The New Light of Myanmar
THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU
Volume XXI, Number 278 | 4th Waning of Pyatho 1375 ME | Sunday, 19 January 2014

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys archery, blindfold chess and table tennis events

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents medal to a winner in men's compound of archery event.
(News on page 8)
MNA

Yangon to see escalator-equipped bridge, making pedestrians safety

Byline & photo: *Saw Thein Win*

Yangon City Development Committee is planning to build a pedestrian bridge across Strand Road (old) and new concrete road in cooperation with First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd. The project is aimed at ensuring traffic safety of pedestrians got off from Yangon-Dala ferry. The bridge will be equipped with escalator service.

As the number of vehicles and the number of traffic accidents are on the increase in Yangon, YCDC has planned to construct the escalator-equipped pedestrian bridge. Upon completion, there will be smooth and speedy flow of traffic and commodities along the old and new Strand Road. Moreover, the bridge will make pedestrians safe from possible danger of traffic accident.

According to an official of Yangon-Dala ferry service, around 40000 people from Dala, Twantay, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Dedaye, Maubin and Pyapon daily rely on four ferries that shuttle between Dala and Yangon. As the ferry service runs every ten minutes, carrying 300 or 400 passengers, traffic police has always been busy carrying out their task of ensuring pedestrian safety.

"Pedestrians have to cross the two busy roads—old Strand Road and new concrete one that is mainly used by containers. As the escalator-equipped bridge could make pedestrians comfort and safety, especially at night, ferry users will happily welcome the project", he added.

In order to construct the bridge soon, YCDC Chairman Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials of FMI Co., Ltd observed ground situations on Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township and Nann Thida jetty in Seikkan Township and pedestrians walking out from Yangon-Dala ferry service on 14 January.

Kyemon: 16-1-2014
Trs: YM

Photo shows Strand Road in Botahtaung Township in Yangon.

Success of the 7th ASEAN Para Games

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— The final day archery event of the 7th ASEAN Para Games is being held on a grand scale at Wunna Theikdi Archery Ground today. A sports fan from Thailand supports the event, hoisting miniature flags of Myanmar and Thailand on his head and singing a song titled "We Myanmar win" in Myanmar language. This is success for Myanmar as a host country in accord with the motto of the 7th ASEAN Para Games "Friendship, Equality and Unity".

Kyemon:
Than Naing (Zabuthiri)

LOCAL NEWS

Fire breaks out at leak of natural gas pipeline in Thanlyin Township

THANLYIN, 18 Jan—Leak of natural gas from the pipeline caused outbreak of fire on the circular road in Bagosu Ward of Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region on 16 January.

The fire engulfed the dried grass around the pipeline.

Officials of Thanlyin Township Police Force, Fire Services Department and Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise together with local authorities and villagers and fire fighters put out the fire with one fire engine.

It was reported that there was no loss in the incident.

The natural gas pipeline is stretching from Ywama of Insein Township to the natural gas control station in Thanlyin Township passing along Thanatpin Village.

Kyemon-Thanlyin Phyo Min Latt

Development

Fund handed over for development tasks

YAMETHIN, 18 Jan—A ceremony to present the development fund was held in conjunction with uniform presentation for members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Yamethin of Mandalay Region on 15 January.

Region Hluttaw MP U Zaw Win and Township Administrator U Maung Maung made speeches.

Officials presented K 60 million shared to various development tasks to village and ward development committees.

The fund will be spent on school desks for basic education schools in the township, placing of gravels for the inter-village roads, repairs of school buildings at BEPSs, BEMS branches and Post-Primary School.

The Chairman of Township Fire Prevention Committee and the Region Hluttaw MP together with township level officials including Head of Township Fire Services Department U Tin Naing Oo presented uniforms to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade through local authorities.

Kyemon-Zaw Win Aung

Traffic accident occurs in Mingaladon Township

YANGON, 18 Jan—A pickup truck of No 132 bus line overturned near Bobogyi Spirit Chamber of Shwenyaungbin in Mingaladon Township on 15 January afternoon.

In dodging the vehicle that moved back from the chamber, the Hilux overturned there, and passengers on board suffered injuries.

Branch Head U San Lwin of North District All Bus Line Control Committee and officials, police officers from Traffic Police Suqad No 13 inspected the scene and transferred the patients to the hospital. Among the patients, Maung Yi Lin, 29 of unknown address died on the way due to the serious injuries.

Action will be take against the driver of the bus line under the law.

Kyemon-Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)

Police officers check traffic accident in Mingaladon Township.

National Sports

Sagaing University Inter-Subject Football Tournament held in Sagaing

SAGAING, 18 Jan—Sagaing University of Upper Myanmar Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education held the Inter-Subject Men's Football Tournament for 2013-14 academic year at the district sports ground in Sagaing on 16 January.

Rector in-charge Dr Thura Oo made a speech.

Physics Department team handed over the championship shield of previous year to the rector in-charge.

Officials greeted the players of both teams.

In the debut, Physics and Zoology teams met with a 1-1 draw.

Nine majoring teams namely Myanmar, Maths, Geography, History, Zoology, Chemistry, Botany, Physics and Philosophy.

The final and prize presentation will be held on 30 January.

Kyemon-Myo Win

Pa-O National Organization Chairman's Cup Football Tourney wraps up

TAUNGGYI, 18 Jan—The final match of 14th Pa-O National Organization Chairman's Cup Junior football tournament took place at the sports ground in Naungka Village of Taunggyi Township on 16 January.

Ponlaung team Aunghsubwe team 3-1 in the final.

Executive of the organization U Khun Tun Maung and officials presented K 500,000 and championship shield to Ponlaung team and K 300,000 and medal to Aunghsubwe team.

In the final match of the senior class, Moebye team emerged champion with a 1-0 result against Lwemawtan team.

Chairman of Pa-O National Football Federation U Khun San Lwin, Vice-Chairman U Khun Win Ko and officials gave K 1 million and championship trophy to Moebye team and K 500,000 and medal to Lwemawtan team.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Khun San Lwin and officials.

The matches were supervised by referee U Hla Myint Latt and officials of Myanmar Football Referee Committee.—*Kyemon-Tint Swe (Taunggyi)*

Japan, US security advisers agree closer bilateral cooperation

Shotaro Yachi, head of the secretariat of Japan's new National Security Council, speaks to reporters in Washington on 17 Jan, 2014, after talks with US State Secretary John Kerry. Yachi told reporters he discussed "various issues" with Kerry including the situation in East Asia but declined to go into further detail. **KYODO NEWS**

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — The Japanese and US national security advisers agreed on Friday to boost mutual cooperation to deal with issues in East Asia such as North Korea's nuclear programmes, a Japanese government official said. Shotaro Yachi, a close aide to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and head of the secretariat of Japan's new National Security Council, and his US counterpart Susan Rice reached the agreement during a meeting in Washington. Yachi and Rice "agreed to frequent regular communications between the two National Security Councils," according to the White House.

Yachi, a former vice foreign minister of Japan, also met with Secretary of State John Kerry, Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel the same day. Yachi told reporters he discussed "various issues" with Kerry including the situation in East Asia, but declined to go into further detail.

The Japanese official in Yachi's delegation suggested Abe's controversial visit to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine, which honours convicted war criminals along with war dead, was not a major topic in the meetings.

The official declined to say whether Yachi and the US officials discussed China's claim to the Japan-controlled Senkaku islets in the East China Sea and Beijing's establishment of an air defence identification zone over the waters.

The US Defence Department said Hagel "expressed appreciation" for Japan's efforts in securing the relocation of the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station within Okinawa Prefecture.

Yachi and Hagel endorsed "a forward-looking revision" of the bilateral defence cooperation guidelines that will enable Japan to take a more active role in promoting regional peace and stability, the Pentagon said. The Japanese and US governments plan to revise the defence cooperation guidelines by the end of this year with a focus on the extent to which the roles of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces can be expanded under the war-renouncing Constitution.—*Kyodo News*

IMF, UN officials among 21 killed in Kabul suicide attack

Afghan security forces arrive at the scene of an explosion in Kabul on 17 Jan, 2014.—**REUTERS**

KABUL, 18 Jan—A Taleban suicide bomber and gunmen attacked a restaurant popular with foreigners in the Afghan capital on Friday evening, killing up to 21 people including four United Nations staff and the IMF's top representative in Afghanistan.

Gunmen burst into the restaurant spraying diners with bullets after the bomber blew himself up near the entrance around 7.30 p.m..

Thirteen foreigners were among those killed, according to police. On Saturday, the US Embassy said in a post on Twitter that at least two U.S. private citizens were killed, while Britain and Canada also confirmed they had each lost two nationals.

Sporadic bursts of gunfire continued for about an hour after the initial blast, and the two gunmen inside the Lebanese restaurant were shot dead by police, an Afghan official said.

Most foreign forces are preparing to leave Afghanistan this year after more than a decade of war, and there are fears that the Taleban will intensify attacks in the run up to an election in April, when Afghans will choose a successor to President Hamid Karzai.

Karzai is still deliberating whether to allow some U.S. troops to stay on, but if no agreement is reached, Afghan forces could be left to fight the insurgents on their own.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for Friday's attack, calling it revenge for a US airstrike earlier this week that had also drawn condemnation from Karzai as eight civilians were killed. Shots could be heard ringing across the capital's diplomatic district for minutes after the first blast.

Several kitchen staff survived by fleeing to the roof, where they hid until they were rescued by police.

"When I was in the kitchen, I heard an explosion outside. Then all the guys escaped up and I went to the roof and stayed with my back to the chimney for two or three hours," said Suleiman, a cook at the Lebanese restaurant.

Reuters

Three killed in Mozambique mine collapse

MAPUTO, 18 Jan— Three illegal panners died from a mine collapse in the northernmost Mozambican Province of Cabo Delgado, local media reported on Saturday.

The accident, which happened in the Nampa mine in the muddy Montepuez district, also injured other two people.

The administrator of the neighboring Ancuabe district, Eusebio Celestino, told reporters that it was not the right time for people to be involved in the mining activities here, due to the rains which have been falling since the end of last year, according to the newspaper *Noticias*.

Montepuez and Ancuabe Districts are rich in ruby, turmalines and other precious stones, which attract both local and foreign nationals to dig, while many cases of deaths and injuries caused by mine collapses have been reported in Montepuez.

It is reported that Pakistanis, Thai and Tanzanian nationals are accused of illegal panning and purchase of the stones in the province.

Xinhua

18 killed, over 50 injured in Mumbai stampede

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan — At least 18 people were killed and over 50 others injured in a stampede in Mumbai in the early hours of Saturday, a senior police official said.

"The stampede broke out in the financial capital's posh Malabar Hill area where hundreds of people gathered to pay last respect to a spiritual leader who died Friday. While 18 people died on the spot, the injured have been admitted to a local hospital," he said on condition of anonymity.

A probe has been ordered to determine the exact cause of the incident, the official added. —*Xinhua*

Two explosions hit Russia's Dagestan, 7 injured

MOSCOW, 18 Jan — Two explosions rocked Russia's southern republic of Dagestan on Friday night, injuring seven people, local authorities said.

The blasts targeted a restaurant in Makhachkala, capital of the republic, Dagestani Interior Ministry told local media.

Preliminary information showed that an "unidentified person" shot at the second floor of the Golden Empire restaurant with a grenade launcher, injuring five people on the site, said the ministry. A Lada car exploded near the restaurant when law enforcement officers arrived, injuring two policemen, it added.

The explosive that went off near the restaurant contained no shrapnel, Interfax news agency cited law enforcement authorities as saying. Investigators are probing into the case.

The blasts took place just a few minutes after the stated-run TV news channel aired an interview of President Vladimir Putin over Russia's anti-terror efforts ahead of the Sochi Olympics. Putin said Russia "will do everything" to guarantee security at the Winter Games due on 7 February.

"Our task as organizers is to provide security for the participants and guests of the Sochi Olympic Games, and we are going to do everything for it," he said. If Russia shows its weakness and fear, it will "help terrorists to achieve their goals," Putin added. He also urged the international community to make joint efforts in fighting against terrorist acts and the killing of innocent people.—*Xinhua*

Hun Sen warns opposition not to put Cambodia hostage for politics

PHNOM PENH, 18 Jan — Prime Minister Hun Sen warned opposition leaders on Saturday not to put Cambodia hostage for political benefit or face a government crackdown.

"Do not try to put this country hostage for bargaining your power," Hun Sen said, warning that any attempt to stage a civil war will be "cracked down on in just hours." Hun Sen issued the warning amid a brewing political crisis over the outcome of last July's general election.

The opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party has refused to recognize the outcome of the election, won by the ruling Cambodian People's Party, on grounds the polls were rigged to ensure a CPP victory. The opposition has boycotted all parliament sessions and staged mass protests, demanding a serious probe of the election, reform of the National Election Committee, organization of a new election and Hun Sen's resignation.

Hun Sen said a political settlement should be conducted through negotiation or through the National Assembly. "It should not be settled by walking in the streets," he said.

The Cambodian People's Party won 68 seats of the total 123-seat National Assembly in last July's general election, while the Cambodian National Rescue Party of Sam Rainsy got the remaining 55 seats.

Kyodo News

Derailed compartments of train are seen at the blast site in central Pakistan's Rajanpur District on 17 Jan, 2014. Three people were killed and 30 others injured when a blast hit a passenger train in central Pakistan's Rajanpur District on Friday morning, police said.— **XINHUA**

WORLD

A group of students from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia offer prayers for Taylor Anderson, a graduate of the college, in the area where her body was found in the wake of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, on 17 Jan, 2014. Anderson was killed in the disaster while working as an English teacher in Ishinomaki. KYODO NEWS

Brazilian president promises to distribute federal funds to all states

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Jan — Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff on Friday said federal funds should be distributed to all states, irrespective of their political affiliations.

She stressed the distribution of federal resources must be made in a democratic manner, without considering political allegiance or party affiliation.

"I am very proud of having maintained in the presidency this democratic behaviour, in which one takes into account the importance of states and municipalities," she said.

Rousseff made the remarks in her hometown of Belo Horizonte, in Minas Gerais state, whose governor belongs to an opposition political party and where she announced the release of 2.5 billion reals (about 1 billion US dollars) in federal funds to support local urban transportation projects.

During her speech, Rousseff also called for greater cooperation between the federal government and local and state administrations. —*Xinhua*

Syria offers Aleppo truce as rebels argue over talks

MOSCOW/ISTANBUL, 18 Jan — The Syrian government, preparing for peace talks with rebels next week, handed the Russian co-sponsors of the conference a proposal on Friday for a ceasefire in Aleppo and an exchange of prisoners.

The offer was dismissed by some of President Bashar al-Assad's disparate opponents, whose very attendance at the talks due to start on Wednesday in Switzerland remained in doubt, despite fresh assurances from Washington that negotiations would lead to Assad's departure from power. After nearly three years of war, and over 100,000 deaths, however, Assad's forces have been making gains, helped by in-fighting among the rebels as well as support from Iran and new arms and equipment from Russia. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem, visiting Moscow, said he gave Russian officials a plan for a truce in Aleppo, Syria's biggest city, where government forces have been unable to dislodge rebels over the past year. He also said Damascus was ready to exchange prisoners, something rebels want.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem (L) and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov enter a hall before the talks in Moscow, on 17 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

Moscow and Washington, which respectively protected and opposed Assad since the uprising in 2011, have urged both sides to make concessions, including ceasefires, access for aid and prisoner exchanges, to build confidence before the conference. But there is little sign of coherent negotiating positions - nor of violence abating. Rebels are fighting each other, in battles involving Islamist militants whose influence has cooled Western support for the uprising. Assad's forces, once reeling, have recovered and have been bolstered lately by new Russian arms and supplies, sources have told Reuters. Jamal al-Ward, head of the military office of the exiled opposition National Coalition, said a ceasefire in Aleppo was in the rebels' interest, "but we don't believe that the regime is serious about going through with this". Most of the disparate rebel forces fighting inside Syria have dismissed the negotiations, known as Geneva-2. The National Coalition, which is backed by Western and Arab powers, began a delayed meeting in Turkey on Friday to decide whether to take part. Their discussions were due to resume on Saturday and it remained unclear how or when they would reach a final decision.—*Reuters*

Thousands of Afghans face cold, hungry winter as aid goes missing

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 18 Jan — Thousands of homeless Afghans are huddling on the sides of freezing roads this winter with little shelter and nothing to eat, not far from warehouses stuffed with food.

The government's inability to help — through mismanagement, corruption, or factors beyond its control — threatens the future of a united Afghanistan after an April presidential election and the withdrawal of foreign combat troops by the end of this year.

It also leaves poor Afghans open to more exploitation and suffering, and makes them ideal recruits for insurgents.

"Warlords are coming at night, asking us for sheep and chickens. We are poor, we cannot afford this," said Ghollam Hassan, part of a cluster of people who have been living for weeks by the side of a road in Herat, one of Afghanistan's few relatively prosperous pro vinces near the border with Iran.

"I hope the government gives us shelter, tents to protect the children from the cold and snow."

The taskforce meant to respond to emergencies has failed to distribute supplies and, in some provinces, money to transport it has gone missing. Elsewhere, warehouses have been emptied without Kabul's knowledge, Afghan and UN officials say.

So thousands of desperate people have abandoned their homes in dangerous provinces and flocked to Herat, many of them with just a blanket for shelter from Afghanistan's harsh winter.

The crisis became so dire that the United Nations and international aid agencies stepped in with emergency provisions, but there is not enough to go around. *Reuters*

Homeless men sleep on the roadside in the old part of Kabul on 30 Aug, 2009. —REUTERS

NATURALISTE REEF

The following is a reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2014. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed

Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region

Off Myanmar's southeastern coast, the Myeik Archipelago, with its 800 islands, is a world-class diving destination, with beautiful coral reefs and a rich variety of marine life. Many of the islands in the 36,260 square kilometre (14,000 square mile) archipelago are uninhabited. Lampi, one of the main islands, has been designated the Lampi National Park and is listed as an ASEAN Heritage Site. Diving and sightseeing trips in the archipelago leave from Kawthoung, at the southern end of Taninthayi Region.

Moyingyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, Bago Region

This 103 square kilometre (40 square mile) sanctuary is the home of thousands of birds, including more than 40 species of waterfowl. More than 30 species of migratory birds have been identified at this sanctuary. As well as bird watching, there are hire boats available for sightseeing trips in this vast

wetlands habitat, which is about a three-hour drive from Yangon.

SPOILED FOR CHOICE

Myanmar Orchids, Kachin, Chin and Shan States and Mandalay Region

Myanmar's jungles, described as "the last paradise of wild orchids" have about 1500 species of orchids, many of them rare. Among the rarest are the Black Orchid (Paphiopedilum wardi) and the endangered Vanda coerulea, about 10 centimetres (4 inches) across in size. Large colonies of Phaphiopedilum bellatulum, on the international list of endangered species, are found in Myanmar.

FOOD & DRINK

Food Culture

Myanmr food culture is about sharing, by hosting feasts for hundreds of people on special occasions but also sharing food everyday with co-workers or school friends. Special meals are given to residents of monasteries, nunneries, old people's homes, orphanages and hospitals in commemoratioon of marriages, birthdays or other anniversaries.If friends drop in by chance at meal times they are invited to share the meal.

Myanmar Fare

The usual Myanmar meal comprises rice, served with a soup, salad, meat, fish or fowl curry, a vegetable stir-fry, and a salty spicy relish of fish paste to eat with blanched or raw vegetables. The soup is supped throughout the meal.

The main point of the menu is to balance the tastes and textures, therefore there there might be thick and creamy bean soup; a crunchy salad; fresh and light vegetables; curry with thick gravy to mix into the rice and the relish, sour as well as salty and spicy, to even out the tases. The whole meal is not the same taste and texture throughout but each mouthful is as different as one creates it.

WORLD

Russia, Syria determined to hold Geneva-II as scheduled

MOSCOW, 18 Jan — Moscow and Damascus believed no one could undermine the peace conference on Syria scheduled for later this month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday. Speaking to reporters after his talks with visiting Syrian counterpart Walid al-Moallem, Lavrov expressed Moscow's concern Syrian opposition group the National Coalition might attempt to delay the peace conference, known as Geneva-II, due to internal arguments.

"This goes beyond any reasonable (behavior)," he said. Moscow was also worried the opposition still had not received a formal invitation to attend the conference, Lavrov said.

Meanwhile, Lavrov said he believed Damascus would demonstrate political will and restraint and would not let anyone undermine the conference scheduled for 22 January in Montreux, Switzerland.

Al-Moallem confirmed the Syrian government would not let the conference be undermined, and accused the United States of supporting terrorist groups operating in Syria.

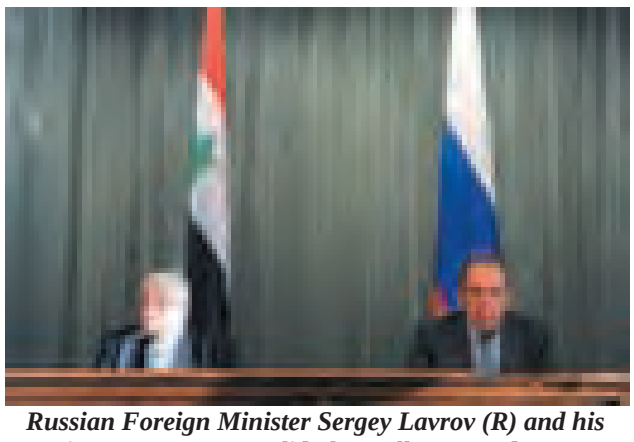
"How may the US condemn terrorism in Iraq, while supporting the same terrorists in Syria. This is an anti-Syrian conspiracy", al-Moallem said.

Lavrov said Russia would continue humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees inside and outside Syria, but added practical humanitarian operations required coordination with Syrian opposition groups as well.

He said the attempts to use humanitarian issues for justification of "humanitarian intervention" in Syria were unacceptable and the attempts would undermine the Geneva-II conference.

Moscow and Damascus reconfirmed their determination to implement the chemical disarmament of Syria according to the agreed schedule.

"We agreed and confirmed to obey the coordinated timing of implementation of the task set, with providing security and solving logistic issues", Lavrov told reporters.—*Xinhua*



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (R) and his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Moallem attend a Press conference in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 17 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

Mexico replaces top security officials in troubled state

MEXICO CITY, 18 Jan — Mexican officials on Friday said top security officials would be replaced in a western state that has been shaken by conflict between a powerful drug gang and heavily armed vigilantes.

Michoacan Governor Fausto Vallejo told reporters that he had named a new state attorney general and also announced new top officials for regional prosecutors offices. Top police officials were also replaced.

The government this week stepped up efforts to restore order in the poor, rural state of Michoacan, where violence has stained the security record of President Enrique Pena Nieto, who took office at the end of 2012. Violence in Michoacan has stoked concerns about President Pena Nieto's ability to maintain order one year into his term. Spooked investors drove the peso to a 3-1/2 month low this week.

Jose Manuel Mireles (C), head of Michoacan state's community police, stands with vigilantes in Churumuco in Michoacan state on 29 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

Large swathes of the state have been under the control of the Knights Templar drug cartel, but earlier this month, local vigilante groups began occupying much of the gang's heartland. Masked, armed groups arose in Michoacan last year, saying the government was failing to protect citizens from extortions, kidnappings and killings by drug gangs.

Vigilante groups have claimed that local officials are in league with traffickers, but some have accused the heavily armed masked groups of having ties to a rival cartel.

Jose Godoy, who was an official in the federal attorney general's office, will replace Marco Aguilera as the new state attorney general, Vallejo said. Aguilera had served in the post since July, when a previous state attorney general resigned.

Carlos Castellanos, who was an official in the federal consumer protection agency, was named to replace Alberto Reyes as head of police forces.

Reuters

At least four killed in clashes across Egypt

CAIRO, 18 Jan — At least four people were killed as clashes between Muslim Brotherhood supporters and police flared up across Egypt on Friday, security sources said.

The violence erupted a day before Egyptian authorities are expected to announce official results of this week's referendum on a new constitution, part of an army-backed transition plan for the Arab world's most populous nation.

One man was killed by a gunshot to the neck in the city of Fayoum, south of Cairo, a local health ministry official told *Reuters*.

Three people were killed in clashes in the Cairo area, the security sources said. Two were shot and the circumstances of the other death were unclear. Supporters of the Brotherhood also clashed with security forces in the city of Suez, *MENA* reported, as well as in Ismailia and a number of locations in the capital, security sources said. In central Sinai, gunmen caused an explosion of a natural gas pipeline supplying an industrial zone. Nobody was hurt but the blast disrupted gas supplies to some factories in the area, security sources said.

Interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi condemned the attack on the pipeline and vowed to punish such crimes with force.

State authority collapsed in parts of the Sinai peninsula after the downfall of veteran president Hosni Mubarak in 2011, allowing hardline Islamist groups to expand into the vacuum.

Reuters

A crowd gathers as a vehicle burns during clashes between supporters of Egypt's deposed president Mohamed Mursi and riot police in Cairo on 17 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Republican aspirant for US president to meet with Abe on Tuesday

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — A Republican senator said to be an aspirant to become the next US president will visit Japan, the Philippines and South Korea next week and meet with their leaders including Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the senator's aide said on Friday.

Sen. Marco Rubio, 42, will meet with Abe on Tuesday in Tokyo and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, Defence Minister Istunori Onodera and economic reform minister Akira Amari on Monday. During his stay in Japan, Rubio, who heads the Foreign Relations Committee's East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, will meet with US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and officers of the US military based in Japan.

Rubio will visit the Philippines on Wednesday to meet with President Benigno Aquino and review recovery efforts in areas hit by Typhoon Haiyan last year, according to Rubio's aide. The following day the senator will go to South Korea to meet with President Park Geun Hye and visit the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea.—*Kyodo News*

Photo taken 30 Dec, 2013, shows The Prince Sakura Tower Tokyo, which went through extensive refurbishment in harmony with the hotel's traditional Japanese landscape garden, in Tokyo's Minato Ward. KYODO NEWS

Tokyo hotels undergo revamps to win foreign guests with Japan taste

TOKYO, 18 Jan — Amid the latest tourism boom and in preparation for intensifying competition for guests toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, major hotels in downtown Tokyo have set out to win the hearts of foreign visitors with massive renovations infused with Japanese aesthetics while also upgrading Internet access and other facilities to meet the needs of international travellers.

The Prince Sakura Tower Tokyo near JR Shinagawa Station, for example, reopened last September after extensive refurbishment that placed emphasis on creating a tasteful Japanese touch.

In harmony with the hotel's traditional Japanese landscape garden, guest rooms are decorated with delicate artwork that combines traditional woodwork by Kyosashimono craftsmen with Nishijin fabrics, both from the ancient capital of Kyoto. The room number plates are made of solid pine. At the hotel's newly opened restaurant that focuses mainly on Italian cuisine, seasonal ingredients are delivered from contracted farmers from across Japan, such as Kujo Negi, also known as the Kyoto scallion, and cheese from Hokkaido. The dishes are served on Japanese-style tableware.

Hotel officials said they have received positive feedback from foreign guests on the renovation, quoting patrons as saying they appreciated the beauty of carpeting in the rooms with a motif of cherry blossoms, as well as the greenery and quietness created by the Japanese garden despite being in close proximity to the train station.—*Kyodo News*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Apple China Mobile launch could spark costly subsidy war

BEIJING, 18 Jan — Apple Inc is finally launching its iPhone on China Mobile Ltd's vast network on Friday, opening the door to the world's largest carrier's 763 million subscribers and giving its China sales a short-term jolt. Underlining how much the launch means for Apple, Chief Executive Tim Cook was on hand as the carrier's flagship store opened in Beijing's financial district. With China Mobile Chairman Xi Guohua alongside, Cook gifted signed iPhones to a handful of customers and posed for pictures.

The long-awaited deal could trigger a limited turnaround for Apple, whose fortunes have wavered in China in the face of stiff competition from market-leader Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and up-and-coming local rival Xiaomi Tech. Samsung had a 21 percent share of China's smartphone market in the third quarter of 2013, with Apple trailing in fifth place with just 6 percent, according to research firm Canalys.

But the arrival of the iPhone could be a double-edged sword for China Mobile, with some analysts predicting a costly subsidy war as rival carriers compete to lure customers. "I don't see a price war coming where Apple is engaged in the war, but I do think you're going to see a subsidy war coming," said Michael Clendenin, managing director of Shanghai-based RedTech Advisors. "China Mobile, if they're not making their targets on sales for these phones, they're going to increase the subsidies... It's like airlines: the other guys will fall like dominoes, so China Unicom will do it and China Telecom will do it."

China Mobile's iPhone sales are expected to reach 12 million in its 2014 fiscal year, but its subsidies will leap 57 percent to 42.4 billion yuan ($7 billion), up from 27 billion yuan in its fiscal year 2013, wrote Cynthia Meng, a Jefferies analyst, in a December note. For the basic 16GB iPhone 5S, with no subscriber contract, China Mobile is charging 5,288 yuan ($870), the same as on Apple's China website. The carrier is charging 4,488 yuan ($740) for a basic iPhone 5C, again the same price as on Apple's China site.—*Reuters*

Apple Inc's CEO Tim Cook (3rd L) reacts next to China Mobile Ltd's Chairman Xi Guohua (3rd R) at an event celebrating the launch of Apple's iPhone on China Mobile's network at a China Mobile shop in Beijing on 17 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Overweight Americans who pick diet drinks eat more food

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — Heavy Americans who drink diet beverages rather than those sweetened with sugar appear to eat more, according to a study released on Thursday that raised questions about the role lower-calorie drinks play in helping people lose weight. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University analyzed data from a US survey of 24,000 people over a period of 10 years. People who were overweight or obese generally consumed the same amount of calories a day no matter what they drank, but those who chose diet drinks got more of those calories from food.

Outside experts were quick to caution that it is not clear what role, if any, diet drinks such as low- or no-calorie versions of sodas, sports drinks and teas played for people who ate more. In the study, published in *the American Journal of Public Health,* overweight drinkers of diet beverages in the United States ate 1,965 in food calories a day compared to 1,874 calories among heavy people who drank regular sugar-sweetened beverages. Among obese diet beverage drinkers, those who consumed low- or no-calorie drinks ate 2,058 calories a day in food versus 1,897 food calories for those who had regular drinks, researchers said.

Such differences were statistically significant, they added. Lead author Sara Bleich said the results, when paired with other research, suggest that artificial sweeteners may affect people's metabolism or cravings, although more study is needed. She acknowledged that people could be deciding to eat more since they are saving calories with their diet drinks. "The push to diet soda may not make a lot of sense if you are then also eating more solid food," Bleich said. "The switch from a sugary beverage to a diet beverage should be coupled with other changes in the diet, particularly reducing snacks."

Critics said the analysis, based on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination survey between 1999 and 2010, is flawed and that it is too early to say what, if any, role the low-calorie drinks or their artificial sweeteners play in weight loss.—*Reuters*

An overweight woman sits on a chair in Times Square in New York, on 8 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Majority of Germans approve of euthanasia

BERLIN, 18 Jan — More than two-thirds of the people in Germany agree with euthanasia, while 22 percent of respondents reject it, a recent survey showed on Thursday.

When having a serious illness, 70 percent of respondents want to have the opportunity to access medical assistance at suicide, said the survey from the German Employees' Health Insurance (DAK) released on Thursday in Hamburg.

East Germans with 82 percent favoured opportunities of euthanasia, more frequent than West Germans with 67 percent. In Germany, a legal revision of euthanasia has been debated for a long time.

The Bundestag is expected to decide without pressure from their political parties and lobbyists about prohibiting commercial euthanasia.

German Federal Health Minister Hermann Groehe has already agreed to punish any assisted suicide on a commercial basis. Meanwhile, 79 percent of respondents think it good, when the Bundestag considered the topic on euthanasia. In particular, the 14 to 29 years old Germans support the plan.

Xinhua

US FDA issues warning on flammable wart removers

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — Some cryogenic wart removers, which remove warts from the skin by freezing them off, are highly flammable, and should be kept away from heat sources and cigarettes, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned on Thursday.

The FDA, which regulates wart removers as medical devices, said it has received 14 reports about wart removers since 2009. The products are sold over the counter and contain a mixture of liquid dimethyl ether and propane. At least 10 patients have suffered singed hair, blisters, burns or skin redness, according to FDA nurse consultant Karen Nast. In three of the reports, there was a candle nearby, but in the other 11 reports no ignition source was identified.

"This is extremely concerning, especially because people may not be aware that everyday household items like curling irons and straight irons can be hot enough to be an ignition source for these products," Nast said. Warts are growths caused by human papillomavirus infection and can often disappear on their own without treatment in most people, the FDA said.—*Reuters*

Poor sleep linked to teen mental health problems

NEW YORK, 18 Jan — Getting too little sleep might be a sign of — or even a contributor to — emotional problems, anxiety and suicidal thoughts among teens, according to a large study from Europe.

Based on data about the sleep habits of nearly 12,000 teens across 11 European countries, researchers found that a student with suicidal thoughts could be predicted to sleep about 36 minutes less each night compared to counterparts with no suicidal thoughts. For teens with severe emotional problems, the amount of sleep lost would be about 30 minutes, on average, each night.

"This is not a very large effect," study author Laura Mandelli told Reuters Health in an email. Mandelli is assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Bologna in Italy.

And the researchers cannot say whether there is a cause-and-effect relationship between the sleep patterns and mental health problems seen in the study. Lack of sleep among teens has been linked in other research to many negative health effects, including high blood pressure (see Reuters Health story of 17 Dec, 2013. And researchers have found that teens are generally going to bed later . Past research has also shown that teens need between eight and a half and nine hours of sleep each night. Teens in the current study averaged about eight hours of sleep.

Mandelli and her colleagues asked them about total hours slept during school nights, or Monday through Friday. Teens also answered questions about whether they worried a lot or spent long periods alone.

Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar
7TH ASEAN PARA GAMES SPECIAL

Thailand secures gold in 72-kilo power lifting event

Myanmar athlete taking part in power lifting event.—PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— Power lifting event of the ASEAN Para Games continued for the fourth day at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex today.

Seven athletes from Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand participated in the first match of men's 72-kilo power lifting event. Kempa from Thailand clinched gold medal while Phouthavong from Laos silver medal and Angriwan bronze medal.

Yesterday, men's 59-kilo and 65-kilo events of power lifting were held at the same venue. At men's 59-kilo event, five prize went to Thailand while second to Vietnam and third to the Philippines.

Kyemon-Phyo Sanda Myint

Athletes vigorously taking part in wheelchair basketball at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium B in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MYO SANDA MAUNG

Myanmar chess players secure five gold, one silver

Myanmar and Indonesian players concentrate on play of blindfold chess event.—PHOTO: PHYO SANDA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— Aung Lwin Oo and Myo Myint Aung of Myanmar participated in the blindfold chess event at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, today.

So far, Naw He Phaw Htoo Htwe bagged one gold, Phyu Phyu Win one gold, Naw He Phaw Htoo Htwe, Phyu Phyu Win and Phyo Wai Khin in a team one gold, Myanmar women's B2+B3 level one gold, team event one gold and one silver in the singles event, totaling five gold and one silver.

The players from Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are also taking part in the blindfold chess event.

Kyemon-Phyo Sanda Myint

Myanmar win gold in men's compound of archery

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— Myanmar emerged champion in men's compound event of the archery competitions of 7th ASEAN Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Archery Ground today.

Myanmar team participation of Min Tun Aung, Chit Aung and Kyaw Thu beat Thai team with 201-200 points in the final match.

Thailand stood second and Malaysia third in the compound event. In the recurve event, Thailand secured the first, Malaysia second and Indonesia third.

In the archery contest, Thailand won three gold, three silver and two bronze, Malaysia two gold, three silver and three bronze and Myanmar, one gold and one silver, Indonesia one gold and one bronze and the Philippines one bronze.

MNA

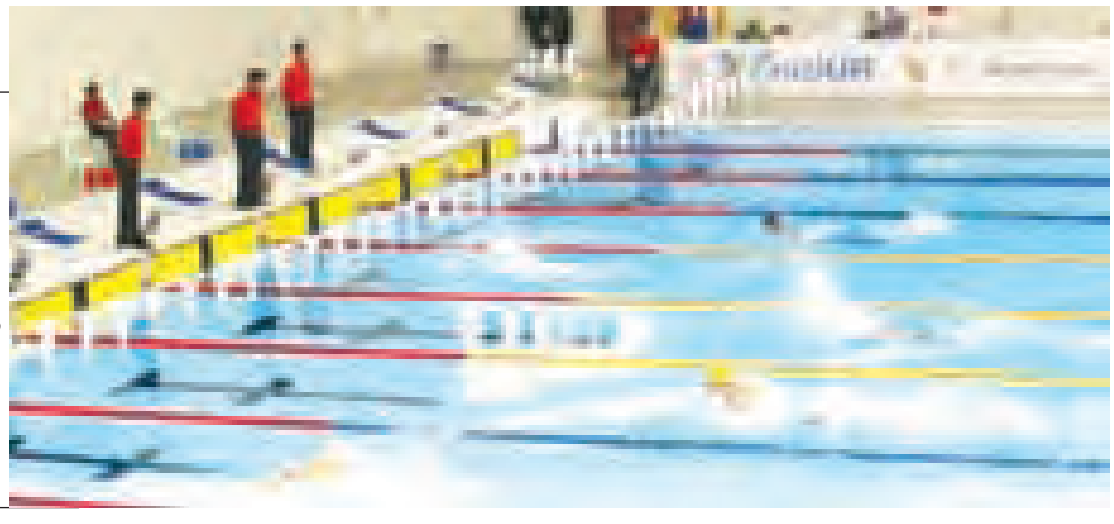
Indonesian men, women secure victory in swimming event

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— Swimming event of the 7th ASEAN Para Games continued for the fourth day at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, today.

Gold medal went to Indonesia, silver to Singapore and bronze to Thailand in men's 100 meter event while Indonesia secured gold, Singapore, silver and Thailand, bronze in women's 100 meter event.

In men's 200 meter event, gold medal went to Malaysia, silver to Indonesia and bronze to Vietnam.

Kyemon-Phyo Sanda Myint



Swimming men's event in progress at Wunna Theikdi Swimming Pool on 18 January.
PHOTO: PHYO SANDA MYINT

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 January, 2014

Teamwork

Every organization and businesses should have teamwork and spirits. It plays a crucial role in achieving business success. Teamwork is the process of working collaboratively with a group of people in order to achieve a goal. Teamwork is often a crucial part of a business, as it is often necessary for colleagues to work well together, trying their best in any circumstance.

Teamwork also means that people will try to cooperate, using their individual skills and providing constructive feedback, despite any personal conflict between individuals. Due to the lack of teamwork for decades, the country has been lagging behind the development.

The country has to grabble with its decades-long internal conflicts. Thanks to the fruits of democracy, the country sees a lot of organizations, associations, civil societies and labour union here and there. The emergence of these organizations and association en masse may lead to the flourishing of team work and team spirits.

All our national races should have team work and spirits at a time when the country is on the way to democracy. Teamwork and spirits come from the collaborative efforts by all involved. It would bring the benefits such as improved problem solving skill, swift accomplishment of tasks, healthy competition, developing relationships and sharing and acquiring knowledge etc.

Time has come to seize this golden opportunity. Taking the lessons of the past events, all our nationals need to "leave no stone unturned" in our efforts to reach a genuine and eternal peace through teamwork and team spirits.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoys archery, blindfold chess and table tennis events

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham enjoyed competitions of athletes in the archery, blindfold chess and table tennis events of the 7th ASEAN Para Games, here, today.

At the Wunna Theikdi Archery Ground, the Vice-President viewed participation of the archers in the final match between Thai and Malaysian teams in the recurve open men's team event. Thailand beat Malaysia 206-199.

The Vice-President presented medals and gifts to first prize winning Myanmar, second to Thailand and third to Malaysian teams in the compound open men's event. The Vice-President gave K 100,000 each to five Myanmar archers.

Chairman of the Leading Committee of the Games Union Minister U Tint Hsan gave medals and gifts to archers from Thai and Malaysian teams.

On arrival at Wunna Theikdi billiards and snooker stadium, the Vice-President enjoyed the participation of athletes in the men's event B1.

He also watched the match between Vietnam and Indonesia in the women's team class 7-9 event, the match between Vietnam and Indonesia in the men's class 8 event and the match between Thailand and Malaysia in men's class 6-7 event of table tennis at the tennis court of the sports complex.

The Vice-President cordially greeted the Vice-President of SEA Table Tennis Federation and players.

MNA

Tun Foundation Literary Award Ceremony held

YANGON, 18 Jan— The eighth Tun Foundation Literary Award Ceremony was held at the building of Myanmar Banks Association, here, this afternoon.

Tun Foundation literary award was established in 2005 with the aim of promoting Myanmar literary world and ensuring emergence of good literature and the increased number of readers.

In his address, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi spoke words of thanks, praising the chairman and executives of the foundation for making cash donations to the various sectors for the sake of the people.

Next, Chairman of Tun Foundation Bank U Thein Tun extended greetings and Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung, chairman of literary award scrutinizing committee, gave an account of the Tun Foundation Literary Award. Then, the Union minister presented the Tun Foundation Lifetime Achievement Literary Award for 2013 to writer Sayamagyi Sithu Daw Kyan. Afterwards, officials concerned awarded winners of Tun Foundation Book Award 2013 and Literary Award for 18 genres.—*MNA*

***Union Minister U Aung Kyi presents Tun Foundation Lifetime Achievement Literary Award for 2013 to writer Sayamagyi Sithu Daw Kyan.*—MNA**

Union Sports Minister enjoys Boccia, Goal Ball events

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Chairman of Leading Committee for holding the 7th ASEAN Para Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan attended prize awarding of boccia event here this evening.

Officials presented medals and gifts to the winners in boccia BC (1), BC (2) and BC (3) events.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan awarded medals to first prize winning Myanmar, second to Vietnam and third joint to Myanmar and Vietnam in boccia open event.

The Union minister greeted prize winners and Member of Myanmar Olympic Committee U Ohn Kyaw presented K 100,000 each to Myanmar athletes and participants.

He also enjoyed men's goal ball match between Myanmar and Brunei at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C).

MNA

As details were agreed and made to implement the action plan, the Defence Services will continue to supervise in order to ensure no minors in the Defence Services within 18 months. The Defence Services is carrying out scrutiny not to recruit minors for military service and to discharge underage recruits as soon as possible. Moreover, actions have been taken against 40 officers and 229 other ranks in accord with the military code of conduct.—*MNA*

Defence Services discharges 96 minors to reunite ...

(from page 16)

directors-general, officials of UN Agencies and INGOs, minors and their parents.

First, Maj-Gen Than Soe and Mrs. Renata Lok-Dessallien of CTFMR spoke on the occasion.

Next, officials presented documents allowing them to discharge from the Defence Services and citizenship scrutiny cards for those aged between 10 and 18 to the minors who rejoined their parents and guardians.

After the ceremony, the minors have been taken to the rehabilitation centre organized by CTFMR and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Minors will be provided with family reunion program, medical check-ups and treatment, if necessary, opportunities to have access to formal and non-formal education for employment, personal goods and cash assistance at the centre.

Similar ceremonies were held, discharging 42 on September in 2012 for the first time, 24 on 15 February in 2013, 42 on 7 July in 2013 and 68 on 8 August in 2013. Today's ceremony was the fifth time.

Maj-Gen Than Soe of Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) making a speech at ceremony to return minors to their parents.

MNA

Myanmar, ROK to cooperate in research works

YANGON, 18 Jan—Necessities provision on lab tests of three infectious diseases namely malaria, TB and hepatitis with the use of molecule technology is much contributing to health care services, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at a meeting on promotion of cooperation for research works between Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health and KOICA at the department in Dagon Township today.

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly Dr. Ahn Hong Joon expressed that he hopes to promote bilateral cooperation in health sector depending on the results from those project.

Then, Committee Chairman Dr. Ahn Hong Joon and officials discussed matters on cooperation for research works.

With a view to doing research on TB, Malaria and Hepatitis, an agreement on construction of advanced research lab between KOICA and Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) was signed in August 2011 and construction works started in December.

The two-storey building is consisted of biosafety level (2) labs, meeting hall and computer training hall.—*MNA*

Mobile Team checks cargo vessels for prevention of illegal commodities

YANGON, 18 Jan— Officials of Mobile Team assigned at the port area checked MV Aung Yadana which is running from Sittway to Yangon, at No 6 jetty of Wadan Port in Seikkan Township of Yangon on 15 January.

The vessel carries 1000 tons of domestic products and other goods on board.

Coastal liners transport iron, cement and other domestic products to other regions from Yangon. In addition, prawn, bran, fish paste and crude palm oil are being transported to Yangon.

About seven vessels dock the Yangon Port per week.—*Kyemon-Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)*

Construction of school building inspected in Kalewa Tsp

KALEWA, 18 Jan—The new school building of Basic Education Primary School was completed by 98 per cent in North Tunhlaw Village of Kalewa Township.

Under the arrangements of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Kalewa Township Border Area and National Races Progress Department constructed the school building, 30 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high, spending K 6.2 million of border area fund of Ministry of Border Affairs in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Chairman of District Management Committee U Maung Htoo together with the chairman of Township Management Committee and officials inspected progress of works.

Kyemon-Joe Net

Bawadazaung Library opened in Pyapon Tsp

PYAPON, 18 Jan—A ceremony to open a rural library namely Bawadazaung was held at the building in Shankwingyi Village of Pyapon Township on 16 January.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw MPs U Hla Win Bo and U Win Myint, Staff Officer U Zaw Min of District Information and Public Relations Department, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Lin and the chairman of the rural library committee formally opened the library.

The MPs and wellwishers donated cash and books to the fund of the library. The library building is 22 feet long and 16 feet wide, with contributions of K 1.6 million funded by World Vision and K 2 million by local people, totally amounting to K 3.6 million.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Traffic rules and disciplines shared to University students

HINTHADA, 18 Jan—A talk on traffic rules was held at the hall of Hinthada Technological University in Hinthada recently.

Head of Hinthada District Directorate of Road Administration U Aung Win explained traffic rules and disciplines for road users and that of motorcycles, pedestrians and vehicles.

The documentary film was presented with the use of documentary photo and demonstration to faculty members and students totalling 500.

After that, officials of the directorate conducted the driving course of motorcycles to faculty members and students.

Kyemon-Win Bo (IPRD)

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- **For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union**
- **For all the national races to live in unity and harmony**
- **For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation**
- **For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law**
- **For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation**

Rubber latex course conducted

HPA-AN, 18 Jan— Industrial Crops Development Department opened the rubber latex collecting course in Thamanya Village of Hpa-an Township in Kayin State on 13 January.

It lasted five days, attended by Assistant Director U San Aung of the department, Head of Township Department U Kyi Soe Maung, In-charge of Macota Co of Indonesia U Kyaw Htay and guests.

The rubber latex collecting and rubber budding demonstration was conducted for six courses in Hpa-an, Kawkareik and Kyain-seikkyi townships of Kayin State.

More courses will be opened in Shwekokko of Myawady Township and Kamamoung of Papun District.

Assistant Director U San Aung of State Department said that over 200,000 acres of rubber will be cultivated in the state with the assistance of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the State Chief Minister.

A total of 84 trainees attended the course, and trainees of Macota Co of Indonesia presented gifts to the trainees.

MMAL-Ye Min Khaung

Shwe Zeyar Foundation grants stipends for students

SAGAING, 18 Jan—Shwe Zeyar Foundation provides stipends to students till graduation.

The stipend presentation ceremony was held at the city hall in Sagaing on 18 January.

The foundation has provided stipends to 75 univesity students and had provided stipends to 31 graduates.

Retired Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu contributed the foundation with K 200 million for stipends of the students.

The students who enjoyed the stipends were one BDS, five MBBS, three BE, one BCom, two BAg, one BCSc, one BPharm, nine BEd, two BMedTech, four BNSc, one BVS, one BemmH, totalling 31.

The foundation granted K 50000 to students of University of Medicine and University of Maritime University in A group, K 40000 to those of group B and K 30000 to students from universities in Sagaing as group C.

The foundation was formed with retired teacher Daw Khin San Kyi and eight persons.—*MMAL-Htwe Myint Naing (Sagaing)*

WORLD

Landslide derails train in northern Italy, leaving two injured

MILAN, (Italy), 18 Jan —Two engine drivers were injured on Friday when a train connecting northwestern Italy to France veered off the tracks due to a landslide, local reports said.

According to *ANSA* news agency, at least one railcar and the engine completely derailed when the train found a mass of water, mud and rock on its tracks about 500 meters from the station in the town of Andora.

The derailment left the two drivers of the train injured, though not seriously, while the around 200 passengers onboard were unharmed.

Train delays were expected in the entire northwest, *ANSA* said, noting that the area was connected by a sole track.

Over the past few days, northwestern Italy has been battered by waves of bad weather that forced several families to evacuate their homes.—*Xinhua*

Photo taken on 1 Feb, 2011 shows people carrying lanterns with the Chinese character "fu" on them during a spring festival lantern festival in Zhengzhou City, capital of central China's Henan Province. The Chinese Character "fu", which means "good luck", is common everywhere across China during the Spring Festival. It is popularfor its propitious meaning, also can be interpreted as "happiness",which the Chinese people believe will give them blessing in thecoming new year. —XINHUA

US man pleads guilty to sending ricin to Obama, two others

Everett Dutschke works on his mini-van in his driveway in Tupelo Mississippi on 26 April, 2013.
REUTERS

JACKSON, (Mississippi), 18 Jan — A Mississippi man accused of sending poisoned letters to President Barack Obama and two other public officials, and then pinning them on an Elvis impersonator, pleaded guilty in US court and agreed to a 25-year jail sentence, the Justice Department announced on Friday.

James Everett Dutschke, 41, has been jailed since his arrest last April, when authorities accused him of sending ricin-tainted letters to Obama, US Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi and a local Lee County judge, Sadie Holland.

Ricin is a highly toxic protein found in castor oil plants that can kill an adult human in tiny doses.

Dutschke, a former martial arts instructor and one-time political candidate, originally had denied the charges but on Friday changed his plea in US District Court in Oxford, Mississippi, according to a Justice Department press release.

"It's closure, and any time you can get that it's a good thing," said Lee County Sheriff Jim Johnson, whose department had assisted the FBI and other agencies in identifying and arresting Dutschke last April. The guilty plea "has eased our community and eased our victims and the other people he could have come in contact with," said Johnson, who described Dutschke as a manipulator who thinks he can "outsmart any person of authority or any system."

Dutschke's attorney, Ken Coghlan, said the plea agreement involved resolution of outstanding state charges of child molestation.

"He (Dutschke) was facing a lot of uncertainty and at least now he knows where he stands," said Coghlan, noting that his client faced a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Under the agreement, Coghlan said Dutschke would plead guilty to the molestation charges next week and would serve his sentences concurrently in federal prison.

Dutschke pleaded guilty to four charges of developing and possessing the biological agent ricin and subsequently mailing ricin-laced, threatening letters, including one that threatened bodily harm to the president of the United States. Only Holland received one of the letters. The US Postal Service intercepted those that were sent to Obama and Wicker.

The plea agreement was announced by John Carlin, acting assistant attorney general for national security; Felicia Adams, the US attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi; and Daniel McMullen, special agent in charge of the FBI's Jackson field office.

Dutschke will be sentenced in about 60 days, the Justice Department said.

Dutschke previously had pleaded not guilty to five counts of a grand jury indictment and denied sending the letters. He also pleaded not guilty on December 3 to a new charge that he tried to continue the scheme from jail.—*Reuters*

Honduras approves shooting down suspected drug planes

TEGUCIGALPA, 18 Jan — Honduran lawmakers on Friday approved legislation allowing the government to shoot down planes suspected of trafficking illegal drugs through the poor nation that has been hit by deepening gang violence.

The legislation authorizes progressive use of force to make unidentified aircraft land. Only the country's defense minister can order that a plane be shot down, the legislation said. Most of the cocaine destined for the United States moves though Honduras, where Mexican drug gangs have moved in as they take increasing control over the drug trade from Colombian traffickers.

The Honduran military shot down two small planes in 2012 that were suspected of carrying drugs. The incident pushed the United States to suspend anti-drug radar support to Honduran authorities for about three months. Conservative Juan Hernandez was elected president last November after promising a tough militarized response to drug gang violence that has driven Honduras' murder rate to the world's highest.

Xinhua

Guerilla group claims responsibility for bullets sent to Greek officials

ATHENS, 18 Jan — A newly emerging guerilla group on Friday claimed responsibility for sending two envelopes containing bullets to the central bank of Greece's governor Yorgos Provopoulos and journalist Yannis Pretenteris.

The threatening letters bore the signature of the "Popular Avengers", according to police investigating the case.

In both cases the envelopes did not reach the offices of the recipients, the Bank of Greece and the private television channel Mega, as they were stopped after checks by metal detectors.

Political parties strongly condemned the incident. The socialist PASOK which supports the ruling coalition denounced the attempt to "terrorize democracy." The main opposition radical left SYRIZA party rejected any attempts to "divert attention and create a climate of insecurity."

Last year, Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras received a similar envelope with a bullet signed by the group "Cretan Revolution."

Xinhua

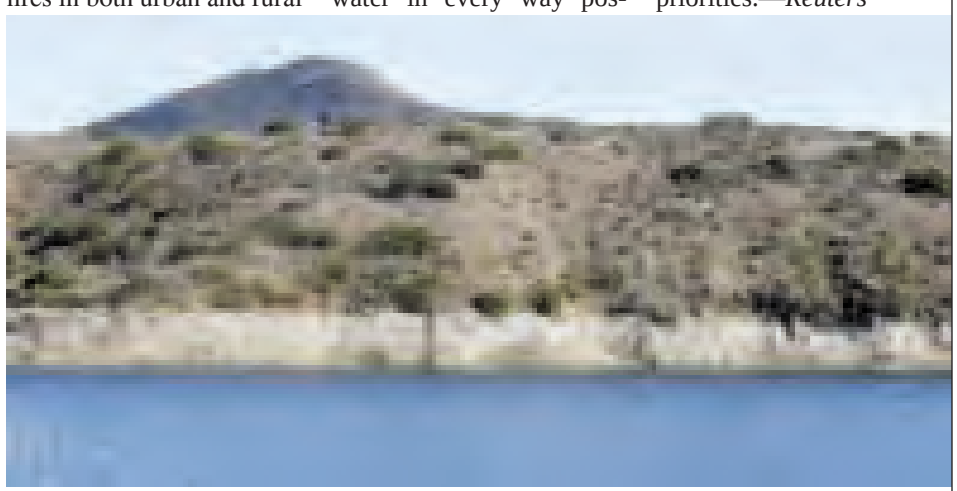
California governor declares drought emergency

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Jan — California Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency on Friday, a move that will allow the parched state to seek federal aid as it grapples with what could turn out to be the driest year in recorded state history for many areas.

The dry year California experienced in 2013 has left fresh water reservoirs with a fraction of their normal reserves and slowed the normally full American River so dramatically that brush and dry riverbed are showing through in areas normally teeming with fish.

"We can't make it rain, but we can be much better prepared for the terrible consequences that California's drought now threatens, including dramatically less water for our farms and communities and increased fires in both urban and rural areas," Brown, a Democrat, said in a statement.

"I've declared this emergency and I'm calling all Californians to conserve water in every way possible," he said, in a move that will allow him to call for conservation measures and provide flexibility in deciding state water priorities.—*Reuters*



The receding water line of Lake Hodges is seen in San Diego County 17 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

Combination photo shows Tokyo Tower (L) and Kyoto Tower illuminated in pink, the color of cherry blossoms, on 17 Jan, 2014, on the eve of nationwide university entrance exams. The illumination was meant to cheer exam applicants as blooming cherry blossoms are traditionally metaphors for passing exams. —KYODO NEWS

Interpol helps probe Indonesian domestic helper abuse case in HK

HONG KONG, 18 Jan — Hong Kong police and Interpol are jointly probing an alleged assault case of an Indonesian domestic helper by her Hong Kong employer over eight months, a Hong Kong official said on Friday.

Commenting on the case of Erwiana Sulistyaningsih who is being treated with injuries reportedly induced by her host family since May last year, Labor and Welfare Secretary Matthew Cheung said the government is responsible for the safety of the more than 300,000 foreign domestic helpers working in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong police's crime unit is investigating the case and has sought the involvement of the Interpol so that officers can go to Indonesia to take (Erwiana's) statement soon," Cheung told reporters.

Police said they are contacting the Indonesian police to facilitate a cross-border investigation.

Erwiana, 23, was seen covered with wounds by her friend at Hong Kong International Airport last Friday before she was sent home to Indonesia by the employer.

Recovering at a Central Java hospital, she revealed to reporters that she was beaten almost every day — punched in the eyes, hit in the head with clothes hangers and poked in the mouth with vacuum cleaner pipe — since she arrived to stay with and work for a family on 25 May.

Deprived of food and sleep and mandatory holidays, she said she was locked up and cut off from the outside world, receiving no wages, according to the Chinese-language newspaper *Apple Daily*.

The torture reportedly escalated after she sought but failed to quit through the recruitment agency about a month later. The agency asked her to endure, while the employer threatened to kill her family members in Indonesia if she went to the police.

"We'll certainly step up regulation, enforcement action and particularly inspection of employment agencies. We will impress all agencies in Hong Kong that they should protect the interests of (domestic) helpers," Cheung said, adding that the government will seek justice for the victim.

The agency for Erwiana, Chan's Asia Recruitment Centre, also allegedly illegally collected from individual domestic helpers a fee amounting to HK$15,000 ($1,930).

The government-set monthly wage for domestic helpers, who are mainly from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, is HK$4,010, on top of paid-for health care, food and accommodation.—*Xinhua*

Japan to ease permanent resident conditions for foreign professionals

TOKYO, 18 Jan — The government is considering relaxing requirements for highly skilled foreigners to obtain permanent residency status in Japan as it expects them to help enhance the nation's international competitiveness, according to government sources.

The government plans to submit a bill to revise the immigration control law to the ordinary Diet session, which convenes on Friday, enabling corporate managers as well as highly skilled researchers and professionals to obtain permanent resident visas after three years of residency in Japan instead of the current five years, the sources said.

Under the current system, foreign nationals need more than 10 years of residency in Japan to get permanent residency, but foreigners with high skills need only five years for the status.

The government plans to shorten the required period from five years to three years for researchers studying advanced information technologies and cutting-edge medical technologies, people involved in the development of new materials and top managers of global companies, the sources said.

Around 2.03 million foreign nationals were staying in Japan as of the end of 2012, including about 620,000 permanent residents, according to the Justice Ministry.

Kyodo News

A Royal Navy officer sets up a ladder in British Royal Navy destroyer ship HMS Daring at Tanjung Priok port in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17 Jan, 2014. The British Royal Navy Type-45 destroyer ship HMS Daring visits Indonesia as part of the wider regional engagement programme. XINHUA

Rahul Gandhi says willing to accept any role Congress party gives him

NEW DELHI, 18 Jan —India's Nehru-Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi said on Friday that he is willing to accept any role which the ruling Congress party gives him, just hours after his mother and party chief Sonia Gandhi reiterated he would not be the prime ministerial contender for the next general elections.

"Congress is not a party, it is a idea close to our hearts. It is an idea enshrined in India for 3,000 years. The Constitution of India says that the Prime Minister is elected by the Members of Parliament. We are a democratic party and we function in a democratic way. I am a soldier of the Congress. I am willing to do whatever you want me to do," he said at a party conclave in the national capital.

The 43-year-old Congress vice president, however, will lead the party's poll campaign, despite a growing clamor in the rank and file of the party that he be made the contender for the top post.

Speaking at a meeting of the All India Congress Committee earlier Friday, Sonia Gandhi said that "the decision not to make Rahul Gandhi as the party's prime ministerial candidate was taken by the Congress Working Committee (the highest decision making body) Thursday, and that is final." India goes to general elections in May this year.

The country's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has already named the controversial chief minister of the western state of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, as its prime ministerial candidate for the polls. —*Xinhua*

Thai protesters march on, defiant after grenade attack

BANGKOK, 18 Jan — Anti-government protesters marched defiantly through Thailand's capital on Saturday, with one group entering a police compound, undeterred by a grenade explosion the day before that wounded 35 demonstrators and killed one.

Friday's blast sent tension rippling through Bangkok after several days of relative calm that had suggested the movement to close down the government and force the resignation of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was running out of steam.

It was not clear who was behind the attack on the protesters. Their firebrand leader, Suthep Thaugsuban, blamed the government and said the incident would not dent the morale of thousands who this week stepped up a two-month agitation, blockading key arteries of the city and occupying ministries.

The incident, which comes just two weeks before a general election, heightens the risk of a move by the country's army to end an impasse that is starting to damage the economy.

Boonyakiat Karavekphan, a political scientist at Ramkamhaeng University in Bangkok, said the attack had raised the chances of "a significant clash between the protesters and groups they perceive to be their enemies, the police or forces loyal to the government, in order to provoke some sort of military reaction and speed up chances of a military intervention".

Reuters

Soldiers stand next to a cache of weapons found in an derelict building where military forces say an explosive device was thrown on to anti-government protesters on 17 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

Haze continues to shroud central, east China

BEIJING, 18 Jan — Most cities in central and east China will remain hazy Saturday as no cold front is in sight to help disperse the fog, the national observatory forecast. The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) maintained the yellow alert for heavy fog as the provinces of Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui, Sichuan, as well as the cities of Beijing and Tianjin, will be enveloped , with visibility in some regions reduced to less than 500 metres.

Since the beginning of the winter, large parts of China have seen smoggy weather. The Ministry of Environmental Protection blamed unfavorable weather patterns, vehicle exhaust and coal burning for winter heating for the problems.

The weather condition will further test China's already stressed transport system as some 3.62 billion passenger trips are expected during "Chunyun", the 40-day travel period around the Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, which falls on 31 January.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

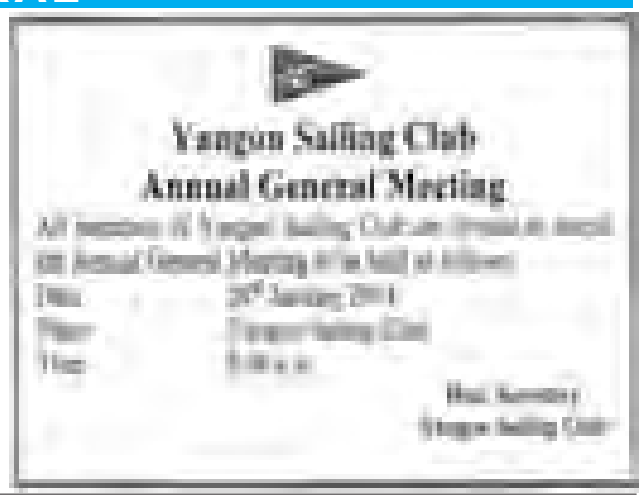
MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VISA SHIPPING LINE PTE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Fancy clubs in parks closed in East China

HANGZHOU, 18 Jan— Authorities of Hangzhou, capital city of east China's Zhejiang Province, ordered ten high-end clubs in West Lake park to close on Friday, with other fancy establishments in public park grounds to shut in the coming days.

Five clubs including Xihuhui in West Lake, known for luxurious decorations, expensive meals and services, were shut down on Thursday, according to a statement from Hangzhou city government.

The move targets to close all high-end clubs in West Lake and other historical cultural grounds, so scenic spots are used primarily by locals and tourists, the statement said.

Public opposition towards private clubs has been on the increase. They are often unlawfully built with public resources, sometimes in historical buildings. The statement said, after closure, the buildings should be used to provide services for the general public rather than the privileged few.

The parks should not allow such clubs to operate within the grounds. High-end clubs outside parks should lower their prices so that ordinary people can afford the services, it said.

Strict measures should be taken against those occupying public resources, it added. Similar actions were taken in other Chinese cities including Beijing, Changsha and Nanjing, amid the latest Communist Party of China campaign to curb extravagance, corruption and power abuse among officials. —*Xinhua*

Pan Wenyi (1st L) listens to his teacher's chanting during a "Dujie" ceremony, in the Tonglian Village of the Tonglian Yao Township, in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 14 Jan, 2014. Pan Wenyi, a 13-year-old boy living in the Tonglian Village of the Tonglian Yao Township, in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has just come across a 14-day-long intricate "Dujie" Ceremony together with other 11 male peers.—XINHUA

Guizhou's retired doctors asked to serve in rural clinics

BEIJING, 18 Jan — Retired medical experts should lend their expertise to rural area clinics, a political adviser proposed at the ongoing session of the 11th Guizhou provincial committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee.

Sun Fa, a professor with Guiyang Medical University and a member of the committee, proposed that retired doctors should work in smaller hospitals and rural clinics to help improve them.

According to his studies, about half of 600 retired doctors with senior professional titles from the province's five top hospitals are healthy enough to work in rural clinics.

Guizhou currently has 41,137 medical staffers in township clinics. Forty percent of them only hold degrees from professional secondary schools while some are working without a medical degree. The majority of these doctors only have junior professional titles.

Other political advisers at the session supported the proposal.

"In the medical field, senior doctors have more experience and most of them are still in good health, so it is a pity that these retired experts are not using their expertise to help more people," said Wang Fuyu, chairman of the provincial CPPCC committee.

The number of retired medical workers with intermediate and senior professional titles exceeds 9,400 in the capital Guiyang. Ten percent, according to Sun, are simply resting at home.

A recent survey from the provincial health department showed that more than 200 retired doctors that used to work in provincial hospitals are willing to continue working.

"To promote the project, we should create a positive public opinion atmosphere to encourage more retired doctors and make them feel honored to work in the countryside," said Hou Lijiang, deputy director of the provincial human resources and social security bureau.

Hou added that the government will offer competitive salaries to the retired doctors.—*Xinhua*

Moroccan king says Jerusalem key to Palestinian cause

MARRAKECH, (Morocco), 18 Jan — Moroccan King Mohamed VI stressed on Friday in Marrakech that Jerusalem is the core issue of the Palestinian cause, and no peace is conceivable without an agreement on the final status of East Jerusalem (Al- Quds) as the capital of the independent Palestinian State.

For peace to be achieved, Israel must fulfil its obligations, especially with respect to the roadmap adopted by the International Quartet and endorsed by the Security Council, as well as the prospects opened up by the Arab Peace Initiative said Mohamed VI at the opening of the 20th session of Jerusalem Committee in the Moroccan resort of Marrakech.

Although we are satisfied with the United Nations' decision to grant Palestine non-member observer state status, we wish to call for the implementation of all UN resolutions relating to Al Quds and to the Palestinian cause in general, he added.

He also stressed that the crucial element for a stronger Palestinian position remains the achievement of sincere national Palestinian reconciliation based on the unity of Palestinian ranks under the legitimate National Authority.

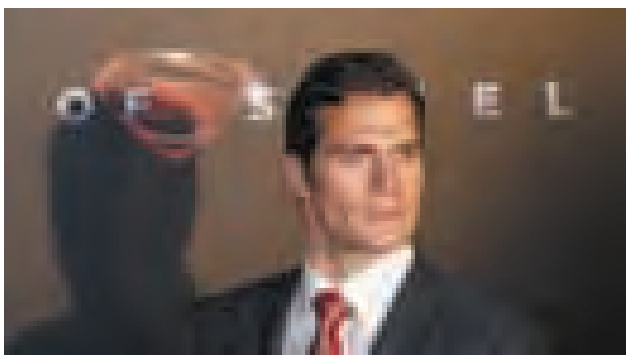
This constructive reconciliation should put the best interests of the Palestinian people above all other considerations, contributing, in particular, to the creation of the independent Palestinian State on Palestinian liberated territory, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in security, peace and concord with Israel, Mohamed VI said.

The Jerusalem meeting is chaired by Moroccan King and attended by Palestinian president Abass and by foreign ministers of the committee's member states along with the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and officials from European Union, the United Nations, the Vatican and the Arab League. —*Xinhua*

A smuggled fire salamander is seen crawling on a staff's hand at the Hatay Airport, Turkey, on 16 Jan, 2014. Four smuggled fire salamanders also known as Turkish salamander have been seized at the Hatay Airport on Thursday. The officials found the endangered salamanders in a plastic box hidden in a passenger's luggage. The spotted salamanders usually inhabit in forests in southern Turkish provinces of Hatay, Adana and Kahramanmaras. According to convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the endangered species cannot be caught or collected, otherwise there are penalty fines. The officials have released four caught salamenders which have been registered in their natural habitats.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Warner Bros pushes Superman-Batman film back to 2016



*Cast member Henry Cavill poses for pictures after his arrival to the Australian premiere of "Man of Steel'' in central Sydney on 24 June, 2013.—*Reuters

Los Angeles, 18 Jan — Warner Bros. pushed back the release date of the still untitled film that will bring together superheroes Superman and Batman, delaying it by almost a year to May 2016, the studio said on Friday.

The sequel to last year's hit Superman film "Man of Steel" was revealed at the Comic-Con convention last July by director Zack Snyder, who said the two DC Comics' caped crusaders will face off against each other.

Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc, said in a statement that it needed to move back the date to allow "the filmmakers time to realize fully their vision, given the complex visual nature of the story."

The decision was made after the start of production was moved to the second quarter of this year, Warner Bros. said.

The superhero-duo was originally slated for 17 July, 2015, and Warner Bros. said it would put a still untitled Peter Pan adventure into that slot.

"We are happy to take advantage of these coveted summer dates, which are perfect for two of our biggest tentpole releases," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution.

"Man of Steel," starring British actor Henry Cavill as Superman/Clark Kent, premiered in June 2013 and grossed $668 million worldwide. In the North American market, it was the fourth-biggest film of 2013, with ticket sales of $291 million.

In the first encounter of the two superheroes on the big screen, Cavill returns to play Superman, while "Argo" actor and director Ben Affleck has been cast as Batman in a controversial choice that split fans.

Reuters

Rebecca Hall lauded for Broadway debut in 'Machinal'

New York, 18 Jan — It was written in the late 1920s, hasn't been staged on Broadway in more than 80 years and isn't a sexy musical, but critics praised the revival of "Machinal" and its star Rebecca Hall, saying it is a "must-see" production.

The stylized drama by playwright Sophie Treadwell that opened on Thursday at the American Airlines Theater was inspired by the true story of Ruth Snyder, a New York woman who was executed in the electric chair for the murder of her husband in January 1928 at the age of 33. "'Machinal' is a vivid, bracing portrait of a woman pushed to the edge, but it doesn't involve any weepy psychologizing," said *the New York Post.*

"What makes the show so fascinating is the contrast between its cerebral approach and Hall's compassionate performance." With its modernist prose style and dark theme it is not an easy play, but the Post said its director Lyndsey Turner and Hall, in her Broadway debut, "have made it a must see." ""Machinal' is one of those lost ahead-of-its-time plays that gets found by successive generations," said the Independent newspaper of London, adding it has been greatly staged in New York. The Hollywood Reporter described the production as a "bristling revival" with an enduring intensity and committed actors.

"But it's Hall who rivets attention, holding nothing back in her tortured portrayal of this everywoman's dehumanizing downward spiral as she's failed by her own survival skills and by everyone around her," it added.

Reuters

British actress Rebecca Hall takes part in a panel discussion of HBO's "Parade's End'' during the 2013 Winter Press Tour for the Television Critics Association in Pasadena, California, on 4 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

Priyanka Chopra skips Golden Globes, enjoys after-party

Mumbai, 18 Jan — Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra, who was in Los Angeles during the 71st Golden Globe Awards, says she didn't attend the prestigious gala, but enjoyed herself thoroughly at the after-parties.

The 71st Golden Globe Awards were held in Beverly Hills on 12 January ."I didn't attend the Golden Globes this year. I was working on my video! Though I did attend all the parties. Super fun," Priyanka tweeted on 15 January.

The actress-singer launched her first single In my city internationally in 2012, and last year, she unveiled her second song Exotic, featuring rapper Pitbull.

Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra

On the big screen, Priyanka will soon be seen in Arjun Kapoor, Ranveer Singh-starrer Gunday, which releases on 14 February.

PTI

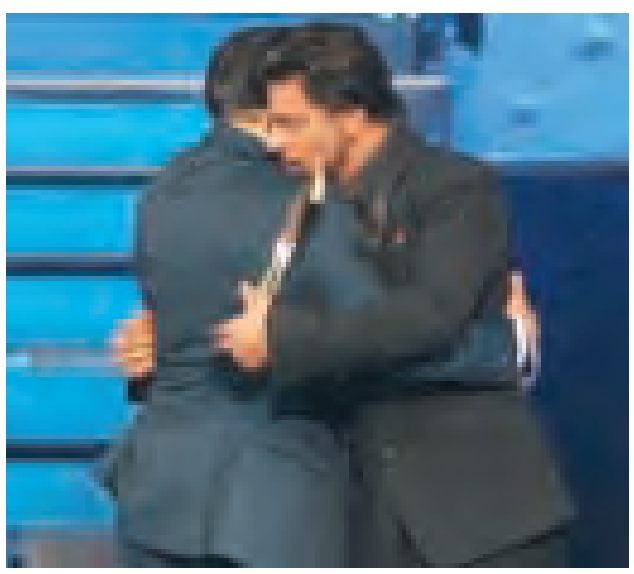
Shah Rukh, Salman Khan hug again at award show

New Delhi, 18 Jan — Warring Khans Shah Rukh and Salman have followed up their much-discussed hug at an iftaar party last year wth a repeat performance at the Star Guild Awards held in Mumbai last night. As SRK went on-stage to receive his Entertainer of the Year prize, he and award host Salman shared a hug, watched by a thrilled audience.

SRK and Salman have conducted a very public feud for five years, ever since they had an argument at actress Katrina Kaif's birthday party in the year 2008. Despite last year's hug at Mumbai politician Baba Siddique's iftaar party, no real thaw was apparent between the Khans with Salman declaring on TV show Koffee With Karan that he and SRK would never be friends again and likening his Karan Arjun co-star to a shark.

However, at the Star Guild Awards, Salman is believed to have taken the lead in making small talk with SRK, even congratulating him on the success of 2013 blockbuster Chennai Express. The hug, as it was.

PTI



SRK and Salman have not been in best of terms since 2008.— **PTI**

Clancy's Cold War hero Jack Ryan gets film reboot with familiar foe

Beverly Hills, (California), 18 Jan — In "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit," Tom Clancy's emblematic Cold War hero gets a big-screen reboot on Friday with a familiar villain: Russia. In this post-9/11 era, Soviet Union no longer exists and American spy agencies are tracking non-state militant groups instead. But director Kenneth Branagh said Ryan's longtime nemesis is still relevant.

"It felt as though there had been a shift around, and the classic Cold War adversary, America-Russia, had done this flip," said Branagh, who also plays the film's principal villain, Russian oligarch Viktor Cherevin. "Now, the new financial power, the new empire is Russia," he added, "and the wood-paneled club rooms of Wall Street feel like they're connected to an old empire that's somehow connected to the makers of the American economy in the late 19th century."

The film backed by Paramount Pictures crafts a new origin story for CIA hero Ryan, portrayed by Chris Pine. It recasts the agent as a finance wizard and millennial who uncovers what appears to be a Russian plot to dump $2 trillion onto the open market in coordination with a terror attack on the United States.

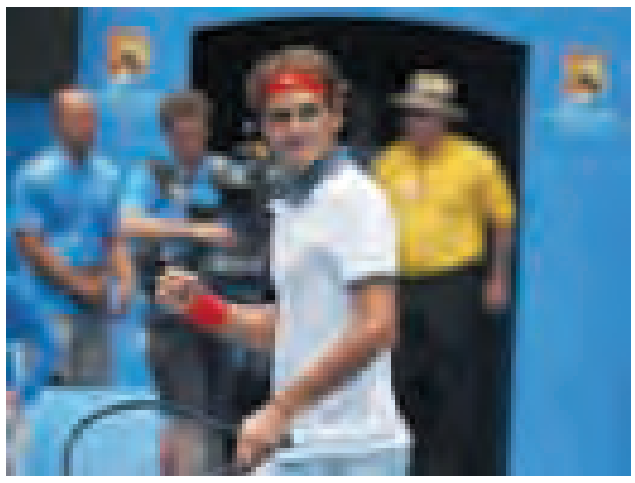
*Cast member Kevin Costner (R) and wife Christine Baumgartner attend the premiere of the film "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" in Los Angeles on 15 Jan, 2014. —*Reuters

The film's Kremlin-blessed conspiracy is masterminded by Cherevin, whose weakness is romance and drink, and is intended to create a run on banks in the US, plunging the country into a second Great Depression."Shadow Recruit" begins on 11 Sept, 2001, in London, where a 19-year-old Ryan is completing his Ph.D. at the London School of Economics.Ryan immediately abandons his studies when he feels the call to enlist in the US military for the Afghan War.

Reuters

SPORTS

Federer set for tougher tests after routine wins



Roger Federer

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Four-time champion Roger Federer coasted into the last 16 of the Australian Open on Saturday before admitting that the hard work starts now.

The sixth-seeded Swiss crushed Russia's Teymuraz Gabashvili 6-2 6-2 6-3 to make it through to the last 16 of a grand slam without dropping a set for the 27th time in his career.

Federer, 32, next plays the winner of the match between Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who the Swiss beat over five tough sets in the Melbourne quarter-finals last year, or another Frenchman, Gilles Simon.

"This is clearly a tough draw," he told reporters. "But the important thing now for me is just that I keep playing well and I don't go crazy about who I play now.

"It's just now up to me to bring it in the next match."

Only two of Federer's record 17 grand slam titles have come in the past four years, in Australia in 2010 and at Wimbledon in 2012.

The Swiss has made a habit of demolishing his opponents in the early stages and said the move from 16 to 32 seeds may have helped his cause.

"I have had tough draws throughout my career, not every time, but in many tournaments. So I remember tough draws in early rounds," he said.

"With the 32 seeds it's a bit more predictable, a lot more predictable actually.

"That's one of the reasons I think I have always been able to go deep in slams, especially once I was able to be seeded. I took advantage of that."

Federer was barely troubled by Gabashvili, the world number 79, and though he knows he needs to lift his game, is happy with his form.

"I'm happy that I'm winning my matches in straight sets," he said.

"It's been different conditions every match. The heat first and the indoor match, and now normal conditions today with a bit of wind.

"So it's just good to get through and get a good feel out there and make sure to win your matches easily if you have a chance. That's what I was able to do today, so I'm pleased."—*Reuters*

Seahawks receiver Harvin to miss NFC title game

NEW YORK, 18 Jan — Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Percy Harvin will miss Sunday's NFC Championship game due to lingering effects from a concussion, according to a report on the National Football League's website.

Harvin, one of the NFL's most versatile wide receivers, was injured during the first half of Saturday's playoff win over New Orleans when he hit his head on the turf after jumping for a pass in the end zone.

He had earlier left the field but returned after being leveled by Saints' safety Rafael Bush, who was fined $21,000 on Friday by the NFL for the illegal hit.

"It's super-disappointing for Percy," said Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll.

"But we have functioned the way we function because we don't let things like that get to us and disturb us, and how we're thinking, and how we're preparing and all that. We would love to have him, but not this time."

Harvin, who missed most of the season after undergoing hip surgery, had three receptions for 21 yards and one rush for nine yards against New Orleans, his second game of the season.

Seattle, the NFC's top-seeded team, hosts the San Francisco 49ers with a berth in the 2 February Super Bowl on the line.

The NFL also handed out fines of $7,875 to Carolina cornerback Josh Thomas (unsportsmanlike conduct), San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore (face mask violation) and Indianapolis Colts cornerback Darius Butler (unnecessary roughness) from last week's playoff games.

Reuters

Barca ready for Levante test

MADRID, 18 Jan — FC Barcelona face a tough test of their title credentials when they travel to Levante's Ciudad de Valencia Stadium on Sunday evening. Barca travel on the back of last weekend's 0-0 draw away to joint leaders Atletico Madrid and their progress to the quarter-final of the Copa del Rey with a 6-0 aggregate win over Getafe.

The good news for Barca is that four of those goals against Getafe came courtesy of a fit-again Leo Messi. Messi returned from his calf injury 10 days ago and showed he is back to his best with both strikes in Thursday's decaffeinated return leg, with his second goal an absolute work of art.

Reports say that Messi lost three kilos in weight as he worked to get himself back to full fitness in Argentina in December and the striker also looks to have overcome the fear of a relapse which had appeared to mark some of his displays earlier in the season.

It is not all good news for Barca given that while Messi was showing his return to fitness, the Brazilian suffered a twisted ankle in Getafe. Early fears were that he could have suffered serious ligament damage, but tests carried out in Barcelona on Thursday have ruled that out and Neymar should be back in action in just under a month.

His absence will not be noted too much by coach Tata Martino, given that Pedro Rodriguez and Alexis Sanchez have both been in fine form and have in fact been preferred to the Brazilian in recent matches and the question now is who will miss out to make way for Messi, given that Cesc Fabrigas has also been in fine form.

Levante are known for their physical style of play and Martino may for that reason decide to use Alex Song in midfield and rest either Xavi Hernandez, who would be making his 701st appearance for the Catalans, or Andres Iniesta, who is still working to recover after leaving the pitch injured against Atletico.

Xavi meanwhile has been the subject of interest from the New York Red Bulls, but given that he said earlier in the year that his ambition was to end his career playing for Barca, there seems little danger that will distract him.—*Xinhua*

Azarenka feasts on Meusburger to reach fourth round

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Victoria Azarenka remained on course for a third straight Australian Open title with a thumping 6-1 6-0 victory over Yvonne Meusburger in exactly an hour on Saturday.

The second seed reached the fourth round when she broke the Austrian world number 49 for the seventh time with a thundering smash at the net to bring an end to a thoroughly one-sided contest on Rod Laver Arena.

Azarenka has not lost a set in her three matches this week and extended her winning streak at Melbourne Park to 17 matches.

Victoria Azarenka

The Belarussian will next meet American Sloane Stephens, who she beat in controversial circumstances in the semi-finals last year on her way to her second successive Australian Open title.—*Reuters*

Sharapova advances but still searching for form

MELBOURNE, 18 Jan — Maria Sharapova continued her erratic Australian Open campaign with a scratchy 6-1 7-6 (8-6) win over Alize Cornet that put her into the last 16 on Saturday but also sent her straight to the practice court in search of some sorely needed form.

Still rebuilding from a long layoff due to her troublesome right shoulder, Sharapova ran hot then cold against the 25th seeded Frenchwoman, her serve going awry in the hard-fought second set and only a late rally in the tiebreak saving the Russian from another potential marathon.

In her previous round, Sharapova had battled through the longest match of her career, a three-hour, 28-minute slug-fest against unseeded Italian Karin Knapp, played out on a 42 degrees Celsius (108 Fahrenheit) day.

Maria Sharapova

Fatigue might have been a tempting excuse, but the Russian could hardly have used it, having felt fit enough to head back out on the court after a quick rest to iron out some worrying creases in her game.

"I just didn't have a great rhythm," Sharapova, seeded third, told reporters after bludgeoning 35 unforced errors and landing only half of her first serves.

"It's sometimes nice just to be able to come off the court and groove, just to get a good hit on the ball.

"I still feel like in certain situations I am a bit rusty and I'm not closing it out when I have to or maybe going for a little much or overthinking it a bit.

"That will come. I'm not worried about that. Those are the — as long as I feel like I'm doing the right things and I'm playing the way I want to play, if I'm making those types of errors, they are going to go in eventually."

Reuters

GENERAL

Bahraini anti-government protesters chant slogans and wave national flags during a march in the suburb of Manama, capital of Bahrain, on 17 Jan, 2014. Demonstrators called for democracy in the Gulf island nation.
XINHUA

Brazil pledges 300,000 USD for UN actions in Syria

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Jan — Brazil has pledged 300,000 US dollars to support United Nations humanitarian efforts in Syria, the Foreign Ministry announced on Friday.

The donation, pledged by Brazil at the 2nd International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria on Wednesday in Kuwait City, Kuwait, was to help joint initiatives by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the ministry said on its website.

The money will be used to finance measures "to lift more than a million Syrian children from misery, isolation and trauma," due to the current civil war raging at home, the ministry said.

According to the UN, countries gathered at the conference pledged some 2.4 billion US dollars, or just under 40 percent of the 6.5 billion the UN estimates is needed in 2014 to help the Syrian population suffering from the prolonged conflict.

The civil war between forces loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad and opposition fighters has claimed the lives of more than 100,000 and displaced millions of Syrians since fighting began in March 2011.

Xinhua

Campaign against toxic chemicals in schools launched in Philippines

MANILA, 18 Jan — The Philippine Department of Education (DepEd) has intensified its campaign to keep schools safe from toxic chemicals, a senior government official said on Friday.

Philippine DepEd Secretary Armin Luistro said that his office signed a memorandum of agreement with an environmental group BAN Toxics (BT) to help the agency in establishing awareness of toxic chemicals in the school environment and make schools safe for children through various awareness campaigns.

The information campaign will highlight the "Fearsome Five" toxic substances that might be present in schools, namely mercury, lead, cadmium, asbestos, and arsenic, he said, citing that these harmful substances are present in some items and materials normally used by children such as crayons, markers and school bags.

They also hide in furniture and wall paints, lights, fixtures, cleaning materials and the like, possibly exposing children to harm on a daily basis, he added.

The information will be disseminated through teachers' trainings, forums, lectures, exhibits, and student activities, Luistro said.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(19-1-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:20 am
2. Physical Exercise

6:30 am
3. Nice & Sweet Songs

6:40 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
6. Documentary

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:15 am
8. 7th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Athelatic)

9:50 am
9. Beautiful ASEAN

10:00 am
10. News

10:20 am
11. Amazing World

10:55 am
12. Documentary

11:15 am
13. Gitadagale Phwintbaoohn

12:00 pm
14. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm
15. Round Up of The Week's International News

12:35 pm
16. Myanmar Movies

2:45 pm
17. 7th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Athelatic)

3:45 pm
18. 7th ASEAN Para Games (Live) (Athelatic)

5:00 pm
19. News

5:15 pm
20. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
21. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm
22. Cartoon Series

7:00 pm
23. News

7:20 pm
24. Documentary

8:00 pm
25. News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm
26. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:50 pm
27. Hit Songs of Stars

9:00 pm
28. News

9:20 pm
29. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
30. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

19-1-14 07:00 am ~ 20-1-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
* World News
* Wholesale Fish
* Local News
* Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
* World News
* Trishaw Man
* Local News
* Hiker's Journey (Yangon City) (EP-6) (Part-1)
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)
* Local News
* Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-3)
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"
* Local News
* Great Shwedagon-The Planetary Posts
* World News
* Goldsmith
* Local News
* Unique & Motivating Chap Char Kut Festival
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
* Local News
*The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
* World News
* Traditional Snack
* Local News
* Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges (Shan Traditional Food)
* World News
* The Photographer (Portiature)

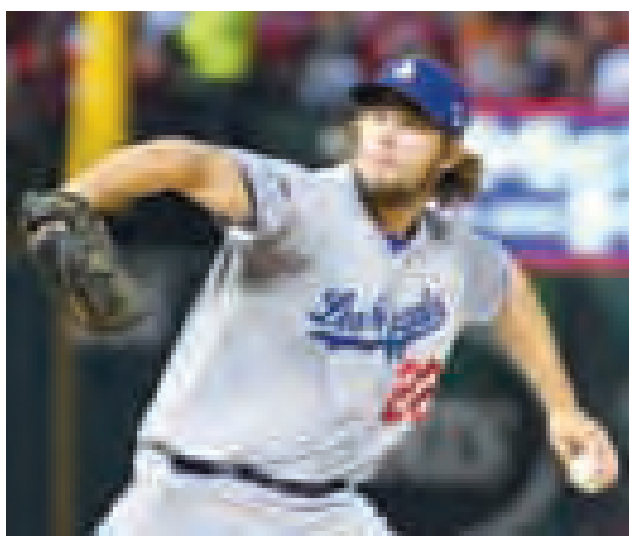
Rich deal keeps Kershaw with Dodgers for seven years

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan — The Los Angeles Dodgers have locked up pitching ace Clayton Kershaw to a lengthy contract that is reportedly the richest ever for a pitcher.

Kershaw, the reigning National League Cy Young Award winner, has signed a seven-year contract, the Dodgers confirmed on Friday.

Though no financial details were disclosed by the club, the deal has been widely reported to be worth a record-breaking $215 million, making lefthander Kershaw the highest paid pitcher ever.

His contract eclipses the $180 million five-year deal signed by Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander in March.



"There has been a lot of attention about this being the biggest contract for a pitcher in baseball," Dodgers president Stan Kasten said.

"That is the case, and if someone should have that contract, it should be the best pitcher in baseball, which is what we regard Clayton as."

Kershaw, 25, said he was excited by the opportunity.

"With this contract comes tremendous responsibility, not only as a pitcher, but as a good steward of the resources given to me.

"To whom much is given, much is required. I'm humbled by this recognition and looking forward to a new season, and hopefully, a World Series championship for the city of Los Angeles."

Three-time All-Star Kershaw, who had filed for salary arbitration on Tuesday, has won two Cy Young awards in the last three seasons with his latest coming in a campaign that saw him finish 16-9 with a Major League-best earned run average of 1.83.

According to multiple reports, Kershaw has been offered an opt-out after five years and the annual value of his contract, $30.714 million, is a record for a player at any position.

"There are great players and pitchers in the game. And then there are those who are truly special," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said.

"Clayton is not only among the elite of this era, but the perspective he and (his wife) Ellen bring to their lives in helping others is equally remarkable."

Kershaw and his wife have established several charitable initiatives and make annual trips to Africa where their foundation has set up an orphanage for 'at-risk' children in Zambia.—*Reuters*

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
thenewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar

4th Waning of Pyatho 1375 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Sunday, 19 January, 2014

C-in-C awards winners of Athletics event

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed football 5-A side event, athletics event and table tennis event of the 7th ASEAN Para Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, today.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, the senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief Office and officials and spectators also enjoyed the events.

Afterwards, the Senior General awarded gold to Kathy Moe of Myanmar, silver to Htet Htet Aye of Myanmar and bronze to Dwi of Indonesia in women's shotput event and gold to Aung Gyi of Myanmar and silver to Than Hlaing of Myanmar in men's discus event.

He then awarded cash to Myanmar winners and the Vice-Senior General presented gifts to the winners.—*Myawady*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awards medal to a winner in 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

Naga Self-Administered Zone celebrates Traditional New Year Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — Union Minister U Hla Tun stressed the importance of lasting friendship, mutual understanding and respect among national brethren for ensuring perpetuation of the Union while extending greetings at Naga Traditional New Year Festival 2014 on 15 January.

He also called for participation of Union brethren in the government's drive to achieve electrification, drinking water supply, better transport, employment and improvements in education, health and social sectors.

In the evening, the Union ministers, the region chief minister, the commander took part in the bonfire ceremony together with local people, foreign visitors and Belgian eye care team.

During his tour of Naga Self-Administered Zone, Union Minister U Hla Tun and party on 14 January visited Sasanapala monastery in Lehe Township, training schools and Donhee Sub-Township basic education high school, provided cash and kind to local people, attended an opening of Taingyaung (2) and (3) bridges on Nanyun on-Donhee road section.

They also inspected a chosen site for construction of a training school and visited a monastery in Nanyun.

MNA

Defence Services discharges 96 minors to reunite with families

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — According to an action plan between the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Country Taskforce on Monitoring and Reporting on grave violations of child rights (CTFMR), a ceremony to return minors to their parents took place at No (1) Transit Centre in Yangon this morning. A total of 96 children have been discharged from Defence Services after scrutinizing them in respective military commands.

Present at the ceremony were Maj-Gen Than Soe of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military officers, the deputy ministers, the

(See page 8)

ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministers leave for home

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—The Foreign Affairs Ministers and high ranking officials from ASEAN countries who have already attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Bagan, left Bagan-NyaungU Airport in Mandalay by special flight this morning.

The delegations were seen off at the airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mandalay Region Ministers, members of subcommittees for the holding of ASEAN meetings and departmental officials.

MNA

Foreign Affairs Ministers of ASEAN being seen off at Bagan NyaungU Airport.—MNA

Glaze items from 2012-quake hit areas in high demand in Bagan

Byline: *AMS;* PHOTO: *AYE MIN SOE*

Glaze pots from the 2012-earthquake hit areas in Shwebo are in demand at the Ananda Pagoda festival in Bagan.

"All glazed-pots we have brought here are sold out every year," said Ko Lin Lin, 35, from Shwekhun Village in Shwebo, who are selling about 900 60-gallon glazed pots at the festival.

Different kinds of glazed items including 60-gallon 3000 glazed pots from the glaze villages of Nwenyein and Shwekhun near Shwebo in central Myanmar are on market at annual festival which starts early January and lasts nearly one month.

In rural areas, 60-gallon pots are used to store drinking water and toddy palm liquid for making plum jam and medium glazed pots are used to store edible oil.

According to the glaze traders from Shwebo, the economy of the glaze businessmen from the earthquake-hit areas are recovered two years after the earthquake.

****