

Opening ceremony of 7th ASEAN Para Games in Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—An opening ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Para Games hosted in Myanmar for the first time took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, this evening.

Myanmar will hold this sporting extravaganza after holding the 27th SEA Games in a great success three weeks ago.

With the aim of fostering friendship, equality and unity among the ASEAN countries, the regional sporting event is held biennially in order to promote friendship and solidarity among the citizens of the countries in the region, show equality in sports, highlight the policy of peaceful coexistence among the Southeast Asian nations and present the

sporting spirit and quality and dignity of the region.

Before the opening ceremony to be held under 15 agendas, vocalists entertained audiences with songs.

Together with officials, managers, coaches and athletes, spectators, media persons, LOs and VOs and work force, experts and guests totaling 20000, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nann Shwe Hmon, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Election

Commission, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Union ministers, members of the leading committee for organizing the games attended the ceremony.

Before 10 digits LED countdown and firework displays, over 1200 students in black suit made performances with the use of torchlight and fireworks.

President U Thein Sein, wife and party attend opening of 7th ASEAN Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

MNA

Moreover, Myanmar traditional musical performances were also presented at the opening ceremony.

Next, the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was hoisted followed by the flag-raising of ASEAN Para Sports Federation and 7th ASEAN Para Games. Then, athletes from participating countries to the games took their designated places.

A total of 1482 athletes from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and host Myanmar will take part in

the competitions.

Chairman of the leading committee for holding the 7th ASEAN Para Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gave an account of the games.

On behalf of the President, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham made an opening address.

The Vice-President said sporting facilities and venues and accommodation are ready for convenience of all athletes and guests. Those who come to the games will see real situation in Myanmar and kind hospitality of its people.

(See page 8)



Regions, states, Nay Pyi Taw to observe 67th Anniversary Union Day on a grand scale



NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—The Central Committee for Organizing the 67th Anniversary Union Day held a coordination meeting at the hall of the President Office, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

In his address, he said that ceremonies to mark the 67th Anniversary Union Day will be held in regions and states including Union

territory Nay Pyi Taw in line with the national objectives adopted by the central committee.

The President Office has set up the central committee and management committee for the celebration. The subcommittees formed by the management committee are to submit the progress of preparations for the ceremony, future tasks and requirements to the meeting, he added. He stressed the need to invite region and state Hluttaw representatives to the ceremony and manage entertainments to be performed by 10 cultural troupes from three regions and seven states.

(See page 9)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses Central Committee for Organizing the 67th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

Pyaungbok-Mawlaik motor road under maintenance



KALAY, 14 Jan—Under the arrangements of Sagaing Region Government, Pyaungbok-Mawlaik motor road is being maintained for all season use in Kalay Township.

The maintenance includes repair of roads and bridges by Kalay District Public Works.

At present, the road is being filled with gravels, construction of gravel-filled drains along both sides and one bailey bridge across

Pyaungbok Creek between mile posts 26/3 and 26/4.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials of District Public Works inspected progress of works along the road.

Sagaing Region government allotted K 63 million on construction in 2013-14 fiscal year.

Kyemon-Ju Nine

Hygienic activities of factories, plants inspected



YANGON, 14 Jan—Officials of Yangon Region and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Health Departments and departmental officials inspected Green Back purified drinking water plant in Industrial Zone 2 of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 12 January morning.

Deputy Head of Region Health Department Dr U Zaw Lin gave instructions on necessary requirements for production process and maintenance works.

The inspection team also checked factories and industries in the zone and gave instructions on keeping the factories and plants neat and tidy.—MMAL-081

Ingyin fossil pieces used for decoration products

NATOGYI, 14 Jan—Trading Cooperative Society was set up with 20 members



in ward 5 of Natogyi of Mandalay Region recently.

The members put 105 shares to the society for production of finished decorations made of Ingyin fossils and products will be sold at home and abroad, said Chairman of the society U Than Lwin.

It is aimed at creating job opportunities for local people and earning incomes of producers through waste Ingyin fossils in the market,



Yamethin plans to open library and clinic

YAMETHIN, 14 Jan—A coordination meeting on opening of Social Excellence Library and Cetanamon free clinic was held at the corner of Thilawa and Mingala Streets in Yamethin of Mandalay Region on 12 January.

Mandalay Region Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint discussed formation of subcommittees for the opening ceremony and regional development.

Local authorities also discussed progress of works.

The library and free clinic were donated by U Myat Thinn Aung and family in memory of late parents U Sein Maung and Daw Htwan Ti, and U



Tun Aung Kyaw and Daw Kyi and wife Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma-theingi Daw Khin Myint Myint

(Excellent Performance from Social Field-First Class).

Kyemon-Hline Than Tint (Yamethin)

Traffic accident causes injuries to six passengers



BAGO, 14 Jan—A traffic accident occurred between mile posts 40/7 and 41/0 on Yangon-Bago Road near Thayaaye Village of Indagaw of Bago Township, Bago Region on 14 January morning.

ShwesinSekkyae express bus driven by Hla Moe, 41 of Mottama in Mon State running from Yangon to

Bago was hit by Yoe Yoe Lay express bus driven by Han Tun Thu, 33 of Einme in Ayeyawady Region due to out of control.

Driver Han Tun Thu and five passengers were injured in the incident.

Police took action against drive Han Tun Thu under the law.—*Kyemon-Htay Naing (Bago)*

National Sports

Ward youths enjoy football tournament

YANGON, 14 Jan—The Ward Administrator Cup football tournament was held at Ward 89 of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon East District as of 24 December.

Nine football teams participated in the

tournament. The final match took place on 12 January afternoon. No 7 block beat No 3 block in the final in which ward administrator U Tha Han presented championship trophy to the winner.

MMAL-081

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MMAL-081

WORLD

Hollande bids to deflect glare from private life to reforms

PARIS, 14 Jan — President Francois Hollande will aim at a news conference on Tuesday to set out plans to revive the weak French economy and deflect questions about his private life after allegations surfaced of a secret love affair with an actress.

His New Year's encounter with journalists in his Elysee Palace will be the French leader's first public appearance since a celebrity magazine on Friday pub-

lished photos it said showed Hollande making a nocturnal visit to a lover.

His office complained of breach of privacy but did not issue a denial. The saga took a surprise new turn on Sunday when it emerged that his long-term partner, Valerie Trierweiler, had been admitted to hospital in a state of shock. "This major political event must remain a major political event," David Assouline, spokesman for Hollande's Social-

ist party, said of the 4:30 p.m. (10.30 a.m. ET) news conference, an annual set-piece which could go on as long as two hours. Hollande plans to use the event to detail a proposed "responsibility pact" with business in which firms will be offered tax cuts and less red tape in return for hiring commitments aimed at reducing 12 percent unemployment. But chances of the agenda being hijacked by the alleged affair are high. A similar

event staged by predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy after his 2007 divorce was dominated by curiosity over his ties to singer Carla Bruni, whom he subsequently wed.

While a poll at the weekend showed four-fifths of French voters considered the matter a private affair for Hollande and his family, the news of former journalist Trierweiler's admission to hospital prompted critics to break their silence.

Reuters



France's President Francois Hollande (R) and his companion Valerie Trierweiler take part in a march as part of a ceremony in tribute to the memory of Nazi victims in Tulle, southwestern France, in this on 9 June, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS



Anti-government protesters listen to the national anthem during a rally in central Bangkok on 14 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Thai protesters target ministries, threaten bourse

BANGKOK, 14 Jan — Protesters trying to topple Thailand's government said they would tighten the blockade around ministries on Tuesday and a hardline faction threatened to storm the stock exchange, while many major intersections in the capital Bangkok remained blocked.

The turmoil is the latest chapter in an eight-year conflict pitting the Bangkok-based middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly poorer,

rural supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, a former premier who was ousted by the military in 2006.

Many ministries and the central bank were forced to work from backup offices on Monday after protesters led by Suthep Thaugsuban stopped civil servants getting to work.

"We must surround government buildings, closing them in the morning and leaving in the afternoon,"

Suthep told supporters late on Monday, urging them to do that every day until Yingluck steps down.

A student group allied to Suthep's People's Democratic Reform Committee has threatened to attack the stock exchange, with faction leader Nitithorn Lam-lua telling supporters on Monday it represented "a wicked capitalist system that provided the path for Thaksin to become a billionaire".

Reuters

S Korea, US hold talks on S Korea joining TPP

SEOUL, 14 Jan — South Korea and the United States held high-level talks in Washington on Monday after South Korea expressed an interest last November in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a US-led multilateral trade agreement, *Yonhap* News Agency reported from Washington on Tuesday.

In a meeting with South

Korea's Deputy Trade Minister Choi Kyong Lim, Acting Deputy US Trade Representative Wendy Cutler welcomed Seoul's decision, according to unidentified officials quoted in the report.

Cutler explained "the domestic procedures the United States would follow in considering Korea's interest in joining the TPP," a

US trade official told *Yonhap*. Choi's discussion with Cutler marks the start of Seoul's preliminary consultations with a dozen countries involved in the ongoing TPP negotiations.

South Korea is scheduled to hold similar sessions with Mexico, Chile, Peru, Malaysia and Singapore later this month.

Kyodo News

Egyptians vote in constitutional referendum seen boosting Sisi

CAIRO, 14 Jan — Egyptians vote on Tuesday in a constitutional referendum, the first ballot since the military overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Mursi and an event likely to spawn a presidential bid by army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Few doubt that Egyptians, who staged mass protests against Mursi's rule before his ouster, will turn out in big numbers and vote "yes" in the two-day referendum, a milestone in the army-backed government's

political road map.

Sisi deposed Mursi, Egypt's first freely elected head of state, in July. His foes see Sisi as the mastermind of a coup that kindled the worst internal strife in Egypt's modern history and brought back what critics call a police state.

But many Egyptians are weary of the political upheaval that has gripped Egypt and shattered its economy since they rose up to topple autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011, and they view Sisi as a decisive fig-

ure who can reinstate stability.

Analysts say the referendum is also turning out to be a vote on the popularity of a man whose image features on posters across Cairo.

If he runs for president, Sisi is widely expected to win.

"He's a man," said Om Sami, who lives in a Cairo slum, summing up a widespread view that bringing back powerful military officers to rule would be acceptable, even though it could undermine democratic gains made after Mubarak's fall.

"The situation does not please us, but we'll vote 'yes' and God willing it will get better." This will be the third time Egyptians have voted on constitutional arrangements since the historic uprising against Mubarak, a former air force chief, in January 2011, and overall the sixth time they have gone to the polls since his downfall.—Reuters



Egyptian soldiers stand guard in the courtyard of a school that will be used as a polling station in Giza on 13 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Japan rejects UN request to transport troops in S Sudan

TOKYO, 14 Jan — Japan has turned down a U.N. request to transport military personnel and weapons as part of its peacekeeping operations in crisis-hit South Sudan, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Tuesday.

The decision apparently reflects the government's concern that it will go against Japan's Constitution banning the exercise of collective self-defence.

"We decided to take a cautious approach to the request after examining various factors, including the

handling by other governments and legal aspects," Suga, the government's top spokesman, said at a Press conference. Japan currently interprets the Constitution as banning the exercise of collective self-defence, or using military strength to defend an ally under armed attack, given that Article 9 of the pacifist charter forbids the use of force to settle international disputes. The government decided not to accept the UN request as it would take time to prepare the legal basis at home for allowing the SDF to engage in the mission and

because the mission could be conducted by other countries, Japanese officials said.

Under Japan's PKO law, the SDF can be involved in the transportation of personnel and goods overseas, but it does not apply to foreign troops. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution in late December to nearly double the force level of the UN Mission in South Sudan. Aside from Japan, the body also asked the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to help send additional personnel.

Kyodo News

Japan announces \$11.6 mil in aid for Ethiopia to help refugees

ADDIS ABABA, 14 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced on Monday that Japan will provide financial aid worth \$11.6 million (1.2 billion yen) to Ethiopia to help refugees in neighbouring countries affected by civil war.

Abe, on the last leg of his Middle East and Africa trip, also agreed with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn during their talks to bolster bilateral economic ties in a way that will encourage more Japanese companies to operate in the African country. Abe was quoted by Japanese officials as telling Hailemariam he supports the role of Ethiopia, chair of the African Union, as a mediator in South Sudan's

peace process.

Hailemariam, for his part, welcomed the peace-keeping operations of Japan's Self-Defence Forces in South Sudan and anti-piracy operations off Somalia, and praised Abe's government for trying to make Japan an active contributor to peace.

On the economic front, Abe told Hailemariam that Japanese companies are very interested in investing in Ethiopia and promised to continue aid in various fields such as agriculture, infrastructure building and education. Hailemariam vowed to improve customs procedures to pave the way for increased Japanese investment including from small and mid-sized com-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) and his wife Akie (to his right) receive flowers after arriving at Bole Airport in Addis Ababa on 13 Jan, 2014. Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn is pictured at front left. —KYODO NEWS

panies, the officials said.

Also, to help women in Ethiopia to take a more visible role in their society, Abe invited female entrepreneurs from Ethiopia

to Japan. Other points of agreement included opening direct flights between the two countries as soon as possible, the officials said.

Kyodo News

Prince Akishino, wife to visit Peru, Argentina from 25 January

TOKYO, 14 Jan — Prince Akishino, the youngest son of Japan's Emperor Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko will pay an official visit to Peru and Argentina from 25 January, government officials said Tuesday. Their visit follows last year's marking of 140 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Peru, and 50 years since an immigration agreement between Japan and Argentina came into effect. The royal couple is scheduled to arrive in Lima on 26 January,

moving to Buenos Aires on 30 January and returning home on 5 February.

They are expected to attend commemorative events in both countries and meet Peruvian President Ollanta Humala and Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. In Peru, they also plan to visit the residences of elderly Japanese-Peruvians. In Argentina, migrants of Okinawan descent will hold a welcome event in their honour.

Kyodo News

El Salvador opposition party leads tight election race

SAN SALVADOR, 14 Jan — The presidential candidate from El Salvador's right-wing opposition Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) party is extending his narrow lead in the race to win February's election, according to a poll released on Monday.

ARENA candidate Norman Quijano has 35.5

ing, said in a television interview. Mitofsky in July had Quijano with 33 percent of voters' support and Sanchez with 32 percent.

The Mitofsky poll shows different results to surveys by the Central American Jesuit University, which have consistently put Sanchez ahead. In December, the latter's poll showed



Norman Quijano (L), presidential candidate from the conservative Nationalist Republican Alliance party (ARENA), shakes hands with a man at a local market in La Libertad on 8 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

percent of voters' support, while former guerilla commander Salvador Sanchez, candidate for the ruling Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation, is close behind with 31.8 percent, according to the survey by polling firm Mitofsky.

"I wouldn't call it a technical tie, but it's a close race," Roy Campos, president of Mitofsky Consult-

Sanchez leading with 38.4 percent of the vote to Quijano's 33.4 percent.

Both polling firms have former El Salvador president Antonio Saca, who is running for a separate right-wing grouping known as Unidad, in third place. Mitofsky's latest poll said he had 16 percent of support.

Reuters

World powers, Iran to implement interim Geneva deal on Teheran's nuclear programme

GENEVA, 14 Jan — An agreement was finalized between the P5+1 and Iran on ways to implement the first-step Geneva agreement on Teheran's nuclear programme, according to a statement from European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton which was received by Xinhua here on Monday.

Ashton, who has presented the P5+1 group during the previous rounds of Iran nuclear talks, said in the statement that initial measures to implement the interim Geneva deal inked in November were finalized after the latest two-day meeting which was concluded on 10 January, with the presence of EEAS

Deputy Secretary General Helga Schmid on behalf of Ashton, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi.

The technical and concrete measures were hammered out after three rounds of expert-level meetings between the P5+1 group, namely the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China plus Germany, and Iran, partly with the involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Ashton said that this agreement was subsequently endorsed by all capitals.

"Thanks to this agreement on the implementation modalities, the foundations for a coherent, robust and smooth implementation

of the Joint Plan of Action over the six-month period have been laid," said Ashton. The senior official said that the P5+1 and Iran would start to implement the first step from January, 2014, and the IAEA will be asked to "undertake the necessary nuclear-related monitoring and verification activities".

In November 2013, the P5+1 group and Iran reached an interim deal in Geneva whereby Iran would freeze part of its nuclear programme in exchange for limited ease of sanctions which have taken a serious toll on Iran's economy. The latest agreement laid the ground to carry out the deal.

Xinhua

US Russia propose "localized" ceasefire in Syria ahead of peace talks

PARIS, 14 Jan — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday he and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed the possibility of a ceasefire in Syria ahead of peace talks in Switzerland later

this month.

"We talked about the possibility of trying to encourage a ceasefire (in Syria), maybe a localized ceasefire beginning with Aleppo," the US top diplomat told a news conference

after talks with Lavrov and UN-Arab League envoy on Syria Lakhdar Brahimi in Paris. Talking about whether Iran should attend the Syria peace talks to be held in Montreux of Switzerland on 22 January, Kerry said only if Tehran agrees to principles set out in the first Syria peace conference held in Geneva in June 2012, including the creation of a transitional government in the country.

"Iran has yet to state whether or not it supports implementing the Geneva 1 communique," he said. For his part, Lavrov reiterated Moscow's support for including Iran in the peace talks. "It's quite clear Iran and Saudi Arabia should participate in this conference," he said. —Xinhua



Police officers patrol along a beach in Acapulco, a Pacific resort in Mexico, on 18 Nov, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Mexico urges vigilantes to stand down in drug gang conflict

NUEVA ITALIA, (Mexico), 14 Jan — Mexico's government on Monday pledged to take control of a violent western state after days of fighting between masked vigilantes and members of one of the country's most powerful drug cartels.

Since late last year, vigilante groups in the state of Michoacan have moved deeper into territory controlled by the Knights Templar cartel and they now are converging on Apatzingan, considered one of gang's main strongholds.

The vigilantes' advance has raised the risk of a bloody urban battle in Apatzingan. Interior Min-

ister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong on Monday urged the vigilante groups to withdraw from the battleground so federal forces could take control.

"Be certain that we will contain the violence in Michoacan," Osorio Chong said at an event in the state capital of Morelia.

President Enrique Pena Nieto, who just ended his first year in office, has sought to shift the public focus away from grinding violence and onto a series of economic reforms he has pushed through a divided Congress.

But a steady stream of killings that plagued his predecessor's term

continues, and the deepening crisis in Michoacan is beginning to cast doubt on his ability to maintain order. Drug trafficking gangs have been waging battles over trafficking routes for the last decade.

Analysts warned that any siege on Apatzingan by the vigilante groups could spark a much larger and more unpredictable urban conflict. They also said the government may have waited too long to try to contain the growing vigilante movement.

"This is a war. This is no longer an issue of public safety, or normal law enforcement. This is a political-military conflict be-



Vigilantes block the road after hearing rumours on a possible ambush in Tierra Caliente on 10 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

tween a number of armed groups," said security analyst Alejandro Hope of the Mexican Competitiveness Institute think tank. "This could get out of control any time now."

Masked vigilantes took power in more than a dozen rural communities in 2013 across Michoacan, claim-

ing authorities were failing to stop rising extortion, kidnapping and violence.

The government appeared to tolerate the so-called self-defence groups, apparently in the hope they could oust the Knights Templar and help restore order.

Reuters

"Zip gun" prompts high school evacuation in Texas

HOUSTON, 14 Jan — A "potentially explosive device" was found Monday on a high school campus in the US state of Texas, prompting evacuation, and was later proved to be a zip gun, local media reported.

Officials with the Seven Lakes High School in Katy in southeastern Texas reported on Monday morning a suspicious backpack on the campus, local media KHOU reported.

All the 3,000-some students were evacuated, and police and a bomb squad were called to the scene.

Authorities found hours later that the suspicious device in the backpack was a zip gun, a device that can propel an object to cause harm. Devices like this are often made with a pipe and can fire nails, according to the report.

A male student suspect was then taken into custody. His motive of bringing the gun to the campus is unknown. Officials said charges are pending for him.

The Seven Lakes High School remained locked on Monday evening and reportedly will resume its normal schedule on Tuesday. —Xinhua



Former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (R) speaks with reporters in Tokyo after a meeting with another former Prime Minister, Morihiro Hosokawa (L), on 14 Jan, 2014. Hosokawa decided to run in the upcoming Tokyo gubernatorial election after securing the backing of Koizumi at the meeting. —KYODO NEWS

Ex-PM Hosokawa to run in Tokyo governor race with Koizumi's support

TOKYO, 14 Jan — Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said on Tuesday he will run in the upcoming Tokyo gubernatorial election after securing the backing of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at a meeting in Tokyo.

Hosokawa's camp considered it critical for his gubernatorial campaign to have the full support of Koizumi, a popular leader who has attracted publicity for renouncing his pro-nuclear power stance. "The nuclear issue is something that is worth working on as a governor," said Hosokawa after meeting with Koizumi at a Tokyo hotel. "I would give my all." Koizumi said the biggest reason for his supporting Hosokawa is the fact that they share common views on nuclear policy and

added, "We can change the country for sure if we show that Tokyo can live without nuclear power."

Hosokawa's camp is already working to draw up campaign pledges including breaking with nuclear power, enhancing social security and promoting exchanges with overseas cities. It is also considering a plan to hold some of the 2020 Olympic Games in the northeastern Japan region of Tohoku which was devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Hosokawa, 76, was Prime Minister between August 1993 and April 1994. He plans on running in the 9 February gubernatorial election as an individual without seeking official recommendations from political parties.

Kyodo News

Colombia, FARC resume peace talks in Havana

HAVANA, 14 Jan — Colombian officials and leftist rebels resumed peace talks Monday in Havana, Cuba, with the insurgent group urging voters to use upcoming elections to reject right-wing candidates.

As the two delegations gathered for the latest round of talks following a three-week break, the head negotiator for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the group's second in command, Ivan Marquez, read a statement to the Press saying that conservative candidates

running for public posts will not uphold the peace talks. "None of the candidates from the right, much less those from the extreme right, are an option for achieving peace," said Marquez. Colombia, which is a little over a year into peace talks designed to put an end to five decades of fighting between armed leftist rebels and state forces, will hold parliamentary elections on 9 March and presidential elections on 25 May.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos is currently in favor with the elec-

torate for his part in promoting peace negotiations with FARC, and seems poised to be re-elected.

The government delegation, as is customary, did not make any statements to the press as it arrived for the talks, which are expected to tackle FARC's dependence on the drug trade to finance its resistance movement.

Earlier negotiations, which began on 17 November, 2012, have led to accords on rural development and political participation for rebels once they have disarmed. —Xinhua

Sharon funeral highlights conflicting views of Israeli leader

SYCAMORE FARM, (Israel), 14 Jan — Israel buried former prime minister Ariel Sharon at his family farm on Monday, celebrating the military achievements of a man regarded as a war hero at home but as a war criminal by many in the Arab world.

Eulogized first in a ceremony in Jerusalem, and later in the green fields of his estate, speakers hailed a life entwined with that of Israel since its 1948 creation, gently alluding as well to the controversies that also defined his career.

US Vice President Joe Biden and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair laid wreaths at his grave, 10 km (6 miles) from the border of the Gaza Strip, with the army on high alert lest any rockets be fired out of the Palestinian territory.

Two missiles were launched into southern Israel soon after the funeral ended, the army said. It responded with air strikes on two militant camps in Gaza, Palestinian officials said. No injuries were reported in any of the attacks.

"We are accompanying to his final resting place today a soldier, an exceptional soldier, a commander who knew how to win," Israeli President Shimon Peres said in Jerusalem, Sharon's hefty coffin draped in Israel's blue and white flag.

Sharon, 85, died on Saturday after spending the last eight years of his life motionless in a hospital bed, pitched into a coma by a stroke and far from the public gaze.

The death of the former general reopened debate into his legacy. Opponents

denounced his ruthless conduct in military operations while friends praised him as a strategic genius who as prime minister stunned the world in 2005 by pulling Israeli troops and settlers out of Gaza.

"The security of his

people was always Arik's unwavering mission — a non-breakable commitment to the future of Jews, whether 30 years or 300 years from now," Biden said, using Sharon's nickname.

Reuters



Buildings are blanketed by fog in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi province, on 14 Jan, 2014. The local meteorologic centre issued an orange alert for fog on Tuesday. —XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Brain training helped older adults stay sharp for years

CHICAGO, 14 Jan — A brief course of brain exercises helped older adults hold on to improvements in reasoning skills and processing speed for 10 years after the course ended, according to results from the largest study ever done on cognitive training.

Older adults who underwent a brief course of brain exercises saw improvements in reasoning skills and processing speed that could be detected as long as 10 years after the course ended, according to results from the largest study ever on cognitive training.



Pensioners play dominoes at a seniors centre during the International Day of Older Persons in Ronda, near Malaga on 1 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

ive training. The findings, published on Monday in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, offer welcome news in the search for ways to keep the mind sharp as 76 million baby boomers in the United States advance into old age.

The federally sponsored trial of almost 3,000 older adults, called the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly study, or ACTIVE, looked at how three brain training programs — focusing on processing speed, memory and reasoning ability — affected cognitively normal adults as they aged.

People in the study had an average age of 74 when they started the training, which involved 10 to 12 sessions lasting 60 to

75 minutes each. After five years, researchers found, those with the training performed better than their untrained counterparts in all three measures.

Although gains in memory seen at the study's five-year mark appeared to drop off over the next five years, gains in reasoning ability and processing speed persisted 10 years after the training.

"What we found was pretty astounding. Ten years after the training, there was evidence the effects were durable for the reasoning and the speed training," said George Rebok, an expert on aging and a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who led the study.

Reuters



The logo of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is seen on its office building in Shanghai on 12 July, 2013.

REUTERS

GSK's Tafenlar named as FDA breakthrough therapy for lung cancer

LONDON, 14 Jan — British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline said its Tafenlar cancer treatment had been given FDA breakthrough therapy designation for lung cancer, meaning the drug will be fast-tracked within the US regulatory system.

GSK said that Tafenlar,

also known as dabrafenib, was designated an FDA breakthrough therapy on Monday following interim results from an ongoing Phase II study.

Tafenlar is already approved for melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

Reuters

Google gains entry to home and prized team with \$3.2 billion Nest deal

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Jan — Google Inc took its biggest step to go deeper into consumers' homes, announcing a \$3.2 billion deal to buy smart thermostat and smoke alarm-maker Nest Labs Inc, scooping up a promising line of products and a prized design team led by the "godfather" of the iPod.

Nest will continue to operate as its own distinct brand after the all-cash deal closes, Google said on Monday.

The deal is the second largest in Google's history after the \$12.5 billion acquisition of mobile phone maker Motorola in 2012.

Like the Motorola deal, which marked Google's first major foray into hardware, the Nest acquisition gives Google a stepping stone into

an important new market at a time when consumer appliances and Internet services are increasingly merging.

"Nest Labs appears to be focused on thermostats and smoke alarms, but it's not far-fetched to see Google expanding this technology into other devices over time," said Shyam Patil, an analyst at Wedbush.

"Home automation is one of the bigger opportunities when you talk about the Internet of everything and connecting everything. This acquisition furthers their strategy around that," he said.

Shares of Google were up 0.5 percent at \$1,128.49 in extended trading on Monday.

Nest gained a large following with its first thermostat - a round, brushed-metal



A Google logo is seen at the entrance to the company's offices in Toronto on 5 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

device with a convex glass screen that displays temperature and changes hue to match the color of the wall it attaches to. It also tracks usage and employs that data to automatically set heating and cooling temperatures.

With the acquisition, Google gets Tony Fadell, a well-connected and well-respected Silicon Valley entrepreneur credited with creating Apple Inc's iconic iPod music player, along with co-founder Matt Rog-

ers and a host of talented engineers and designers.

According to a search on professional network LinkedIn, roughly 100 of Nest's 300 employees have worked at Apple in the past.

Google, the world's largest online search engine, is increasingly expanding into new markets, with efforts ranging from a high-speed Internet access business to advanced research on self-driving cars and robotics.—Reuters

Caffeine can enhance people's memories

BEIJING, 14 Jan — Coffee can enhance people's memories at least 24 hours after it is consumed, according to a new study as quoted by media reports on Monday. Caffeine is known for long as the energy boost for staying awake.

Dr Michael Yassa, lead researcher and assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore said, "caffeine's particular effects on strengthening memories and making them resistant to forgetting has never been examined in detail in humans until now."

In the study, more than 100 participants, who did not eat or drink caffeinated products often, were shown a series of images. Five minutes later, they were di-

vided into two groups and received either a placebo or a 200-milligram caffeine tablet. The next day, they were shown some of the same images, plus similar ones and random new ones.

Both groups correctly identified pictures as being new or old, yet those on caffeine were better at spotting the similar images, hence proving caffeine can boost memory function up to 24 hours after it is consumed. "The next step for us is to figure out the brain mechanisms underlying this enhancement. Caffeine is associated with healthy longevity and may have some protective effects from cognitive decline like Alzheimer's disease. These are certainly important questions for the future," Yassa said.

Xinhua

Airbus realizes new records in orders, deliveries in 2013

PARIS, 14 Jan — European aircraft maker Airbus said on Monday it has reached a new record in 2013 with 626 commercial aircraft deliveries to 93 customers, of which 15 were new, and a new industry record of 1,619 gross orders.

The deliveries list included 493 A320 family aircraft, 108 A330, 25 A380, surpassing the 2012 record of 588 aircraft. Airbus Military delivered

also 31 aircraft including seven A330 MRTT and two A400M for the French Air Force, the company said in a statement.

The 2013 new orders, worth a value of 240.5 billion US dollars, included 377 A320ceo, 876 A320neo, 77 A330, 239 A350 XWB, 50 A380. By the year end of 2013, "the backlog had climbed to an industry wide record of 5,559 aircraft, valued at 809 billion US dollars at list prices, or eight years

production," the statement added.

According to the statement, the A320neo, launched in late 2010, surpassed 2,600 orders while strong sales of the A320ceo continued with more than 1,000 sold since the A320neo was launched. 2013 was also notable for the A350 XWB first flight. "Certification is targeted for Q3 and Entry Into Service for Q4 2014," the company confirmed. "To expand our leadership



in single aisles and wide-bodies, 2014 will be significant with the first flight of the A320neo and the Entry Into Service of the A350 XWB," said Fabrice Bregier, Airbus President and CEO. In 2012, Airbus delivered a company record of 588 aircraft to 89 customers and won 914 gross orders, including 305 CEO, 478 NEO, 82 A330/A340s, 40 A350 XWB and nine A380s.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New fossil reveals evolution of hind limbs

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — An analysis of the well-preserved pelvis and a partial pelvic fin from Tiktaalik roseae, a 375 million-year-old transitional species between fish and the first legged animals, reveals that the evolution of hind legs actually began as enhanced hind fins, US researchers said on Monday. The discovery, published online in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, challenged an existing theory that large, mobile hind appendages were developed only after vertebrates lived on land.

Neil Shubin, professor of the University of Chicago, and colleagues examined five specimens of Tiktaalik roseae remains recovered in 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2013 in northern Canada. The creature represents the best-known transitional species between fish and land-dwelling tetrapods. A lobe-finned fish with a broad flat head and sharp teeth, Tiktaalik looked like a cross between a fish and a crocodile, growing up to a length of 9 feet (about 2.7 metres) as it hunted in shallow freshwater environments.

It had gills, scales and fins, but also had tetrapod-like features such as a mobile neck, robust ribcage and primitive lungs. Its large forefins had shoulders, elbows and partial wrists, which allowed it to support itself on ground. The researchers studied the rear portion of Tiktaalik, which contained the pelvis as well as partial pelvic fin material. The fossils included a complete pelvis, making a direct comparison of the front and rear appendages of a single animal possible.

They found that the



pelvis was comparable to those of some early tetrapods and that the pelvic girdle was nearly identical in size to its shoulder girdle, a tetrapod-like characteristic. "This is an amazing pelvis ... which is very different from anything that we knew of in the lineage leading up to limbed vertebrates," said co-author Edward Dae-

schler, associate curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. "Tiktaalik was a combination of primitive and advanced features... They appear to have used the fin in a way that's more suggestive of the way a limb gets used."

Reuters

Humans, primates expend fewer calories than other mammals

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — Humans and other primates burn 50 percent fewer calories each day than other mammals, and these remarkably slow metabolisms may explain why they grow up so slowly and live such long lives, US researchers said on Monday.

The study, published in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, also found that primates in zoos expend as much energy as those in the wild, suggesting that physical activity may have less of an impact on daily energy expenditure than is often thought. Researchers examined daily energy expenditure in 17 primate species, from gorillas to mouse lemurs, to test whether primates' slow pace of life results from a slow metabolism.

Using a safe and non-invasive technique known as "doubly labeled water", which tracks the body's production of carbon dioxide, the researchers measured the number of calories that primates burned over a 10-day period. Combining these measurements with similar data from other studies, the team compared daily energy expenditure among primates to that of other mammals.

Xinhua

Xinhua

New Acer CEO disappoints with lack of detail on future plans



Visitors try Acer laptops at the Acer booth at the 2013 Computex exhibition at the TWTC Nangang exhibition hall in Taipei on 4 June, 2013. — REUTERS

TAIPEI, 14 Jan — Investors looking for specifics as to the future of Acer Inc, the world's No 4 PC vendor, came away disappointed when the new CEO spent more time delivering a history of the company's past mistakes than on where it was headed.

Jason Chen, the latest executive to step through the revolving door to the CEO's office, said during his first Press conference on Monday that the Taiwanese company's biggest mistake was investing too early in touch-panels and ultrabooks and not realizing the extent to which tablet computers like Apple Inc's iPad would disrupt the PC industry.

"We wanted to stimulate demand using new technology and we took the initiative more aggressively than anybody else, to the point where we got hurt," Chen said. "Hopefully we won't repeat the same mistake we made before."

Chen is the latest appointment in a series of top-level shake-ups at the

struggling firm. In 2011, Italian-born Gianfranco Lanci resigned as CEO and in November, then-CEO J.T. Wang also resigned to be replaced by then-corporate president Jim Wong. Wong, however, stepped down only weeks later. Acer has been struggling with losses for several quarters, including a T\$13.12 billion (\$437.98 million) deficit in the third quarter of 2013. In a sign of turmoil shaking the industry, rival Dell made waves early last year when it announced it would go private in a buy-out led by founder Michael Dell.

Acer hasn't been able to successfully move into the higher-profit enterprise PC sector, a move that has started to pay off for Hewlett-Packard Co, which reported revenue that beat expectations in the third quarter. Lenovo Group Ltd, the world's No1 PC manufacturer, also saw rising profit as it adjusts strategy in the face of a shrinking consumer base.

Reuters

Public unconvinced on climate engineering: New Zealand, Australia survey

WELLINGTON, 14 Jan — Members of the public in New Zealand and Australia are strongly opposed to scientific climate engineering to counter the effects of climate change, New Zealand researchers announced on Monday. A trans-Tasman survey by Massey University found "strong negative views" on climate engineering proposals for large-scale manipulation of the environment to combat the rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2).

Climate engineering could involve techniques that reduce the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere

or approaches that slow temperature rise by reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth's surface.

Lead author Professor Malcolm Wright said in a statement that the research consulted large representative samples in both Australia and New Zealand, with 30 in-depth interviews and an on-line survey of more than 2,000 participants.

"The results show that the public has strong negative views towards climate engineering," Wright said. "Where there are positive reactions, they favor ap-

proaches that reduce carbon dioxide over those that reflected sunlight." Interventions such as putting mirrors in space or fine particles into the stratosphere were not well received. "More natural processes of cloud brightening or enhanced weathering are less likely to raise objections," he said.

Giving the public a voice so early in technological development was unusual, but increasingly necessary, said Wright. "If these techniques are developed the public must be consulted."

Xinhua

With data vulnerable, retailers look for tougher security

BOSTON/NEW YORK, 14 Jan — A top retail trade group executive on Sunday called for tougher security standards that could mean more spending for the industry, its banks and business partners after a series of data breaches at major merchants.

Stores and card processing companies have reported a steady stream of security breaches for years without a major backlash from consumers, such as those disclosed by TJX Cos in 2007 and by Heartland Payment Systems Inc in 2009.

But the latest thefts — including attacks on Target Corp and Neiman Marcus -

have involved a broad set of merchants and could mark a watershed moment for security standards as calls grow for changes in the protection of consumer information. One sign of the change is a new enthusiasm for payment cards that store customer information on computer chips and require users to type in personal identification numbers.

Mallory Duncan, general counsel of the National Retail Federation that represents Target, Wal-Mart and other big stores, said in an interview on Sunday that the trade group encouraged its members to upgrade to the higher-security cards even though they cost more



Thanksgiving Day holiday shoppers enter the Target retail store in Chicago, Illinois, on 28 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

than old systems that store data on magnetic stripes.

The breaches are "unfortunate but we're not entirely surprised," Duncan said at his organization's annual convention now being held in New York. "The technology that exists in cards out there is 20th-century technology and we've got 21st-century hackers," he said. Duncan said the

trade group had only made its backing for the higher-security cards public since the Target breach. Banks have quietly begun to offer the cards but mainly for customers to use while traveling. Big US card networks led by Visa Inc will not require the higher security until next year at the earliest.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 15 January, 2014

Establish good habits

According to a Buddhist teaching, doing good deeds can bring doers good things. We have to instill within ourselves good habits as no one is born a good citizen.

Making a good deed can lead to a good thing. Good things will come to those establishing good habits not only in the present but also in the future. But, doing good deeds can be difficult. Only those who can desist from living with greed, anger and delusion will have the benefit of doing good deeds.

Nurturing good habits — meditation, counting beads and cultivating optimism — among children can make them to be polite. Doing good deeds will be of benefit to doers.

If a person treats another person with respect, he or she will be treated the same way. If your focus is on the good of others, they will perform for your benefit. The sense of doing for the sake of others is a good deed that will benefit both.

Some people see good things without doing good deeds. It is due to their past deeds. The bubble-like wealth is likely to be less durable and it will burst at a time. It cannot reach a durable stage.

That's why, people have to establish good habits and do good deeds for ensuring durable benefits. Meditation, counting beads and cultivating optimism and maintaining five precepts in daily life are imperative.

Vehicle donation ceremony held in Magway

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Magway Region Government and Kaungmon Family donated a vehicle to the Chairman of Magway Region Sangha Nayaka Committee at Magway Abbot Training School at 10 am today.

On the occasion, Mag-

way Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe offered documents related to the vehicle to the Sayadaw.

The RLC No. of vehicle with number plate 9909 (2013) is worth K 27.59 million. The well-wishers also donated K 500,000 for the vehicle maintenance.—MNA



Para sports athletes carrying ASEAN Para Games flag.—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives UN Resident Representative, ASEAN Secretary-General



President U Thein Sein shaking hands with Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr Le Luong Minh.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Ms Renata Lok Dessalien, UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10 am today. They discussed implementation of Millennium Development Goals in Myanmar, further cooperation in internal peace-making process and regional peace and stability, and promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and the UN.

President U Thein Sein also received Mr Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General

of the ASEAN and party at the same venue, here, at 11 am today. Their meeting focused on preparations for hosting ASEAN meetings in Myanmar, hope of Myanmar to reach regional peace agreements in its tenure of chairmanship as ASEAN is a united society, successful holding of the XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar as a pride for the ASEAN, and preparations for establishments of the 2015 ASEAN Community. Also present at the calls were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Aye Myint Kyu and Dr Kan Zaw, Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Min Lwin and officials.—MNA

Opening ceremony ...

(from page 1)

He stressed the need to take part in the competitions in accord with the motto of the Games "Friendship, Equality, Unity". He called on media to present the brilliant performances of the disabled athletes to the world. Later, he announced the opening of the 7th ASEAN Para Games.

Next, the President of ASEAN Para Sports Federation spoke on the occasion. Then Athletes'/Judges' Oaths were spoken by an athlete and a judge.

Afterwards, a torch relay of former medal-winning

disabled athletes and torch-lighting ceremony followed.

Next, music and dance performances depicting long-lasting beauty and perpetuation of the Union were presented. The Games will be held till 20 January. A total of 339 gold, 339 silver and 359 bronze will be presented to winners in 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 competitions.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses opening of 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA



Opening ceremony of ASEAN Para Games in progress.—MNA

YCDC Cup Winter Golf Championship on 29-31 Jan

YANGON, 14 Jan—YCDC Cup Winter Golf Championship and YCDC Cup Winter Senior Golf Championship will be held at City Golf Resort, in Yangon from 29 to 31 January, according to Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee.

Senior PGA members and invited amateur national team players are going to take part in the tournament. Pre-qualified Competitions for Amateurs and Senior Amateurs (above 50) are to be held at

the Silver Course, City Golf Resort and entries will be accepted by 25 January. For further information, please contact Reception Counter, City Golf Resort and dial 09-421119932, 01-640086, 01-641343 & 09-5045554.

NLM

NATIONAL

Meeting on Inter-University Football Tournament held

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—A meeting on holding Inter-University Football Tournament took place at the ministry of education here this morning, with an attendance by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that the university students could take a leading role in bringing the glory to the country in the history of Myanmar sports.

He reaffirmed that the government will promote the country's sports standard as sports is one of the development symbol of the country. Myanmar sports could bring the glory to the country in the recent XX-VII SEA Games. Myanmar University Football Team secured bronze medal in the 15th ASEAN Universities Game (AUG) and stood

fourth in the 16th AUG. He called for making efforts to secure more medals in the upcoming the 17th AUG to be held in Indonesia in this year December.

He pointed out the participation of university students in Myanmar national football team could reestablish the golden era of Myanmar football. To turn out the quailed footballers, the nation-wide inter-University football tournaments will be held as of this year. He expressed the thanks to those involved in the university sports development.

Afterwards, Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint reported on the holding of inter-university football tournament and Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing Inter-University Foot-



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses at meeting on holding Inter-University Football Tournament.—MNA

ball Tournament Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung, produc-

ing of skilled university footballers. Then, Union Minister U Tint Hsan, the deputy ministers and Myanmar Football Federation

President U Zaw Zaw also discussed the facts about the Inter-University Football Tournament.

The meeting came to an end with a concluding remark by the Vice-President.—MNA

Yangon focuses on promotion of education sector

YANGON, 14 Jan—A coordination meeting between township education officers and responsible persons of township development supporting committees took place at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government Office this afternoon. The meeting was aimed at promoting education sector in Yangon Region.

First, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe stressed the importance of coordination to improve education tasks.

In his address, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein said nation education policies and formulation of laws are under discussion. He stressed the need to achieve increased school enrollment rate and low dropout rate, for capacity building and free secondary education, infrastructure development, mass cooperation in non-



Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein addresses coordination meeting to focus on promotion of education sector.—MNA

formal education sector and provision to monastic education schools. He called for the start of education reform after assessing the strength and weakness.

Officials discussed matters related to early-childhood development, primary education sector and cooperation between par-

ents, teachers, students and the people in basic education sector. Next, members of the township development supporting committees, education officers and those present took part in discussions.

In his concluding remark, the region chief minister highlighted the inter-

est of those who are going to implement the tasks in implementing the works. He called for collaborative efforts between education officers and committees, saying that improvement in education standard of the townships could help promote the education sector of the region.—MNA

Regions, states, Nay Pyi Taw to...

(from page 1)

Chairman of the management committee Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt reported on preparations for organizing the Union Day ceremony and the secretary, the arrangements for the ceremony. Chairmen and officials of subcommittees submitted reports on their respective sectors.

After attending to the

needs, the Vice-President instructed officials to coordinate the tasks among various committees and ministries concerned.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Aung Kyi, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Khin Maung Soe, U Zeyar Aung, U Aye Myint Kyu, U Than Htay and U Htay Aung, Acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint and officials.—MNA

PTT Public Co donates Mobile Fuel Lab vehicle

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—PTT Public Company Limited from Thailand donated a new Mobile Fuel Lab vehicle worth \$53,487 to Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) under the Ministry of Energy at No 6 Office, Ministry of Energy, here this afternoon.

Chief Operating Offi-

er (Downstream) Mr Sarun Rungkasiri handed over related documents of the vehicle to MPPE Managing Director U Thant Sin.

The vehicle is a type of Toyota Hiace Commuter 2.5 GL HI-Roof 42 Manual Left Hand Drive equipped with American products.

Experts from the company also conducted On-Job Training course attended by 20 trainees.

MPPE has a plan to buy five more Mobile Fuel Lab vehicles to check quality of engine oil.

MNA



PTT Public Company Limited from Thailand donates a new Mobile Fuel Lab vehicle to MPPE.—MNA

Taninthayi Region (Head Office) IKBZ Insurance Co. Ltd opens

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—An opening of IKBZ of Taninthayi Region (Head Office) was held at No. 109, Bogyoke Road, Seiknge Ward, Myeik, today.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, Deputy Minister for Finance Chairman of Insurance Supervisory Commit-

tee Dr Maung Maung Thein and officials looked around the branch office. Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Thein delivered an address.

IKBZ has been carried out to replace loss of lives and property of people by providing insurance services covering fire, motor, life of people, snakes, sportsman, cash security and cash in transit.—MNA

Health Care Services

Free health care provided to people of Monywa



MONYWA, 14 Jan—Medical Superintendent U Nay Aung of Traditional Medicine Hospital (50-bed) and staff gave health care services free of charge to local people in Khunkaunggyi Village-tract in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, on 12 January.

They provided traditional medical care to 205 local people.

The medical superintendent gave talks on hygienic

systems of lifestyles.

The traditional medicine practitioners from Monywa Township joined hands with the staff of the hospital in health care services for the people.

MMAL-Po Chan (Monywa)

HPA-AN, 14 Jan—Members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission disseminated knowledge about human rights, matters related to Universal Declaration of Human Rights and complaints at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 10 January morning.

Member of the commission U Nyunt Swe gave talks on human rights, formation of National Human Rights Commission and its mission and vision.

Member Dr Nyan Zaw explained emergence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, provisions and matters related to the charter.

Member U Khwa Hti Yo discussed complaints sent to the commission and matters related to the action of the commission.

The commission

MNHRC holds educative talks about human rights



members replied to the queries raised by those present.

It was also attended by Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, the chief justice of the

State High Court, the deputy speaker, state ministers, the advocate-general of the state, the auditor-general of the

state, State Hluttaw MPs and departmental officials, local authorities and people.

MMAL

Commercial teak plantations thriving in Katha District

KATHA, 14 Jan—Sagaing Region Forest Department established 2100 acres of forest plantation in 2013-14 fiscal year while Katha District Forest Department has established 1000 acres of commercial forest plantation.

The inspection team of Forest Department (Head Office) checked plantations. At No 14 block of Gahe Forest Reserve in Indaw Township is 150 acres of

teak plantation which is the best plantation in the region.

At present, the seven month old plantation has teak plants with 11 feet and 2 inches high. A total of 2100 acres of plantations are thriving in the region. Forest Department allows timber extraction of teak and other plants in line with the systematic timber extraction rules being practised for about 150 years.

MMAL-Lu Aung (Katha)



Cho of Okpo, the fourth to Maung Min Khant Kyaw of Shwedaung, the fifth to Ma Shwesin Phu Aung of Pyay and five consolation winners. Before the prize presentation, the artistes performed entertainments to the audiences.

MMAL-Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)

An official of Forest Department shows height of seven month teak plant at the plantation in Indaw Township.

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Bago Region MANA presents awards to winners in essay contest

PYAY, 14 Jan—The Anti-Drug Essay Contest at middle and high school levels was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Pyay recently.

It was organized by Bago Region (West) Anti-Narcotics Association.

It was attended by Chairman of Bago Region (West) Anti-Narcotics Association Police Col Myint Soe (Rtd) and executives, the chairman and executives of district association, officials of Bago Region Education Department (Pyay), Rector



U Mya Win (Rtd) of Pyay University, teachers and students from Pyay and Thayawady Districts and 46 contestants.

In the evening, officials presented first prize to Ma Chu Moh Moh Aung of Padaung, second to Ma Aye Chan Phyto from Nattalin, the third to Ma May Nanda

Opium worth K 96 million seized in Bamauk Township

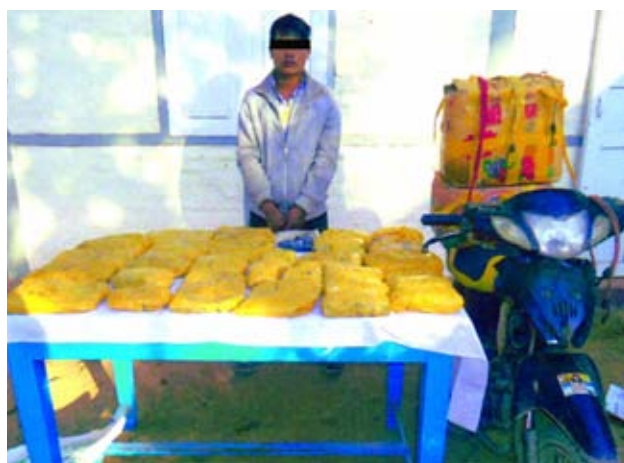
BAMAUK, 14 Jan—Opium weighing 32.25041 grams was seized on the road in Leiksaw Village of Ganan region in Bamauk, a township of Katha District of Sagaing Region, on 10 January.

In implementing the drug elimination plan adopted by Commander of Katha District Police Force Police Lt-Col Soe Myint, a police squad together with witnesses acting on tip-off searched a motorcycle driven by Tha Htay Myint on the road to Leiksaw Village.

The police seized opium in 30 packets weighing 32.25041 grams from two boxes worth K 96,751,235.

Mansigyi police station opened a file of lawsuit against drug trafficker Tha Htay Myint, 19, son of U Kyaw Oo (a) U Kyaw Aye of Nanza Village from Bamauk Township under Section 15/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MMAL-Lu Aung (Katha)



Plan to add tetanus vaccinations to people of 22 townships in Shan State

LASHIO, 14 Jan—The additional tetanus vaccination will be given to the people in 22 townships of Shan State, according to the Health Department.

It will be implemented in townships in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Bago, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and 22 townships in Shan State. So, the Ministry of Health and respective governments will join hands in implementing the health campaign.

The vaccination was launched in 22 townships

including Lashio of Shan State as of 14 January. Three times vaccinations of tetanus will be given to women ranging 15 to 45 aged from 12 wards and village-tracts of Lashio Township, and health staff and members of social organization will help implement the plan, said Lashio Township Medical Officer Dr Than Tun Oo.

The additional vaccination is aimed at sustaining the success of tetanus disease elimination at mothers and children. The

World Health Conference held in 1991 adopted to raise four tactics of the mother and infant tetanus elimination plan. Since 1997, Myanmar has been reducing mortality rate at 0.1 per cent due to tetanus disease in all townships, he noted. Tetanus disease has been killing about 450,000 children and 40,000 mothers annually. The expectant mother needs to receive tetanus vaccination two times for its pregnancy period, he added.

MMAL-Ma Ma (Lashio)

REGIONAL

Japanese lawmaker Inoki in N Korea to promote sports exchanges

PYONGYANG/BEIJING, 14 Jan — Japanese lawmaker Antonio Inoki on Monday arrived in North Korea to promote sports exchanges and learn about the future course of the country fol-

lowing the purge last month of leader Kim Jong Un's once-powerful uncle.

"I am hoping to have a discussion that will be a plus" for both Japan and North Korea, the former

professional wrestling star told reporters at Beijing airport before leaving for Pyongyang.

Inoki plans to meet with Kim Yong Il, director of the International Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior officials to discuss arrangements for sports exchanges and a trip by a Japanese parliamentary delegation.

Inoki has said he will organize a major sports and peace event in Pyongyang this summer.

The 70-year-old House of Councillors member of the opposition Japan Restoration Party has close ties with North Korea. This is his 28th visit to the country.

He last visited North Korea in November, and during that trip he met with the uncle, Jang Song Thaek, who was purged and executed in December for treason charges.

"Seeing is worth a thousand words," Inoki, whose real first name is Kanji, replied when questioned at the airport. "Amid various media reports, I'd like to also check in which direction this country will

move," Inoki said.

Jang, who had been considered the North's second-most-powerful figure, held numerous senior posts, including vice chairman of the powerful National Defence Commission and chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Commission.

During his previous visit, Inoki opened a Pyongyang office of his nonprofit organization, Sports Peace Community Association.

No parliamentary permission was required for his latest trip as the Diet is not in session. But the Japanese government, which has no diplomatic relations with North Korea, has asked citizens to refrain from visiting the country.

Japan has imposed sanctions on North Korea, both unilaterally and in line with the international community. The sanctions have been imposed due to lack of progress on the part of North Korea in addressing the issue of its past abductions of Japanese nationals and its nuclear and missile development programs.

Kyodo News



Japanese lawmaker Antonio Inoki arrives in Pyongyang on 13 Jan, 2014. The pro wrestler-turned-politician is expected to promote sports exchanges and reiterate his proposal for a trip by a Japanese parliamentary delegation to North Korea. —Kyodo News

South Korean President to visit India

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan — South Korean President Park Geun- Hye will arrive in India Wednesday on a four-day official tour of this country, sources said on Tuesday.

During her visit, the South Korean President is likely to explore the possibilities of building a nuclear power plant in India in wake of a civilian nuclear pact inked by the two countries in 2011, the sources said.

Though the agreement to set up South Korean nuclear reactors in the country was signed some three years back, nothing substantial has been achieved till date between the two Asian nations.

India has, in fact, clearly ruled out allocating any site for a South Korean nuclear power plant during President Park's visit.

Xinhua

Leftist rebels resume operations against military in C Philippines

MANILA, 14 Jan — The leftist rebel group Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ordered its armed wing, New People's Army (NPA), to resume offensive operations against the Philippine military and other government security forces in central Philippines.

The CPP gave out the order after the ceasefire declared by the Executive Committee-Regional Committee in Eastern Visayas on 12 November ended on 12 January. The two-month truce was in effect in areas struck by typhoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda.

"All units of the New

People's Army (NPA) in Eastern Visayas may now resume offensive military operations against the regular and paramilitary forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP)," the CPP said.

The CPP also commended the NPA for displaying a "high level of discipline" in observing the unilateral ceasefire despite "provocations" made by the government of Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III.

"Despite the continuing attacks and provocations of the United States-Aquino

regime, the ceasefire was never lifted in deference to the sufferings of the people and in order to make sure that immediate relief would be delivered to them," the group said.

The CPP accused the AFP of continuing military operations against their group despite the government's unilateral declaration of a truce from 21 December to 15 January.

The leftist rebel group, with an estimated 4,000 fighters, has been waging war against the Philippine government for over four decades.

Xinhua



Rescuers transport relief goods to the place where an explosion occurred in Longchang Town, Kaili, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 13 Jan, 2014. Fourteen people were killed while seven others injured in the explosion here on Monday, local government said. Investigation into the case is now in full swing.

XINHUA



Citizens dine at a restaurant in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 10 Jan, 2014. Many fine restaurants in Taiyuan have changed traditional operation recently to meet the average diners' demand through changing its luxury menu into folk snack, remoulding deluxe rooms into common banquet hall and providing group-purchase set meals with low prices. —XINHUA

Gov't in no rush to decide new energy policy

TOKYO, 14 Jan — Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Tuesday that he won't be rushed into deciding a new energy policy that supports the use of nuclear power.

"We hope to finalize things as early as possible, but we don't want to rush the process because it is a very important issue," Motegi, who also holds the energy portfolio, told a Press conference.

The government is in the final stage of deciding the so-called Basic Energy Plan, which will be the first of its kind after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex disaster, having already solicited opinions from the public on a draft document.

But the draft plan has stirred controversy among

some ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers, who have called for the need to break away from nuclear power generation, and Motegi's comments suggest the policy will not be approved by the Cabinet this month, as initially planned.

Motegi said the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry needs to comb through some 19,000 letters from the public that it has received and also take into account the views of the LDP before officially deciding the plan.

The minister also said he is considering revising the draft with expressions that highlight the government's proactive stance toward promoting renewable energy.

Kyodo News

Flood warning issued in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14 Jan — Brunei is on the risk of flooding throughout all four districts as early Tuesday morning, as Brunei Meteorological Department flags the orange code for Severe Weather Warning on its website.

Showers or thunder-showers are still expected to occasionally cross the country. Risk of flash flood in heavy showers, especially at low lying and flood prone area, said the Meteorological Department.

In addition, flash floods or flooding in low lying areas and riverbanks will be expected, with wind gusts reaching up to 50 kilom-

eter per hour during heavy showers.

The weather warning additionally issues a category "Yellow" for high waves across Brunei waters which is expected to continue until later Tuesday evening.

The sea condition will range from moderate to rough due to the Northeast Monsoon Cold Surges and it is expected to prevail over Brunei waters until Jan. 20, 2014. Wave height is expected to rise up to three meters and wind speed reaching 60 kilometer per hour, said the Meteorological Department.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Invitation for Prequalification

Myanmar Electric Power Project (IDA-53060-MM)
Thaton Combine Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT)
Power Plant
(ICB MEPE-G-01)

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business of October 22, 2013 on-line. The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Myanmar Electric Power Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Thaton Combine Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant at the existing Thaton gas station (GT) in Mon State with a new combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant. The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) intends to prequalify contractors for supply and installation of a gas power plant which will generate and supply as much electricity as possible to the grid, limited by the available fuel gas up to 25MM CFD. Power export shall be at 66kV and 230 kV. The power station shall primarily generate base load power to Myanmar National grids. The main specifications include: the overall capacity of the power plant to be constructed is in the range of 105-110 MW, the minimum capacity of gas turbine and steam turbine is 35-45MW/unit and 20-40 MW/unit respectively.

It is expected that invitations for bid will be made in April 2014.

Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits, January 2011, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document from 10:00 -15:30 hrs. at

Thermal Power Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise,
Bldg No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Phone : + 9567410228
E-mail: gtceoffice@gmail.com

A complete set of the prequalification document in English language may be obtained free of charge by sending a request to the above email address. A copy of the prequalification document will be sent to the interested eligible Applicants as the attachment to the email. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 24.2.2014 , 14:00 Hr and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Thaton Combine Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant (ICB MEPE-G-01)"

Material Planning Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise,
Ministry of Electric Power
Bldg No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar



Visitors view the snow sculptures during the 2014 Shenyang International Ice and Snow Festival in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 12 Jan, 2014.
XINHUA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-164(2013-2014)	7" Liner Hanger and Accessories	(2) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB-165(2013-2014)	Ariel Compressor JGK-4 with Waukesha L-7042 GSI Spares	(14) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-166(2013-2014)	Ariel Compressor JGE-2 with Waukesha F-2895 GSI Spares	(23) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-167(2013-2014)	Ariel Compressor JGK-4 with Waukesha P-9390 GL Spares	(11) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-168(2013-2014)	Cooper MH64 with Waukesha P-9390 GL Spares	(20) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-169(2013-2014)	Cooper MH64 with Waukesha 12 VAT 27 GL Spares	(27) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-170(2013-2014)	AJAX DPC 600 Engine Spares	(16) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-171(2013-2014)	H 2475 G Waukesha Engine Spares	(22) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-172(2013-2014)	NKK/Kobelco Compressor KJB-2& KB-2 Spares	(24) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-173(2013-2014)	Spares for Hydraulic Mobile Grove Crane	(1) Item	US\$
(11)	IFB-174(2013-2014)	Geological Survey Instrument	(1) Item	US\$
(12)	IFB-175(2013-2014)	Industrial Chamber Oven and Core Plug Drilling Machine for Applied Research Center	(2) Items	US\$
(13)	DMP/L-051(2013-2014)	Mechanical Spares for ZJ70L SR I&II	(1) Lot	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-052(2013-2014)	3.25 MM, 4.0 MM & 5.0 MM Welding Electrode	(3) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 10-2-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13 January, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FU YU SHAN VOY NO (126)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU YU SHAN VOY NO (126) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2014 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 by-laws 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 COSC SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



Armoured vehicles participate in the celebration held at the Amani Stadium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Zanzibar 1964 Revolution, in Zanzibar, east of Tanzania, on 12 Jan, 2013. The Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar united as the United Republic of Tanzania on 26th April, 1964.

XINHUA

Military joins drive for vehicle efficiency

BEIJING, 14 Jan — The Chinese military issued a series of written instructions on Monday calling for increased efficiency in its operations and vowing to give priority to domestic brands when purchasing military and official vehicles.

The move follows a central government regulation on 25 November standardizing the management of government funds and banning extravagance on the part of Party and government bodies. The new military measures were published by the Headquarters of the General Staff, the General Political Department, the General Logistics Department and the General Armament Department, after approval by President Xi Jinping and the Central Military Commission.

The military is now required to buy its vehicles through a centralized

purchasing system and choose Chinese brands that are made in the country. Yang Weidong, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance, said it is surprising that the military, which is usually thought to operate independently of the other State organs, has been able to issue such orders on efficiency so quickly after the central government's own regulations.

"It sends a significant signal. It will help deepen the public's understanding of the military and strengthen the public's supervision of the military," Yang said. The requirement to use Chinese ve-

hicles will also help promote the development of Chinese companies, he said.

"The use of national budget funds to buy Chinese brands will encourage more ordinary civilians and even the rich to buy domestic-made vehicles," Yang said, adding that he hopes more government bodies will adopt similar policies.

The military is also to halt spending on commemorative activities and celebrations, apart from those arranged by the central government, the Central Military Commission and the military headquarters, according to the measures.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Michael Douglas joins Paul Rudd in Disney-Marvel's 'Ant-Man' film

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — Actor Michael Douglas will take on the role of scientist Hank Pym opposite Paul Rudd in the upcoming Disney-Marvel superhero

film "Ant-Man," the movie studio said on Monday.

Douglas, 69, will play Pym, creator of the technology to shrink to the size of an insect and thus become

Ant-Man. "Anchorman" star Rudd, 44, will play Scott Lang, the alter-ego of the diminutive Marvel superhero.

Pym's character first appeared in the 27th issue of Marvel Comics series "Tales to Astonish" in January 1962.

"We knew we needed an actor capable of bringing the weight and stature to the role that the character deserves," Kevin Feige, president of Marvel Studios, said in a statement posted on Marvel.com.

"We felt incredibly relieved when Michael Douglas agreed to step into the part with the charm and fortitude he brings to every character he inhabits, and couldn't be more excited to see what he will do to bring Hank Pym to life," Feige

added.

Disney's foray in bringing Marvel's superhero universe to the big screen has proved to be a lucrative choice, with films such as "Avengers" and "Iron Man 3" crossing the \$1 billion mark at the worldwide box office.

Douglas, who won a Best Actor Oscar in 1988 for Oliver Stone's financial drama "Wall Street" and picked up a Golden Globe award on Sunday for his turn as Liberace in HBO movie "Behind the Candelabra," is taking a rare step into the world of big-budget franchise action films.

The plot for "Ant-Man" is being kept firmly under wraps. The film, directed by Edgar Wright, is scheduled to be in theaters in July 2015.—Reuters



Michael Douglas poses backstage with the award for Best Actor in a Mini-Series or TV Movie for his role in "Behind the Candelabra" at the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 12 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Golden Globes 2014: All winners

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — Awards season kicks off in Hollywood with the Golden Globes. Here are the winners:

Best Motion Picture - Drama: 12 Years A Slave **Best Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical:** American Hustle. **Best Director:** Alfonso Cuaron for Gravity **Best Actor — Drama:** Matthew McConaughey for Dallas **Best Actress - Drama:** Cate Blanchett, Blue Jasmine.

Best Actor - Comedy/Musical: Leonardo DiCaprio, The Wolf of Wall Street **Best Actress — Comedy or Musical:** Amy Adams, American Hustle

Best Supporting Actress: Jennifer Lawrence, American Hustle

Best Supporting Actor: Jared Leto, Dallas Buyers Club

Best TV Series —



Golden Globe Awards 2014

Comedy or Musical: Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **Best TV Actress - Comedy/Musical:** Amy Poehler, Parks & Recreation **Best Animated Feature Film:** Frozen

Best Actor — Series, Miniseries or TV Film: Michael Douglas, Behind The Candelabra **Best Foreign Language Film:** The Great Beauty. **Best Supporting Actress - Series, Miniseries or TV Film:** Jacqueline Bisset, Dancing on the Edge

Best Supporting Actor - Series, Miniseries or TV Film: Jon Voight, Ray Donovan

Best Actor, TV Series Drama: Bryan Cranston, Breaking Bad

Best Actor, TV Series Comedy or Musical: Andy Samberg, Brooklyn Nine-Nine **Best Actress, TV Movie or Miniseries:** Elizabeth Moss, Top Of The Lake

Best Actress in a TV Series, Drama: Robin Wright, House of Cards

Best Screenplay, Motion Picture: Spike Jonze, Her **Best Original Score, Motion Picture:** Alex Ebert, All is Lost

Best Original Song, Motion Picture: Ordinary Love, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

Best TV Mini-Series or Movie: Behind The Candelabra

Best TV Series, Drama: Breaking Bad

Best TV Series, Comedy or Musical: Brooklyn Nine-Nine.—PTI



Jessie Mueller sings onstage during the "Beautiful - The Carole King Musical" press preview at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York, on 21 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

The Carole King Musical' star wins critical praise

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — Jessie Mueller, the star of "Beautiful — The Carole King Musical," may not be a household name yet, but some critics predicted on Monday that she could be after her performance in the new Broadway musical.

The New York Post described the casting of Mueller, 31, in the lead role of the show that charts the rise of the songwriter from her early days penning hits with her first husband Gerry Goffin to a solo career and her 1971 multiple Grammy-winning album "Tapestry" as "inspired."

"Mueller's hardly a household name," the newspaper said after the show's opening night on Sunday. "But her engaging, moving performance here should make her one."

USA Today praised Mueller's voice, range and comic sensibility and described her as "one of our best young musical actresses."

The New York Times said Mueller, a Tony nominee for her role opposite Harry Connick Jr. in 2011's "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," has been a Broadway star in the wait-

ing for several years but with "Beautiful" she became one.

"Much of what makes Ms. Mueller's performance so touching is its projection of a lack of confidence," the newspaper said.

"There's humility to Ms. Mueller's Carole, part of whom wants only to be a good Jewish wife and mother, preferably in the suburbs," it added.

The Hollywood Reporter agreed.

"She conveys the burgeoning singer-songwriter's creative drive while wrestling quietly with her ingrained, old-fashioned sense of the expectations for a wife and mother," it said.

But while critics lauded Mueller's portrayal as the chart-topping legend, they were less enthusiastic about the production that included songs such as "So Far Away," "It's Too Late," "Up on the Roof" and "I Feel the Earth Move."

Like "Jersey Boys" and "Motown: The Musical," shows that have been drawing crowds on Broadway, "Beautiful" is about real people and the music they created.—Reuters



Kanye West and Kim Kardashian have a daughter together.

Kanye West wants Kim Kardashian to take his name

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — Rapper Kanye West has reportedly told Kim Kardashian she must change her surname when they get married.

The 36-year-old Power rapper is adamant his bride-to-be takes his

last name, causing a tense moment over Christmas when her mother, Kris Jenner, suggested Kim become Kardashian-West, reported Showbizspy.

"Everyone at the table gave a thumbs up, except for Kanye. He sat quiet and

stern faced, then blurted forcefully, 'She will be known as Kim West. My wife will bear my name only,'" a source said.

Kim, who has six-month-old daughter North with Kanye, is now facing the tough decision of trying

to please both her notoriously hot-headed partner and her extremely persuasive mother.

"By the end of the night Kim was in tears because all the way home he kept ranting that he was furious about her even con-

sidering to keep the Kardashian name. When Kim fought back, saying her celebrity is based on her famous family's name, big-headed Kanye snapped that his name holds more weight and respect than hers ever will," the source added.

PTI

SPORTS

Del Potro wins in 'worst conditions' at Melbourne Park



Juan Martin Del Potro

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — World number five Juan Martin del Potro advanced to the second round of the Australian Open with a 6-7,

6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over American qualifier Rhyne Williams in stifling heat on Tuesday. The towering Argentine, who won the 2009 US Open, is a dark horse to win his second grand slam title having enjoyed encouraging form in the leadup

to Melbourne with victory in the Sydney International warmup event.

The 22-year-old Williams, ranked 130 in the

world, had other ideas as he matched Del Potro's firepower in a tense first set and closed it out when the fifth seed stumbled in an error-strewn tiebreak. Del Potro steadied in the second set and cruised to victory in just over three hours to set up a clash with Spain's 62nd ranked Roberto Bautista Agut.

The extreme heat at Melbourne Park on Tuesday caused a ball-boy and men's player Frank Dancevic to collapse during his first round loss, and the Canadian

later slammed organizers as 'inhumane' for not suspending play. "I tried to focus for the match in the worst conditions to play," Del Potro said in a courtside interview. "Really, really hot but the crowd kept me going."

"Hopefully the weather will be better on Thursday."

Del Potro is unlikely to get his wish, however, with the temperatures forecast to exceed 40 degrees Celsius (108 Fahrenheit) for the next three days until a cool change on the weekend.—Reuters

Murray shakes off rust with dominant win in first round

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Andy Murray marked his return to grand slam tennis with a dominant 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over Japan's Go Soeda to reach the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The Briton headed into the clash having played just two competitive matches since back surgery in September and said it would



Andy Murray of Britain celebrates defeating Go Soeda of Japan during their men's singles match at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 14 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

take him time to hit top form.

But fourth seed Murray had little trouble get-

ting back into the groove against the unseeded Japanese, roaring to victory in 87 minutes in stifling heat at the Hisense Arena despite the lack of match practice.

Murray will next play the winner of France's Vincent Millot or another qualifier in American Wayne Odesnik.—Reuters



Rory McIlroy

McIlroy and McGinley support Irish Open move

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — World number seven Rory McIlroy and Europe's Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley have backed the decision to move the Irish Open from Carton House in County Kildare to Fota Island.

The 19-22 June tournament is to be held in Cork, the country's most southerly county, this year for the first time since 2002. "I think it is great news the Irish Open will be played at Fota Island," twice major winner McIlroy said in a news release on Monday.

"The country's national open should be moved around to give everyone an opportunity to see the event and it also gives us the chance to show the world just how many amazing courses there are in Ireland," added the Northern Irishman.—Reuters

Slow start but Azarenka through to Australian Open 2nd round

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Victoria Azarenka's quest for her third successive Australian Open title took a little while to get going before she finally overcame a feisty Johanna Larsson 7-6, 6-2 in their first round match at Melbourne Park on Tuesday. The 24-year-old Belarusian looked out of sorts in the first set as the Swede ran her all around the court and scrambled effectively to put massive pressure on the world number two. Larsson had two opportunities to

serve out the first set when leading 5-4 then 6-5 only for Azarenka to break back both times, which saw the Swede's resolve melt away as the two-times champion won the tie-break 7-2.

Azarenka, who is bidding to become the first woman to win three successive Melbourne Park titles since Martina Hingis (1997-99), broke in the third game of the second set to take control and pushed on to seal the match.

She will face Taiwan's

Hsieh Su-wei or Czech Barbora Zahlavova-Strycova in the second round.—Reuters



Victoria Azarenka

Rusty Djokovic in Melbourne



Novak Djokovic

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Novak Djokovic showed some early season rustiness but Serena Williams roared into the second round like a well-oiled machine as the tournament favourites took centre stage on the first evening of the Australian Open on Monday.

Djokovic's new co-coach Boris Becker will have raised an eyebrow with the 30 unforced errors the second seed served up

as he opened his quest for a fourth straight title in Melbourne.

The Serbian always looked like cantering to victory in three sets, however, and 23 minutes after taking a tight second stanza by dominating the tiebreak, he was firing down his 10th ace for the win.

"I know that I didn't play my best, especially in the second set," said Djokovic, who has now won his last 22 matches at Melbourne Park and 25 contests in a row in all tournaments since his loss to Rafa Nadal in the US Open final.

"I was a little bit too passive in some stages of the match and was trying to find the proper setting and proper balance and footing in the court."

With temperatures forecast to soar well above 40 degrees Celsius from Tuesday onwards, there was good reason for the players to keep their time on court to a minimum and rest up for challenges to come.—Reuters

Australian Open order of play on Wednesday

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Order of play on the main showcourts at the Australian Open on Wednesday (play starts at 0000 GMT on all courts, prefix denotes seeding):

Rod Laver Arena
4-Li Na (China) v Belinda Bencic (Switzerland)
1-Serena Williams (US) v Vesna Dolonc (Serbia)

Leonardo Mayer (Argentina) v 2-Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
From 0800

17-Sam Stosur (Australia) v Tsvetana Pironkova (Bulgaria)
Matthew Ebden (Australia) v 28-Vasek Pospisil (Canada)

Hisense Arena
7-Tomas Berdych

(Czech Republic) v Kenny De Schepper (France)

Adrian Mannarino (France) v 3-David Ferrer (Spain)

Casey Dellacqua (Australia) v 18-Kristen Flipkens (Belgium)

Margaret Court Arena

Monica Niculescu (Romania) v 15-Sabine Lisicki (Germany)

28-Flavia Pennetta (Italy) v Monica Puig (Puerto Rico)

9-Angelique Kerber (Germany) v Alla Kudryavtseva (Russia)

Sam Querrey (US) v 23-Ernests Gulbis (Latvia)

From 0800

8-Stanislas Wawrinka (Switzerland) v Alejandro Falla (Colombia).

Reuters

Arsenal survive late scare at Villa to go top

LONDON, 14 Jan — Arsenal survived a late scare to regain top spot in the Premier League with a 2-1 victory at Aston Villa on Monday, both their goals arriving in the space of a minute in the first half.

England midfielder Jack Wilshere opened the scoring after 34 minutes with an accurate left-foot finish and Villa self-destructed, conceding possession straight from the restart and allowing Olivier Giroud to double the visitors' lead.

Christian Benteke's stooping header raised hopes of an unlikely comeback and the Belgian striker came close to an equaliser but Arsenal hung on to continue their fine record at

Villa where they have not lost since 1998.

Arsenal began the evening in third place after wins for title rivals Chelsea and Manchester City at the weekend but responded in style to move a point clear at the top.

Arsene Wenger's side have 48 points from 21 matches, City have 47 and Chelsea 46 with fourth-placed Liverpool further back on 42 after also winning at the weekend.

"It's a massive three points — especially because we dropped a bit in the second half. We have done that a few times, letting teams come on to us but we dealt well with it," Wilshere told Sky Sports.

Reuters



Aston Villa's Ciaran Clark (L) and Ashley Westwood (C) challenge Arsenal's Mesut Ozil during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham on 13 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

GENERAL

Inter problems mount with Chievo draw



Inter Milan's Yuto Nagatomo (2nd R) shoots to score against Chievo during their Italian Serie A soccer match at San Siro stadium in Milan on 13 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

MILAN, 14 Jan — Inter Milan's unhappy run continued when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by lowly Chievo in Serie A on Monday and were jeered off the San Siro pitch by their own fans.

Inter, with only one win in their last seven league matches, were quickly in trouble when Alberto Paloschi fired the relegation-threatened Flying Donkeys ahead in the eighth minute.

Yuto Nagatomo levelled for Inter four minutes later, turning the ball in from close range after it was pulled back by Ricardo Alvarez, and the Japanese had a goal controversially disallowed for offside two

minutes later.

Walter Mazzarri's team dominated possession for the rest of the game but struggled to create clear chances.

Inter are joint fifth, level with promoted Verona on 32 points from 19 games, 10 behind Napoli who are third in the Champions League playoff spot.

Three players were sent off as Sampdoria thumped Udinese 3-0 in Monday's other game.

Brazilian midfielder Allan was dismissed for Udinese in the 35th minute after two yellow cards in quick succession but the numbers were levelled up when Samp's Roberto So-

riano was sent off just after the hour for a second bookable offence.

Udinese also had Allan's compatriot Gabriel Silva ordered off after he was booked for elbowing, his second yellow card.

Brazilian Eder gave Sampdoria a 16th-minute lead with a penalty and added another two minutes after halftime, although there was a suspicion of offside as he latched on to a flicked pass to score.

Daniele Gastaldello headed the third three minutes from time to leave Sampdoria 12th with 21 points and Udinese 15th with 20.

Reuters

China boosts informatization for better livelihood

BEIJING, 14 Jan — The National Development and Reform Commission on Tuesday said it will boost informatization in eleven sectors to boost people's livelihood. The eleven sectors include education, employment, medical services, social security, pensions, food and drug safety, community services, domestic services and public security, said a statement on the commission's website.

China will work to build an efficient social service system through promoting social security cards that can integrate various services, according to the statement.

By 2015, about 800

million social security cards should be issued so that social security services and other allowances can be provided efficiently, according to the statement.

Quality education resources will be selected and made available to all schools in a bid to bridge education gaps between developed areas and less developed western and central regions, the statement said. Xu Hongcai, head of the Department of Information under the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said informatization will help tackle problems in these sectors and provide quality services to the public.—Xinhua

Federer breezes past Aussie Duckworth at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan— Four-time champion Roger Federer encountered little trouble to beat wildcard James Duckworth of Australia here on Tuesday in the opening round of the Australian Open.

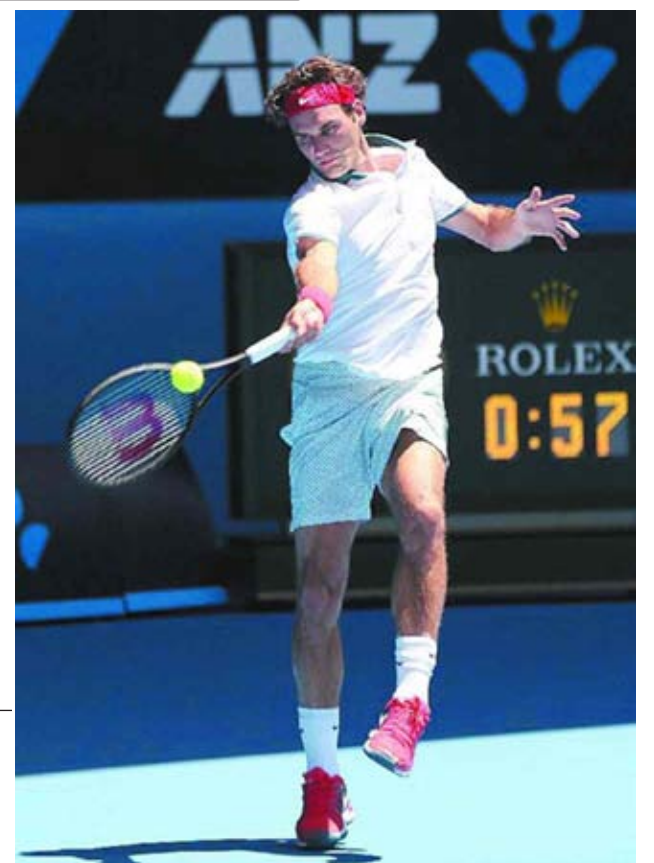
The Swiss, seeded sixth at Melbourne Park, used one hour and 46 minutes to seize a 6-4, 6-4 and 6-2 victory at Rod Laver Arena.

The victory not only put Federer in a second

round match against Blaz Kavcic, who qualifies as opponent Radek Stepanek retired, but also saw the 17-time Grand Slam champion began his 57th consecutive major tournaments, surpassing the Open Era record of 56 he used to share with Wayne Ferreira of South Africa. Federer had his new coach Stefan Edberg in stand watching his opening match of the Australian Open.

Xinhua

Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return during his men's singles first round match against James Duckworth of Australia at 2014 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 14 Jan, 2014.
Roger Federer won 3-0.—XINHUA



MYANMAR TV

(15-1-2014, Wednesday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | News/ Weather Report |
| 1:50 pm | |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 16. 7 th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Goalball) (Thailand & Myanmar) (Women) |
| 6:20 am | |
| 2. Mytta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw | |
| 6:35 am | 3:10 pm |
| 3. Nice & Sweet Song | 17. India Drama Series |
| 6:50 am | 3:50 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 18. 7 th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Goalball) (Thailand & Myanmar) (Men) |
| 7:00 am | |
| 5. News/Weather Report | 5:05 pm |
| 7:25 am | 19. India Drama Series |
| 6. Myanmar Language | 5:30 pm |
| 7:35 am | 20. India Drama Series |
| 7. Documentary (ASEAN Para Games) | 6:00 pm |
| 8:00 am | 21. News/Weather Report |
| 8. News/ International News | 6:20 pm |
| 8:50 am | 22. Shwe Yin Chone Than |
| 9. 7 th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Goalball) (Myanmar & Laos) (Women) | 7:00 pm |
| 10:00 am | 23. News |
| 10. News | 7:25 pm |
| 10:20 am | 24. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than |
| 11. Sing A Song | 7:40 pm |
| 10:55 am | 25. Documentary (ASEAN) |
| 12. Approaching Science Discovery World | 8:00 pm |
| 11:15 am | 26. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 13. Documentary | 8:35 pm |
| 11:50 am | 27. People Talks |
| 14. 7 th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Goalball) (Indonesia & Myanmar) (Man) | 8:45 pm |
| 1:00 am | 28. Documentary |
| 15. News/ International | 9:00 pm |
| | 29. News |
| | 30. Fine Arts - Bostom of Dramatic Performance |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

15-1-14 07:00 am ~ 16-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Lucrative Businesses of Tanintharyi Region
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Movie Impact "So Cool-2"
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Beauty And His Creations (Ep-1)
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Na Di Htike"
- * Local News
- * Reflected Glory
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring
- * World News
- * Art Students: Sculpture
- * Local News
- * The Strokes of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Herbal Medicine by Thurein (Aloe Vera)
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product

Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends tea party to host members of sports contingents from ASEAN countries

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun this morning attended a tea party to host managers, coaches and athletes from ASEAN member countries who will take part in the 7th ASEAN Para Games in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Vice-President cordially greeted members of the contingents and presented gifts to them.

The tea party held in Social Zone of sports train-

ing ground, here, was also attended by Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the 7th ASEAN Para Games Union Minister U Tint San, Joint Secretary of the committee President of Myanmar Paralympics Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Aung Kyi, U Aye Myint Kyu, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and U Htay Aung who are committee chairmen, deputy ministers and departmental heads.—MNA



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun presents gift to a member of Indonesian sports contingent.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw budget hearing starts

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today confirmed the appointments of Rakhine State Chief Justice and the Deputy Electric Power Minister.

The Hluttaw also ap-

proved the formation of Joint Planning and Budget Development Committee with U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency as the chairman, U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency (6) and U Aye Mauk

of Mahlaing Constituency as secretary.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker noted that the clarifications by Union-level organizations on the National Plan and the Budget would help lawmakers as-

sess the major legislations of the country and would cut delays.

Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Electric Power Minister U Khin Maung Soe,

Union Industry Minister U Maung Myint, Deputy Rail Transportation Minister U Myint Thein, Deputy Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister U Aye Myint Maung made

clarifications on budgets requested for activities of each ministry in 2014-2015 Fiscal Year.

The meeting will continue on 15 January.

MNA

Union Cooperatives Minister receives Japanese Vice-President of LDP

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan received a delegation led by Vice-President of Liberal Democratic Party and former Foreign Minister of Japan Mr Komura Masahiko at Royal Nay Pyi Taw Ho-

tel, here, this morning.

During the meeting, both sides had a cordial discussion on cooperation in cooperative societies between Myanmar and Japan and ODA loans for Myanmar in 2014-15 for uplifting microfinance and coopera-

tive societies and sending of trainees to attend the risk management courses on cooperative activities and that of monetary organizations and banking services with the assistance of JICA for HRD.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan eye further strengthening of bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr Masahiko Komura, Vice-President of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and party at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

At the meeting, they

exchanged views on further strengthening of Myanmar and Japan bilateral relations, experiences on political reform, promotion of cooperation between parliaments, governments and peoples between Myanmar and Japan, holding of ceremony to mark 60th anniversary establishment

of Myanmar-Japan diplomatic relations, experiences on uplifting of living standard of the people, national unity, national reconciliation, rule of law and internal peace process.

Later, the Speaker and party posed for documentary photo together with the Japanese guests.—MNA

Emotional Ronaldo ends Messi run

ZURICH, 14 Jan—Cristiano Ronaldo was overcome with emotion after being voted the world's best player for 2013 on Monday, ending his great rival Lionel Messi's dominance of the award.

Although he failed to win any major titles with Real Madrid last season, Ronaldo was rewarded for his immense goal-scoring prowess as he swept aside Messi, winner for the last four years, and Frenchman Franck Ribery.

"Thank you to everyone, my team mates, the national team and my family, to everyone here," the Portugal and Real Madrid

forward said, choking with emotion after accepting the trophy.

"I can't speak," added Ronaldo, runner-up for three of the last four years, before breaking down.

Jupp Heynckes, now retired, was named coach of the year for the first time after leading Bayern Munich to an unprecedented Bundesliga, Cup and Champions League treble, a fitting end to a 48-year career as player and coach.

The Afghanistan Football Federation and fiery Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic were among other award winners.

Reuters



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) gestures after being awarded the FIFA Ballon d'Or 2013 in Zurich on 13 January, 2014.—REUTERS

Entries invited for ASEAN song composing contest

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—To perform entertainment at the ASEAN Summit and related meetings, entries were invited for ASEAN song composing contest.

The works must be created in line with the themes of ASEAN's vision—one vision, one identity and one community—and ASEAN Motto of the year 2014—Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community and ASEAN Logo. The entries must depict "warmly welcome to Myanmar" in both Myanmar and English languages. It must comprise solo and chorus paragraphs in its 4-6 minutes. Lyric and melody of the song must be own creation of the composer. Winner will win K 2 million for honorarium, and Ministry of Culture will manage all the matters of the selected song.

The composer are to send Demo CD and song lyric not later than 14 February to the Office No. 35, ASEAN Summit and related meetings organizing sub-committee, Ministry of Culture, Nay Pyi Taw. Anybody may dial 067-408 441, 067 408 421, 09 5 172 385 and 09 49 20 94 17.—MNA