget about Serge Gnabry who can play in the first team," said Wenger.

"We have (Alex) Oxlade-Chamberlain back and we have many other players who can play on the flanks so to find better solutions than what we have internally will not be easy.

"Up front we lose Theo as a potential central forward and that's maybe where we have to look outside. But we hopefully have (Nicklas) Bendtner back in three weeks. We are there for the opportunities but it's very difficult at the moment."—Reuters

United's beleaguered Moyes on Manager of the Month shortlist

LONDON, 10 Jan — Manchester United manager David Moyes, reeling from three defeats in a row in 2014, must think that every cloud has a silver lining after being nominated for the Premier League's Manager of the Month award for December.

Moyes's side have endured a terrible start to the New Year but they did manage four wins, a draw and two defeats from seven league matches at the end of 2013.

The Scot has been nominated along with Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini, who went unbeaten in December, Chelsea's Jose Mourinho and Everton's Roberto Martinez.

Chelsea had five wins from seven games, one draw and a defeat while Martinez, who replaced Moyes at Everton, led his side to four wins from six matches, one draw and one defeat.

United started December with a 2-2 draw against Tottenham before



Manchester United's manager David Moyes

subsequent 1-0 home defeats to Everton and Newcastle.

A run of four wins followed, against Aston Villa, West Ham, Hull and Norwich, before United lost 2-1 at home to Tottenham on New Year's Day.

Swansea knocked United out of the FA Cup on Sunday before Sunderland beat them 2-1 in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final. It is the first time since 2001 that United have lost three games in a row.

Reuters

Nadal to face local hope Tomic in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 10 Jan — World number one Rafael Nadal will play local hope Bernard Tomic in the first round of the Australian Open as he bids for a 14th grand slam title.

The Spaniard faces a tough draw, with a potential fourth round clash with 16th-seeded Japanese Kei Nishikori before a possible quarter-final with Argentine Juan Martin del Potro.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic will play Slovakia's Lukas Lacko in the first round as he bids for his fourth successive title at Melbourne Park, according to the draw released on Friday.

The second seeded

Serb has a relatively kind draw until the quarter-finals, where a likely clash against eighth seed Stanislas Wawrinka, who pushed him in a five-set marathon in last year's tournament, looms.

Andy Murray will play Japan's Go Soeda in the first round but has been

drawn in the same quarter as 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer.

In the women's draw, world number one Serena Williams will play Australian wildcard Ashleigh Barty in the first round as she bids for her 18th grand slam title and sixth at Melbourne Park.

The American's draw lines her up for a potentially tough fourth-round clash with Sam Stosur, who beat Williams in the final of the US Open in 2011.

Double defending champion Victoria Azarenka, seeded second, will take on Swede Johanna Larsson according to the draw released on Friday.



Spain's Rafael Nadal

Third seed Maria Sharapova will play American Bethanie Mattek-Sands, while fourth seed Li Na, runner-up at Melbourne Park last year, will play a qualifier.

Reuters



Serena Williams

Ronaldinho snubs Besiktas to stay with Atletico



Ronaldinho of Brazil's Atletico Mineiro

SAO PAULO, 10 Jan — Brazilian striker Ronaldinho has signed a new contract with Atletico Mineiro after turning down a move to Turkish side Besiktas, the club said in a statement on Thursday. "He's re-signed!" Atletico's president Alexandre Kalil announced on Twitter.

Besiktas said at the end of last month that they were keen to sign the 33-year-old

Ronaldinho but admitted they needed extra sponsorship to meet his wage demands.

The former Barcelona and AC Milan midfielder joined Atletico in June 2012 and won the Copa Libertadores with them a year later, the first time he or they had lifted South America's biggest club competition.

He showed glimpses of the football that made him

FIFA's World Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005 and was recalled by Brazil when Luiz Felipe Scolari took over 14 months ago.

But he failed to make an impression at international level and looks unlikely to make Brazil's World Cup squad. Neither Atletico nor Kalil gave any details of the new deal or said how long the contract was for.—Reuters

Toure wins African Footballer of Year for third time

LONDON, 10 Jan — Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure landed his third successive African Footballer of the Year award on Thursday to cap a memorable week. The Manchester City player edged out Nigeria's John Obi Mikel and fellow Ivorian Didier Drogba to make it a hat-trick of wins, emulating Abedi Pele and Samuel Eto'o.

Just 24 hours after

storming halfway down the pitch to score a goal in City's 6-0 demolition of West Ham United in the first leg of the League Cup semi-final, a teary-eyed Toure was the toast of African football as he picked up the award at a gala ceremony in Lagos. "I'm very proud and happy to be the winner today," Toure, dressed in traditional Nigerian robes, told the audience.

"I congratulate my brother Obi Mikel who deserved it as well. It's an unbelievable award for all those who helped me through my career a lot and those who supported me for a long time."

The Ivorian came top of a poll voted by Africa's national team coaches, who had Mikel second and Drogba third. Toure's success came at the end of a bleak 12-month period for

individual achievement by African footballers. Toure's official citation praised him for his role in helping the Ivorians to qualify for the World Cup in Brazil but the choice is more likely for his consistency at club level in England and the dominant role he plays at Manchester City. Chelsea's Mikel was on the shortlist after helping Nigeria to the African Nations Cup title in February.

Reuters



Manchester City's Yaya Toure (C) is challenged by Swansea's Pablo Hernandez during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 1 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) and German President Joachim Gauck (R) pose for photos during the New Year reception at the Presidential Palace in Berlin, Germany, on 9 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

More than 3,000 illegal workers to be repatriated

VIENTIANE, 10 Jan — Approximately 3,000 illegal workers here in Lao capital Vientiane will soon be repatriated to their home countries, state-run daily *Vientiane Times* reported on Friday.

Foreigners working in the country without a permit are allowed to submit relevant documents to obtain legal recognition if their employer certifies them and facilitates the procedure to obtain the documents.

Foreigners who work in trades such as hawking goods or working in market stalls will not qualify for the documents and will be sent back to their countries of origin.

According to local media, some 7,500 workers have been reported to live in the capital. The majority of these workers have come from neighbouring China and Vietnam.

Deputy Director of Vientiane Labour and Social Welfare Department Naenthong Leumaisone admitted that the mechanisms to return workers back to their countries of origin were difficult to implement as they remain undefined in the relevant legislation.

"Sending them back should be managed by the government or a central organization," he said.

According to Naenthong, local authorities should not be placed in the position to undertake the task of repatriating foreign workers.

According to local media, Vientiane authorities will seek guidance from the government regarding the ineligible workers.

Authorities are also working to enforce regulations which require foreigners operating businesses

such as service-based shops or farms without a business license to register their businesses.

Regulation dictates that operators can register to legalize their businesses if their worth amounts to more than one billion kip (125,000 US dollars).

Businesses worth less than the figure of one billion kip but not less than 250 million kip (31,000 US dollars) will be given a two year period with which to grow their businesses to the required size for registration. Owners of businesses that fail to do so will be repatriated.

A senior government official recently announced the move to issue two-month validity documents to foreigners in the capital who are pursuing employment without the relevant work permits.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(11-1-2014, Saturday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:15 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 20. Hyper Sports |
| 6:20 am | 3:30 pm |
| 2. Physical Exercise | 21. India Drama Series |
| 6:35 am | 4:00 pm |
| 3. Nice & Sweet Songs | 22. News |
| 6:45 am | 4:15 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 23. India Drama Series |
| 7:00 am | 4:45 pm |
| 5. News/Weather Report | 24. Business News |
| 7:20 am | 5:00 pm |
| 6. Business News | 25. News |
| 7:40 am | 5:15 pm |
| 7. Hyper Sports | 26. Documentary |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| 8. News/ International News | 27. Game For Children |
| 8:30 am | 6:00 pm |
| 9. India Drama Series | 28. News/Weather Report |
| 9:00 am | 6:20 pm |
| 10. News/ International News | 29. Documentary (Weather) |
| 9:30 am | 6:50 pm |
| 11. Documentary | 30. Teleplay |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 12. News | 31. News |
| 10:15 am | 7:20 pm |
| 13. Documentary | 32. Teleplay |
| 11:00 am | 7:45 pm |
| 14. Sokayeeti | 33. Documentary |
| 11:30 am | 8:00 pm |
| 15. Game For Children | 34. News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 12:00 am | 8:35 pm |
| 16. News/ International News/ Weather Report | 35. Business News |
| 12:30 pm | 8:50 pm |
| 17. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News | 36. Hit Song of Stars |
| 1:30 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 18. Myanmar Video | 37. News |
| 3:00 pm | 9:20 pm |
| 19. News | 38. Myanmar Series |
| | 39. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

11-1-14 07:00 am ~ 12-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon — The Planetary Posts
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]
- * Local News
- * Ar Khar New Year Festival
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * Flying Without Wings — My Great Limitless Adventure — Inlay Lake (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"
- * Travels In Monywa — Moe Hnyin Sambud-dhe Pagoda
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- * World News
- * News Extra "FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour"
- * Myanmar Sculpture-work of Art
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
- * Local News
- * A Day Tour On A Cart (Bagan Trip)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "The White Castle of Romance"

Former Betis coach Mel takes over at West Brom

MADRID, 10 Jan — Pepe Mel, the charismatic Spaniard who led Real Betis to seventh place in La Liga last season and writes mystery novels in his spare time, was named manager of English Premier League strugglers West Bromwich Albion on Thursday.

"(Mel) has signed an 18-month contract and takes over the reins from Keith Downing who took charge of the team in a caretaker capacity five games ago," the club said in a statement.

The 50-year-old, one of the most respected coaches in La Liga, will be supported by Downing and his number two Dean Kiely who will remain with the

club as assistant coach and goalkeeping coach respectively.

Downing took charge after Scot Steve Clarke was sacked on December 14 following a sequence of one victory in 10 league games.

"I'm delighted to welcome Pepe to the club," said Albion's sporting and technical director Richard Garlick.

"His appointment concludes an extensive recruitment process during which we have cast the net far and wide to identify the most suitable candidate to take the club forward."

"Pepe was a strong contender from the outset due to his impressive achievements and



Real Betis' coach Pepe Mel

emerged as our number one candidate," said Garlick.

"He is a forward-thinking coach whose teams are renowned for playing an attractive and positive style of football."

The balding Mel arrives at West Brom with 14 years of coaching experience in Spanish football.

He led Betis into this season's Europa League but

was sacked at the start of last month with the club bottom of La Liga.

Mel took charge at Betis in 2010 and helped them win promotion back to the top flight in his first season.

He has also had stints at Tenerife, Getafe and Rayo Vallecano and bade a tearful farewell at a news conference after Betis announced his exit.—Reuters

Brazilian prosecutor requests government to address prison crisis issue

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Jan — Brazilian Attorney General Rodrigo Janot will ask the federal government to restore order of a Brazilian prison upon the request of the United Nations (UN), local media reported on Thursday.

A video showing three tortured and decapitated inmates in the Pedrinhas prison in the northeastern state of Maranhao has prompted the UN to demand an "immediate, impartial and effective" investigation on Wednesday.

According to the daily *O Globo*, Janot is considering urging the government

to step in and take back the control of the prisons from warring rival gangs.

If the request is approved by the Federal Supreme Court, it must be submitted for presidential and congressional approval within 24 hours.

The prison crisis in Maranhao first came to light in 2013, attracting the attention of international agencies, such as the Organization of American States and the UN, which called for an investigation into the deaths last year of some 60 inmates in the prison.

Xinhua

Fruit and Vegetable Show on 2 March in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt addresses agricultural sector development in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and discussion on holding fruit and vegetable show.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Agricultural sector development in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and discussion on holding fruit and vegetable show took place at 900-acre farmered model farmland of Setsetyo irrigated area in Ottarathiri Township, here, this morning.

Fruit and vegetable show will be held on 2 March (Peasant Day) at 900-acre farmland and the meeting was attended by the Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, agriculturists, entrepreneurs and farmers. At the discussion, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt said that 6295 acres

of advanced farmlands have been reclaimed in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 3699 acres will be reclaimed before the growing season.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called for producing quality crops to penetrate the market, saying private, cooperatives and government sectors should strive for emergence of wholesale markets.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint pointed out that growing and producing of quality marketable crops and good packaging system are vital for entering world horticulture market. Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter

Association (MFVP) will provide necessary assistance to the farmers.

Myanmar earned US\$ 54.892 million from exporting horticulture in 2010-2011 fiscal year and US\$ 73.831 million in 2012-2013 fiscal year. Horticulture worth US\$ 34.981 million were exported to foreign markets till the end of December in 2013-2014 financial year, especially production amount of mango, watermelon and cucumber were increased.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung clarified daily requirement of fruits and vegetables in the hotels and market condition.

The farmers discussed

matters on land reclamation, growing of crops, cultivation and market demand. Chairman of Big M Co Ltd Mr. Mong Kol of (See page 8)

Myanmar discusses sector-wise development of Chin State with IID's Director

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun discussed the development of Chin State with Mr. Joem Kristensen, Director & Representative of Institute for International Development (IID) at his office here this morning.

They discussed the arrangement for sector-wise development of Chin State such as preserving customs and culture of Chins, social protection, education, health, socio-economic, transportation, necessary infrastructures for tourism industry at Natma Hill National Park and Reed

Lake, agriculture of herbal orchids in the Park for creation of more job opportunities for the residents, systematic growing of yam for exports, production of turpentine, agriculture mulberry tree for silk ware production, international organizations and ICIMOD's assistance for changing system of slash and burning to crop lands.

They also discussed the development of Inlay Lake, Ywangan and Pa-O regions and formation of Inlay Lake Authority joining hands with local authorities and related ministries as part of long-term conservation project of Inlay Lake.

MNA

Myanmar-Thailand Consultation on Technical Cooperation Meeting held



14th Myanmar-Thailand Consultation on Technical Cooperation Meeting in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—14th Myanmar-Thailand Consultation on Technical Cooperation Meeting was held from 9 to 10 January 2014 at the Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar delegation was headed by U Win Naing, Director-General of International Or-

ganizations and Economic Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Thai delegation was headed by Ms Suchada Thaibunthao, Deputy Director General from Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Both sides agreed to implement a programme such mind-set, it would be difficult to save the freshwater fish which is at risk. The freshwater salmon is likely to become extinct on present trends in the future.

The ministries concerned, marine entrepreneurs and fishermen are obliged to cooperate each other to protect our salmon, and to ensure that the specie do not go extinct.

Kyemon: 10-1-2014

Trs: AMS

for 15 scholarships on post-graduate study and 25 short-term training courses covering 250 fellowships in Thailand in 2014 under the Three Years Human Resource Development Programmes. Additionally, they also identified the new projects on technical cooperation in response to the needs of Myanmar.

MNA

Sales of gems, jade lots successfully conclude

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Sales of uncut gem stones and utility jade lots in kyats organized by Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee successfully concluded today.

A total of 157 gem lots and 1400 jade lots on offer through open tender from 6 to 9 January at Mani

Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Of them, 104 gem lots and 665 jade lots could be sold.

The emporium was aimed at increasing income of gems and jade entrepreneurs and creating more job opportunities and developing a finished jade market in the country.—MNA

Overfishing, nets threaten Salmon

Salmon (Hilsatoli) fish is at risk in Myanmar due to fishing indiscriminately with banned nets.

The use of three-layer fishing nets that drag along the river floor has also damaged baby fish and threatened the species of Salmon, said a fisherman

from Pyapon.

Today, fishermen in Ayeyawady Region are using three-layer nets used to trawl riverbed and other forms of nets which can catch even small fishes to catch more fish as the Salmon is in high demand at home and overseas market. "If I don't catch

**Byline
Aung Win
(Pyapon)**

them, other fishermen will catch them," replied a fisherman when he was asked to avoid the overexploitation.

If they don't change

