

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends meeting on implementation of Myanmar People's Forum's suggestions



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses work coordination meeting on implementation of Myanmar People's Forum's suggestions.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at a work coordination meeting on implementation of Myanmar People's Forum's suggestions at a meeting hall of the President's Office, here, this morning.

In his address, the Vice-President said the forum presented 55 proposals to the government. In accord with the guidance given by the President, the points were categorized and put into four groups. Group (1)

includes 17 points related to human rights and equality, group (2) 13 points related to development, group (3) 13 points related to peace and group (4) 12 points related to democratization.

Points included in the Group (I) call for protection of human rights, women and children rights, guidelines on how EIA, SIA and HIA are carried out for the future projects, formation of an organization in order to deal with public complaints and other legal matters.

Group-II includes elim-

ination of gambling, employment, creating markets, preventive measures for disasters, education for ethnic people and cooperation of Ministry of Health and private sector to upgrade the standard of people's hospitals.

Group-III includes developing the spirit of understanding and forgiveness among national people, inviting non-governmental organizations to participate in the work, establishing monitoring and reporting mechanism and implement-

ing the resolution-1325 of the UN Security Council.

Group-IV includes 12 points related to democratic reforms including education, social and political reforms, role of young people in the rural areas and of ethnic armed groups, fighting corruption, establishing associations for promoting democracy, solving traffic congestion problems, smuggling and copy rights and role of disabled people.

MNA

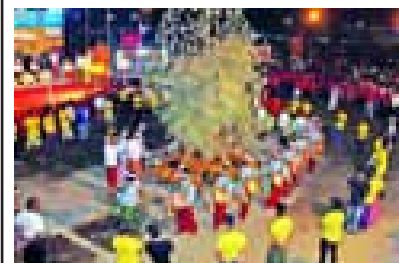
INSIDE

Mobile library gives services to local people

PAGE-2

Doctors from Imphar of India to give free health care to people of Kalay

PAGE-2



6th Rakhine Traditional Coach pulling festival on 12-14 Feb

PAGE-10

Mawlamyine Airport to invite tender for privatization



Photo shows a plane lands at Mawlamyine Airport.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw approved Mawlamyine airport will be liberalized to private sector at a coordination meeting with Mon State government in order to invite tenders for privatization of the airport on 16 January.

In meeting with Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, Bamar Nation Affair Minister U Thet Win and Secretary of Mon State Government U Zaw Lin Tun, the deputy minister said local companies will be allowed to operate Mawlamyine airport business. Tenders will be invit-

ed to upgrade the airport and the upgraded plan will include construction of a recreation centre, restaurants, stores and money exchange counters, he added.

He continued, regarding the inland water transport, that jetties in Mawlamyine will be handed over to Mon State government as the jetties once offered a round-the-clock service to large vessels from foreign countries to moor are needed to be upgraded.

Kyemon: 23-1-2014

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INSIDE

Thai court defers election date ruling, capital calm



PAGE-3

Abe pledges corporate tax cuts to attract investment

PAGE-3

Chinese leaders meet senior US envoy

PAGE-4

MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY 72nd Central Council Meeting

23-24 January, 2014

Assembly Hall

Myanmar Red Cross Society (Headquarters),
Nay Pyi Taw

Health Care

Doctors from Imphar of India to give free health care to people of Kalay



KALAY, 23 Jan—Altogether 44 doctors from Imphar of India will arrive in Kalay of Sagaing Region on 25 January to provide health care to 1000 people of Kalay on 26 January at Kalay People's Hospital.

They will focus on treatment of cancer, liver and HIV diseases to the people. If necessary, the

Indian doctors will take registration of the patients to give surgical operations when they arrive there once more. Those wishing to receive medical checkup are to enlist at the outpatient department of Kalay People's Hospital on 24 and 25 January.

MMAL-Lin Let Kyei
Sin

Raw opium, related items seized in drugs camp raids in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Acting on a tip-off, anti-narcotics squads of Myanmar Police Force in cooperation with a local battalion raided camps used for production of heroin,

south of Nanneint village in Lonpyin village-tract in Pinlaung Township of Shan State on 21 January.

The joint force stationed at the junction between Nanneint village

and Bawyan village in Khaung-ei village-tract in Pekhon Township seized 89.9 kilos of raw opium from Soe Maung, Maung Koh, Ko Ral, Maung Ko and Moe Myat who arrived



HRD

Mobile library gives services to local people

YANGON, 23 Jan—Dala Township Information and Public Relations Department of Yangon South District manages mobile library services to villages and wards of the township, departments and schools for enabling the local people to have reading access as of January, this year.

On 21 January evening, staff of Township IPRD gave mobile library services at Dala Township Police Station.

Head of the police station Khin Maung Lwin, police officers, servicemen and family members borrowed about 100 books in various genres. Only when will the number of library increase and

Meeting held to organize Buddha Pujaniya of historic Bawkyo Pagoda



HSIPAW, 23 Jan—The first meeting on holding Buddha Pujaniya of ancient Bawkyo Pagoda in Hsipaw was held at the hall in the town on 21 January.

Member of the pagoda board of trustees U Hla Win Maung read the plan of holding the Pujaniya.

It was also attended by Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw, Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Aung Khin, local authorities and officials. The Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda will include religious ceremonies, Shan and Myanmar theatrical dramas

entertainments, stage show of Shan Literature and Culture Troupe, Chinlone contest and Sepak Takraw Contest, first Lashio-Kyaukme-Namtu-Nawngkhio-Hsipaw invitational volleyball tournament from 10 to 15 March.

MMAL-Hsipaw Ko Latt

will the people have good habit of reading in rural and urban areas, said Head of Township IPRD Daw Hla Hla Nwe.

MMAL-Banya Maung Maung



there on motorbikes at about 4 am on 21 January.

During a raid on a heroin-producing camp on a hillock at about 6 am, they arrested Ta Pay and Ta Naing together with two kilos of opium grease, 20 liters of opium liquid, 1.6 kilos of ammonia chloride and related items in a makeshift tent. While clearing an encampment on Lonehu hill, they confiscated 6,070 liters of opium liquid, 10 kilos of morphine, three kilos of opium grease, four kilos of ammonia chloride, 12 liters of hydrochloric acid and related items and one percussion lock firearm in the two huts.

Pinlaung Myoma police station filed lawsuits against seven suspects including Soe Maung who were caught together with opium and related items valued at K 200.742 million.

MNA

Narcotic drugs and related materials seized from two opium refineries near Nanneint



WORLD

Thai court defers election date ruling, capital calm



Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she leaves the Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters, after a cabinet meeting in Bangkok on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 23 Jan — Thailand's Constitutional Court on Thursday deferred a ruling on whether a general election scheduled for 2 February can be postponed, as protesters who say they will boycott the vote kept up pressure on the government to step down. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra declared a 60-day state of emergency in Bangkok and surrounding areas from Wednesday, hoping to prevent an escalation in the protests now in their third month.

The Election Commis-

sion says the country is too volatile to hold a general election now and that technicalities mean it is anyway bound to result in a parliament with too few lawmakers to form a quorum. The government says the decree to hold the election on that date has been signed by the king and cannot be changed.

"The Constitutional Court has accepted this case and we will look at the legal issues involved. If there is enough evidence, we may hand down a decision tomorrow," said court spokesman Pimol Thampithak-

pong. The protests are the latest eruption in a political conflict that has gripped the country for eight years. The emergency decree failed to clear the demonstrators, though the capital has been relatively calm this week.

Broadly, the conflict pits the Bangkok middle class and royalist establishment against the mainly poorer supporters of Yingluck and her brother, ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was toppled by the military in 2006.

Nine people have been killed in outbursts of vio-

lence, including two grenade attacks in Bangkok last weekend. A leading pro-government activist was shot and wounded on Wednesday in Thailand's northeast, a stronghold of the Shinawatra family, in what police said may have been a political attack, adding to fears the violence could spread. A ruling in favour of the Election Commission would deepen Thailand's political quagmire, already weighing on investor enthusiasm for Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy.—Reuters

Abe pledges corporate tax cuts to attract investment

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 23 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to world business and political leaders on Wednesday that Japan will "set about further reform on corporate tax this year," expressing eagerness to carry out tax cuts in order to attract investment from abroad.

In the speech he gave at the opening session of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort of Davos, Abe also emphasized that uncertainties in Asia would affect "the entire world," apparently warning against China's aggressive military expansion.

Abe, who is trying to beat nearly two decades of

deflation, became Japan's first prime minister to deliver a keynote speech at the main session of the annual forum.

In the speech, Abe put emphasis on the significance of structural reforms in Japan, particularly aimed at restoring the country's international competitiveness and reinforcing its innovation capacity.

The Japanese government must "make the tax system for companies internationally competitive," Abe said.

"We will also encourage companies to use the cash they have gathered towards capital investment, R&D (research and

development), and raises in workers' salaries. To do this, we will put tax incentives into place in a way completely different from before," he added.

To invigorate private-sector investment, Abe promised that the government will end its decades-long policy of protecting rice farmers by limiting their production and allow firms to enter the retail electricity market, saying, "In Japan, people have long said that such a thing is just impossible."

The measures are set to be implemented under the government's economic growth strategy, which is the "third arrow" of the

premier's policies dubbed "Abenomics," along with drastic monetary easing by the Bank of Japan and massive public spending.

Abe also demonstrated his strong intention to promote negotiations on the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade framework, noting in the speech that entry into the tariff-cutting TPP "will remain a central pillar of my economic policies."

Kyodo News

Italy's Renzi flexes muscles in electoral reform drive



Italy's centre-left Democratic Party (PD) leader Matteo Renzi gestures as he appears as a guest on the RAI television show Porta a Porta (Door to Door) in Rome on 21 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

ROME, 23 Jan — Italian centre-left leader Matteo Renzi's brisk dismissal of party critics who opposed a deal with their old nemesis Silvio Berlusconi on electoral reform has injected momentum into a political system frozen in deadlock for months. The package now comes before parliament where a wily caste of lobbyists is long practiced in smothering ambitious reform plans in back-room amendments. But for the moment, the initiative lies with the 39-year-old mayor of Florence.

For years, as Italy's economy slid deeper into crisis, politicians had wrung their hands but failed to act over an electoral system almost universally blamed for the alienation of voters and

the chronic inability to create stable governments capable of passing effective reforms. "He's succeeded in dealing with all sides that were willing to discuss the issue and came up with a deal that left no one completely satisfied but which was practical," said Lorenzo De Sio, coordinator of the Italian Centre for Electoral Studies at Rome's LUISS university.

As things stand, the proposals would favour big parties and squeeze out the host of smaller groups blamed for thwarting viable governments. They would also concentrate power in the lower house of parliament, all but eliminating the Senate, which at present has virtually exactly equal powers with the Chamber of Deputies.

Reuters

Russian court orders release of Khodorkovsky's business partner

MOSCOW, 23 Jan — The ex-business partner of former oil tycoon and Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky will be released from prison early under a ruling by Russia's Supreme Court on Thursday.

Platon Lebedev and Khodorkovsky were sentenced to jail in 2005 after falling out with Vladimir Putin. The president pardoned Khodorkovsky last month, ahead of the Sochi Winter Olympics, but Lebedev did not seek a pardon and stayed in jail.

Lebedev had been due for release in May but the Supreme Court ruled that his sentence should be reduced and that he would be able to walk free on Friday.

It did not change a court order under which Lebedev and Khodorkovsky must pay 17 billion roubles (\$521 million) in tax arrears - an obstacle to Khodorkovsky's return to Russia after leaving for Germany in December.

Reuters



Platon Lebedev, jailed business partner of Russian ex-tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, gestures after hearing the verdict inside the defendants' box during a court hearing to consider a request for parole in Velsk in Arkhangelsk Region on 27 July, 2011.

REUTERS

Romania arrests suspected hacker of Bush family emails

BURCHAREST/SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Jan — Romanian authorities have arrested a man they suspect of being the hacker "Guccifer," famous for breaking into the email accounts of former US President George W. Bush's family and other prominent political and entertainment figures.

Romania's Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism said on its website on Wednesday that it had detained a suspect with the initials LML in the county of Arad, near the border with Hungary.

The agency said there was "reasonable suspicion" that throughout 2013, the suspect "repeatedly and illegally accessed, breaking security rules, email accounts belonging to public persons in Romania with the aim of getting electronic mail

confidential data."

Police declined to give LML's full name. A Romanian prosecutor, who did not want to be identified, told Reuters that the suspect is believed to be the hacker known as Guccifer and The Small Fume.

Guccifer has said he used a variety of methods, including guessing the answers to security questions,

to get access to customer accounts at Facebook, Comcast Corp, AOL Inc and other companies.

Romania's public radio Radio Romania identified the suspect as Marcel Lazar Lehel, who received a suspended sentence in 2012 after a hacking charge. Reuters could not independently verify the name.

Reuters



Marcel Lazar Lehel, 40, is escorted by masked policemen in Bucharest, after being arrested in Arad, 550 km (337 miles) west of Bucharest on 22 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Chinese leaders meet senior US envoy

BEIJING, 23 Jan — Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao and State Councilor Yang Jiechi on Wednesday met separately with visiting US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns.

Noting that this year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations, Li called on the two countries to implement the important consensus of their presidents and stick to the direction of building new-model relations between major powers.

Li urged the two countries to actively expand pragmatic cooperation,

properly manage differences and sensitive issues, advance multiple-tier and all-round exchanges and seek positive growth of China-US relations.

Burns said good China-US relations matter not only to the two countries, but also to the whole world.

He underscored US commitment to advancing positive and all-round cooperation with China and building new-model relations between major powers.

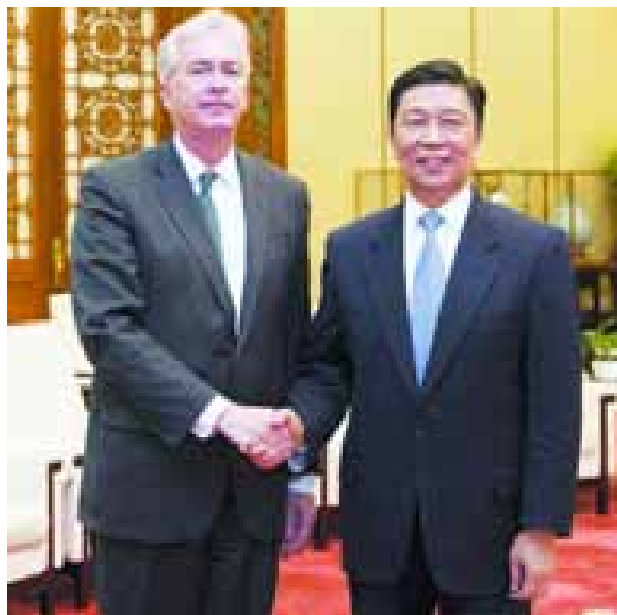
In his meeting with Burns, Yang said China-US relations are faced with new important opportuni-

ties this year, calling for stronger trust and cooperation, proper settlement of differences and new progress in China-US relations.

Burns said the United States would like to strengthen dialogues and cooperation in bilateral and multilateral spheres, manage differences and advance new-model relations between major powers.

Burns arrived in Beijing on Tuesday on the second leg of his three-nation tour after a stop in Republic of Korea. He will travel to Japan on Thursday.

Xinhua



Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao (R) meets with visiting US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

Putin sees nuclear disarmament as matter of distant future

Moscow, 23 Jan — The humankind is far from making a decision to abandon nuclear weapons, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

"I personally believe that someday the mankind will have to refuse from nuclear weapons, but this will be a long time before that happens," Putin told students at Moscow's MEPHI University which prepares professionals for nuclear energy industry.

Putin noted that many countries, including Russia, possess nuclear weapons and none of them is ready to denounce it.

Any unilateral start by Russia of nuclear disarmament presently would be "highly strange," Putin said, adding that such a step could lead to "big and hard consequences" for the country.

Currently, Russia is focusing on modernization of nuclear military technologies, communications, high-precision weapons and the Glonass navigation system, he said.

Last December, the Russian Defence Ministry said Moscow would put more emphasis on developing long-range, high-accuracy weapons in the country's massive defense upgrade. Also, Russia plans to upgrade 85 percent of its strategic nuclear weapons by 2020.

The government has earmarked 20 trillion rubles (about 600 billion US dollars) for the massive rearmament programme during that period.

Xinhua



Tokyo gubernatorial election candidate Morihiro Hosokawa (L), a former Prime Minister, speaks outside the metropolitan government hall of the Japanese capital after the official campaigning kicked off on 23 Jan, 2014, for the 9 February election.—KYODO NEWS

Tokyo gubernatorial election campaign begins

TOKYO, 23 Jan — Campaigning officially started on Thursday for the 9 Feb Tokyo gubernatorial election, with the main points of focus being a possible massive earthquake, the 2020 Olympics and the aging of society, as well as whether Japan should continue to rely on nuclear power.

The election, the third in as many years, follows the resignation of Naoki Inose as governor last month over his receipt of 50 million yen from scandal-tainted hospital chain Tokushukai.

Major candidates include former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, 76, former health minister Yoichi Masuzoe, 65, former Air Self-Defence Force chief Toshio Tamogami, 65, and Kenji Utsunomiya, 67, the former president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

"Japan has to make a drastic shift to renewable and environmentally-friendly energies from nuclear power as quickly as possible," Hosokawa said in his first stump speech near the metropolitan government building, vowing to stop a possible restart of idled nuclear reactors.

"The population of Japan is now 130 million but is expected to shrink to 90 million in 50 years and 40 million in 100 years," he said. "We won't be able to live with our modern day concepts of mass production and mass consumption. We just need to be rich in our hearts."

With the help of the popular and still influential Junichiro Koizumi, another former premier, Hosokawa plans to stress throughout his campaign that the issue of nuclear power generation is the most important of all for the future of Japan.—Kyodo News

Seven dead in tit-for-tat killings in Central African Republic

BANGUI, 23 Jan — Seven people died in inter-religious attacks and reprisal killings in Central African Republic's capital Bangui on Wednesday, a human rights campaigner said, underlining the challenge the new interim president faces in restoring peace.

The local Red Cross said it also found another 11 corpses, most burnt beyond recognition. Close to one million people, or a quarter of the population, have been displaced in the former French colony by clashes that began when mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in a coup in March.

Christian self-defence groups known as "anti-bal-

aka" (anti-machete) have since taken up arms against them, and the United Nations estimates that tit-for-tat violence has claimed more than 2,000 lives.

Wednesday's violence erupted after Seleka fighters left a military base looking for food and shot and killed two Christians, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said.

In reprisal, "the youth from the neighbourhood went to the prison and took out five Seleka detainees and killed them," Peter Bouckaert, an HRW researcher in Bangui, told Reuters.

The other 11 bodies were found behind a military camp in another part of the city.



African Union (AU) peacekeeping soldiers stand on the perimeter of a military base belonging to ex-Seleka soldiers during a dispute between members of the local Christian community and ex-Seleka soldiers in Bangui on 22 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Russian lawmakers warn Western politicians not to interfere in Ukraine's standoff

Moscow, 23 Jan — Foreign politicians should not interfere in the confrontation between the government and opposition in Ukraine, Russian lawmakers said on Wednesday.

"The State Duma urges Western political circles to stop meddling in the internal affairs of sovereign Ukraine in violation of international law and to stop contributing to further escalation of the conflict," the State Duma,

or the lower house of the parliament, said in a newly-adopted resolution.

The resolution, submitted by Duma chairman Sergei Naryshkin, was supported by 388 out of 450 MPs.

Lawmakers slammed some foreign politicians for "interference" in Ukraine's political confrontation which has already claimed three lives in the capital of Kiev.

Russian MPs pinned

the responsibility for the deepening crisis on both "extremists wing of the opposition" and western politicians who have sided with the opposition.

"The State Duma once again admonishes from mounting outside pressure on Ukraine, enforcing it a pro-EU geopolitical choice," the resolution published on the Duma website said.

Meanwhile, the Duma

called on the opposition in Ukraine to refrain from violence, halt the standoff with special police units and seek constructive dialogue with the authorities.

The Russian parliament's upper house, the Federation Council, supported the Duma declaration, saying it is unimaginable that Ukrainian politicians would advise the US leaders how they should conduct their policy.—Xinhua

WORLD

China's reform leading group holds first meeting

BEIJING, 23 Jan — China's leading group for overall reform on Wednesday convened its first meeting, which approved the working rules of the group as well as the working rules and members of six sub-groups.

Xi Jinping, Chinese president and leader of the group, presided over the meeting, which was also attended by deputy group leaders Li Keqiang, Liu Yunshan and Zhang Gaoli, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

The leading group for overall reform was established upon a decision passed at a key meeting, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in November last year, a measure to promote the country's comprehensive deepening of reforms.

Attendees of the meeting on Wednesday deliberated on and passed the working rules of the leading group, the general office, and sub-groups for reforms in six areas, including the economy and ecological civilization, democracy and law, cultural system, social system, system of Party building, and discipline inspection system.

Xi said at the meeting that the responsibility of the leading group is to implement all reform measures put forward at the Plenary Session. He urged attendees to understand the spirit of the session, which serves as the basis of decision making.

A series of reforms have already been put in place after the Plenary Session, including the axing of the re-education through labour system, an easing of the one-child policy, and reform of the industrial and commercial registration

system. However, Xi said, some problems exist in implementing the spirit of the Plenary Session, calling for adequate understanding of the difficulty, complexity and urgency of reforms, as deeper and deeper interest group will be affected as reforms go further.

He urged the leading group to study different situations, firmly grasp the reform in the right way, and take a firm stand on fundamental issues. He also called for participation by the people.

The Chinese president urged sub-groups and the general office to closely co-ordinate with other departments, make projects for reforms, monitor and guide the implementation of reforms, and study major issues. Other members of the leading group, and officials responsible for departments of the central authority also attended the meeting.

Xinhua

Ukraine opposition say they'll brave bullets after talks with Yanukovich fail

KIEV, 23 Jan — Ukrainian opposition leaders emerged from crisis talks with President Viktor Yanukovich on Wednesday saying he had failed to give concrete answers to their demands, and told their supporters on the streets to prepare for a police offensive. Using emotional language following the deaths earlier in the day of at least three protesters - two of them from gunshot wounds - the three opposition leaders who met Yanukovich said they were ready to face police bullets.

Boxer-turned-politician Vitaly Klitschko told the thousands of protesters gathered on Kiev's Independ-



A pro-European protester throws tyres into a fire during street violence in Kiev on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

ence Square that during three hours of talks the president had given no clear response to their demands that the government be dismissed and sweeping anti-protest laws ditched. "Today they

(the police) are preparing to clear us out of the 'Maidan' (Independence Square)," Klitschko declared.

"We must do all we can to stop them clearing us out," he said. He urged people to

stay overnight and defend the square in central Kiev, and drew a roar of support from protesters when he declared: "If I have to go (on to the streets) under bullets, I shall go there under bullets."

"Tomorrow if the President does not respond ... then we will go on the offensive," he said.

Former economy minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk echoed his words, and referred to the overnight shooting deaths which the opposition has blamed on police despite official denials. A third man died after plunging from the top of Dynamo football stadium while fighting with police.—Reuters

Kidnapped S Korean trade official freed in Libya

SEOUL, 23 Jan — A South Korean trade official abducted by gunmen in Libya at the weekend has been freed unharmed after Libyan forces arrested the kidnappers, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Han Seok Woo, who heads the Tripoli office of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency in Libya, was brought to the South Korean Embassy in Libya late Wednesday.

"Han is in good health

and was handed over to the South Korean Embassy," the ministry said in a statement.

Han, 39, who has been in Libya since July 2012, was being driven home from work when several men in a car forced his vehicle to stop last Sunday.

The four kidnappers were arrested in Tripoli by Libyan security authorities and found to be members of an armed group, according to the statement.

Kyodo News



John Emerson, United States Ambassador to Germany, speaks during a Press conference in Berlin, Germany, on 22 Jan, 2014. The crisis in Syria, the Iranian nuclear issue and the worldwide debate about Internet security are expected to be the central themes at the 50th Munich Security Conference, to be held on 31 January on 2 February.—XINHUA

Colombian army steps up offensive against rebels

BOGOTA, 23 Jan — The Colombian army has stepped up military offensive against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), "demobilizing" 39 rebels altogether in operations over the past 24 hours across the country.

On Wednesday, it captured five FARC members in the municipality of Vista Hermosa in the central Meta department, local El Nuevo Siglo news website reported. In a different opera-

tion, the army caught eight rebels, confirmed Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, who is currently in Spain.

Santos welcomed the military's commitment to weakening the outlawed rebel group. Seven FARC members were "demobilized" in the San Miguel

municipality of Planadas.

Among all the "demobilized," 14 rebels were killed in the bombing of a camp in Tame, Arauca.

Despite the fighting, the government and the FARC rebels are in peace talks in Havana, Cuba, with the aim of putting an end to the five-decade conflict.—Xinhua

Time to end al-Qaeda presence in Falluja

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Wednesday it was time to clear al-Qaeda-linked militants out of the rebel-held city of Falluja, but set no deadline for any military assault.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an al-Qaeda offshoot also on the frontlines of Syria's civil war, overran Falluja with help from other Sunni Muslim groups on 1 January.

Iraqi troops and security forces have set up a loose cordon around the city, 50 km (31 miles) west of Baghdad, and have clashed sporadically with insurgents inside, but Maliki has said community leaders and tribesmen should force ISIL to withdraw, in order to spare Falluja more bloodshed and destruction.

"The time has come to settle this issue and end the presence of this gang in this city and save its people

from their evil," Maliki said in his weekly televised address to the nation.

Three hours later, helicopter gunships bombarded eastern and northern districts of Falluja, residents said. It was not clear if that was the prelude to wider military action. Helicopters have been in action before on the outskirts of the city.

On Tuesday, Iraqi air force strikes killed more than 50 militants of various Arab nationalities and destroyed large amounts of ammunition in the western Province of Anbar, a Defence Ministry statement said. It did not say exactly where the raids on "gatherings of terrorist groups" took place.

Maliki again urged the people of Falluja to "take crucial positions on the presence of those dirty people without losses and without sacrifices," but set no precise time limit.

Reuters



Supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad hold a demonstration in support of his government near the venue of Syrian peace talks in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 Jan, 2014.—KYODO NEWS



Gunmen fighters walk with their weapons in the streets of the city of Ramadi, 100 km (62 miles) west of Baghdad, on 21 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Buzzed drivers under legal limit still risk car accidents

NEW YORK, 23 Jan — Even drivers with a slight “buzz” are more likely to be at fault for accidents than the sober drivers they hit, according to a new study. The authors looked at fatal car crash data from a US national database of more than 570,000 collisions between 1994 and 2011 and found there appears to be no safe level of alcohol in the bloodstream when it comes to driving.

“This has a very wide range of implications,” lead author David Phillips, a sociologist at University

of California, San Diego, said. “For the individual driver it means don’t drive while buzzed, and for a passenger, don’t get in a car with a driver who is buzzed. Find a way to make the sober one the driver.” The data Phillips and his colleagues analyzed included blood alcohol content (BAC) measurements for the drivers as well as clear indicators of blame for the accident, such as which driver ran a red light or drove in the wrong lane.

Drivers with a BAC of .01 percent, the lowest

level recorded in the dataset, were 46 percent more likely to be solely blamed for the crash than a sober driver, according to the results published in the journal *Injury Prevention*. An adult man would need half of one 12-ounce beer to generate a .01 percent BAC reading on a breathalyzer test. That is well below the US legal driving limit of .08 percent. For men and women, as blood alcohol level increased, so did the possibility of blame for the accident.

That’s what would be

expected based on previous research, Phillips said, and this study won’t be particularly surprising to researchers, but it is the first nationwide analysis of data on “buzzed” drivers. “There’s nothing magical about .08,” he added. No research indicates that a great change in driving capacity takes place between .07 and .08. “The lower we can make the legal BAC, the safer everyone will be,” he said. Many European countries have legal limits of .05, and limits in Sweden and Japan are even lower, Phillips said.



Alcohol Related Accidents

Strictly following the data, the only safe driver is one with zero blood alcohol content, he said.

Although the study builds on 50 years of similar research, this one is unique and exciting because of its scale, said James C Fell, senior research scientist at the Pacific Institute for Re-

search and Evaluation in Calverton, Maryland. The first US legal definition of “drunk” for the purpose of driving was set at .15 BAC in the 1930s and remained until certain states gradually lowered their limits to .10 in the 1950s and 60s and then to .08, Fell said.

Reuters

Mediterranean diet may be good for leg arteries, too

NEW YORK, 23 Jan — People who eat a Mediterranean diet high in olive oil or nuts may reduce their likelihood of developing clogged leg arteries, according to new research from Spain. The finding follows results from the same trial published last year that showed sticking to a Mediterranean diet could lower the risk of heart attack and stroke.

“Now we have this very strong reduction in the risk of peripheral artery disease,” Dr Miguel Martínez-González, from the University of Navarra in Pamplona, told *Reuters Health*. “This is very reassuring.” Peripheral artery disease arises when plaque builds up in the arteries that carry blood to the legs and feet, restricting blood flow. The condition often causes leg pain and fatigue, espe-

cially during walking. The current trial, Martínez-González said, is the first to randomly assign people without heart disease to a Mediterranean or other diet and see how they fare.

He and his colleagues allocated 7,477 older Spaniards to one of three diet plans: a Mediterranean-style diet supplemented with extra-virgin olive oil, a Mediterranean diet with extra nuts or a standard low-fat diet. Participants met with a dietician four times each year to review their eating habits and set goals for how to follow their prescribed diet more closely. The researchers also gave them shopping lists, menus and recipes as well as free olive oil or nuts for those assigned to the Mediterranean diets. Although none of the participants had heart disease at the start of the



study, all were deemed to be at risk because they had diabetes or a combination of other risk factors.

Over an average of almost five years, 89 people in the study developed peripheral artery disease. That included 18 in the olive oil group, 26 in the nuts group and 45 in the low-fat comparison group, the researchers wrote in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. They found the

Mediterranean diet supplemented with olive oil cut people’s risk of peripheral artery disease by 64 percent, and the one with extra nuts cut the risk in half. But because the condition was relatively rare, they calculated that more than 300 people would have to eat a Mediterranean-style diet instead of a low-fat one to prevent one case of peripheral artery disease.

Reuters

IMF raises global economic forecast as constraints on growth gradually ease

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday slightly raised its growth forecast for the world economy to 3.7 percent in 2014, 0.1 percentage point higher than its October projection. “Global activity strengthened during the second half of 2013,” the IMF said in an update of its World Economic Outlook report. “Activity is expected to improve further in 2014-15, largely on account of recovery in the advanced economies.”

Growth in advanced economies was expected to be 2.2 percent in 2014, up from 1.3 percent in 2013. It was 0.2 percentage point higher than the growth rate projected in October.

“The euro area is turning the corner from recession to recovery,” noted the flagship report of the IMF. Growth was projected to strengthen to 1 percent in 2014 and 1.4 percent in 2015, but the recovery would be uneven. The US economic growth was predicted to accelerate from 1.9 percent in 2013 to 2.8 percent in 2014.

The pickup in 2014 would be carried by final domestic demand, supported in part by a reduction in the fiscal drag as a result of the recent budget agreement.

In Japan, growth was expected to slow more gradually compared with the October estimate as temporary fiscal stimu-

lus should partly offset the drag from the consumption tax increase in early 2014. Its annual growth was expected to remain broadly unchanged at 1.7 percent in 2014, before moderating to 1 percent in 2015. Growth in emerging-market and developing economies was projected to accelerate from 4.7 percent in 2013 to 5.1 percent in 2014. China’s growth rate was expected to slow down slightly from 7.7 percent in 2013 to 7.5 percent in 2014.

“In many emerging-market and developing economies, stronger external demand from advanced economies will lift growth, although domestic weaknesses remain a concern,” said the report.

Growth in China rebounded strongly in the second half of 2013, due largely to an acceleration in investment. This surge is expected to be temporary, in part because of policy measures aimed at slowing credit growth and raising the cost of capital,” according to the report.

The Washington-based global lender also kept its forecast for the world economic growth in 2015 unchanged at 3.9 percent.

On risks, the IMF said risks of low inflation in advanced economies, especially the euro area, have come to the fore. —Reuters

China’s Lenovo nears deal to buy IBM’s server



Boxes containing Lenovo desktop computers are seen in an office in Kiev on 12 March, 2012. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 23 Jan — Lenovo Group Ltd is nearing an agreement to buy International Business Machines Corp’s low-end server business for \$2-2.5 billion, a deal that would help the Chinese company counter the

shrinking personal computers market, people familiar with the matter said.

The timing of the deal was uncertain, with one of the people saying an announcement could come as early as Thursday. The

final price could be close the bottom end of the range, the person said. Lenovo, the world’s biggest PC maker, halted trading in its shares pending an announcement in respect of a transaction. The potential deal comes after IBM missed revenue expectations for the fourth consecutive quarter when it reported earnings earlier this week.

A deal for IBM’s x86 servers, which power corporate data centers, fits with Lenovo’s attempts to remold itself as a force in mobile devices and data storage servers. It also helps IBM’s shift away from hardware towards software and ser-

vices. Reuters had reported on Tuesday that Lenovo had resumed talks to buy the IBM’s lower-margin unit after failing to reach an agreement last year following differences on pricing. Lenovo’s purchase of IBM’s Thinkpad PC business in 2005 for \$1.75 billion became the springboard for its leap to the top of global PC maker rankings.

Lenovo said earlier this week that it was in preliminary talks about an acquisition. It declined to name the seller but said it was making the statement in response to reports about its potential acquisition of a server business.—Reuters



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Facebook tests ad network business on other companies' mobile apps

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Jan — Facebook Inc said on Wednesday that it is displaying ads from a small group of marketers on other companies' smartphone apps, the latest sign that the

world's No 1 online social network is closer to launching an ad network business.

Facebook said that the test is currently limited to a "few" advertisers and mobile app publishers. "Our

aim is to demonstrate even greater reach with the same power of Facebook targeting for advertisers both on and off Facebook," the company said in a post on its official business blog.

Facebook generates the bulk of its revenue from ads that appear on its own pages and in the Facebook mobile app. It has experimented with offering ads beyond the confines of its own social networking website in the past, including an effort last year in which it partnered with other ad networks and a previous experiment with social game company Zynga Inc.

Ad networks, which distribute online ads across a

constellation of independent websites and apps, typically share a portion of the ad revenue with their partners. Selling ads that appear in mobile apps could provide Facebook with a new source of revenue by expanding the amount of ads it sells. In the current test, Facebook said it will effectively operate its own ad network.

Analysts expect Facebook, which has roughly 1.2 billion users, to report revenue of \$2.34 billion for its fourth quarter next week. Facebook declined to comment on the financial aspects, including any revenue sharing arrangements, of its mobile ad network test.—Reuters



A portrait of the Facebook logo in Ventura, California on 21 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS



A man using his mobile phone walks past a Samsung Electronics shop in the company's main office building in central Seoul on 23 July, 2013.

REUTERS

Samsung SDI signs deal to build China battery factory

SEOUL, 23 Jan — Samsung SDI said on Thursday that it had signed a preliminary deal to build an electric car battery factory in China by next year, betting on the growth potential of the country's electric car market.

South Korea's Samsung SDI also said it will form a joint venture by

April this year to invest a total of \$600 million in the factory and other electric car battery businesses over the next five years. Samsung SDI said the joint venture consists of Chinese parts maker Anqing Ring New Group and an unidentified company owned by China's Shaanxi province.

Reuters

VMware to buy mobile security firm AirWatch for \$1.54 billion

NEW YORK, 23 Jan — Cloud software maker VMware Inc said it would buy privately held mobile security company AirWatch for \$1.54 billion to tap into rising demand from companies to secure the smartphones and tablets used by employees.

While some analysts view the deal as a threat to BlackBerry Ltd, which has long been the go-to for companies looking for security products, others say the deal could spur more acquisitions in the mobile security market. VMware itself has entered this market recently. Its main business is making virtualization software, which creates a virtual machine that acts like a real computer. This helps companies cut IT costs by saving on server and storage space.

"AirWatch will be the center of our mobile activities," CEO Pat Gelsinger told Reuters. "We are really bringing together the strength we have in PCs and

desktops with AirWatch's in the mobility space."

The VMware-AirWatch deal is the third major acquisition in the mobile security market, a business which ABI Research estimates will double to more than \$1 billion by 2015.

Last year, IBM bought mobile device management company Fiberlink Communications, while Citrix Systems Inc bought Zenprise in 2012. UBS analyst Amitabh Passi said the deal will make it more challenging for BlackBerry as it now faces strong competitors and said he expects Google Inc, Apple Inc and Microsoft Corp to look for acquisitions to bolster their presence in the mobile enterprise market.

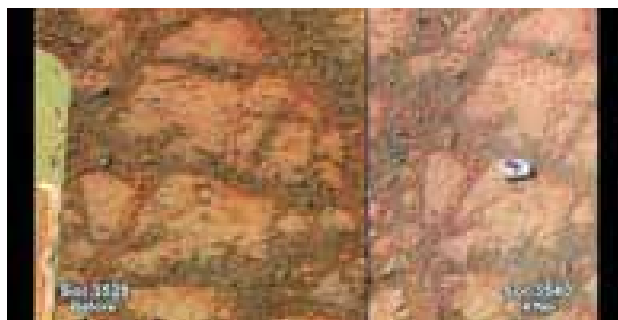
VMware shares were up 2.3 percent at \$99.57 in afternoon trade on the New York Stock Exchange after the company also forecast fourth-quarter and current-quarter revenue above analysts' estimate.

Reuters

Mystery white rock inexplicably appears near NASA Mars rover

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 23 Jan — Scientists are stumped as to how a rock mysteriously appeared in images taken two weeks apart by NASA's Mars rover Opportunity. The rover, which landed in an area known as Meridiani Planum a decade ago, is exploring the rim of a crater for signs of past water. Another rover, Curiosity, touched down on the opposite side of the planet in 2012 for a more ambitious mission to look for past habitable environments.

For the moment, however, scientists are ponder-



A NASA combination handout photograph shows the surface of Mars in front of the Mars rover on 26 Dec, 2013 (L) and on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

ing a more immediate question. On 8 January, while preparing to use its robotic arm for science investigation, Opportunity sent back a picture of its work area.

Oddly, it showed a bright white rock, about the size of a doughnut, where only barren bedrock had appeared in a picture taken two weeks earlier. Scientists suspect

the rock was flipped over by one of the rover's wheels.

It also may have been deposited after a meteorite landed nearby. Either way, the rock, dubbed "Pinnacle Island" is providing an unexpected science bonus.

"Much of the rock is bright-toned, nearly white," NASA said in a statement on Tuesday. "A portion is deep red in color. Pinnacle Island may have been flipped upside-down when a wheel dislodged it, providing an unusual circumstance for examining the underside of a Martian rock."

Reuters

Water vapour plumes raise question about life on dwarf planet Ceres

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan — The dwarf planet Ceres, one of the most intriguing objects in the solar system, is gushing water vapour from its unusual ice-covered surface, scientists said on Wednesday in a finding that raises the question of whether it might be hospitable to life. Using the European Space Agency's Herschel infrared space telescope, researchers spotted plumes of water vapor periodically spewing from Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt residing between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

The discovery comes just over a year before the scheduled arrival of NASA's Dawn spacecraft for a closer look at Ceres, a round body measuring about 590 miles in diameter—less than a third of the size of

the moon. "This is the first time water vapor has been unequivocally detected on Ceres or any other object in the asteroid belt and provides proof that Ceres has an icy surface and an atmosphere," Michael Küppers of the European Space Agency in Spain, who led the research published in the journal *Nature*, said in a statement.

The question is what is causing these plumes of water vapour from two locations on Ceres. One idea, according to scientists, is that the sun sometimes warms parts of the icy surface enough that water vapor emerges. Another possibility, they say, is that there is liquid water under the frozen surface of Ceres and that vapour is shooting out of geysers or icy volcanoes.

Dramatic geysers have been spotted on Enceladus, one of the innermost moons of the giant ringed planet Saturn. Scientists think Ceres holds rock in its interior and is wrapped in a mantle of ice that, if melted, would amount to more fresh water than is contained on Earth.

Ceres was discovered in 1801, more than a century

before the discovery in 1930 of the more famous —and more distant — dwarf planet Pluto. It is one of the few places in the solar system aside from Earth where water has been located. A big question about the discovery of the water vapour on Ceres is what it means regarding the possibility of life.

Reuters



NASA's Dawn spacecraft heads toward the dwarf planet Ceres as seen in this undated artist's conception released on 22 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 24 January, 2014

Peaceful co-existence

Peaceful co-existence is one the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence of the United Nations. It means the peaceful co-existence of all mankind living in the world, regardless of race, religion and color. Despite differences, peaceful co-existence could bring substantial benefits for global citizens.

If each and every family, community, country and region live together in peace, it is sure all will have the benefit of peaceful co-existence. If the concept of peaceful coexistence prevails among the people of the world, regardless of the level of wealth and color, peace is possible.

Peaceful coexistence is one and only way to ensure peace in the world. A genuine will for peace is imperative. World peace can only be brought about by those who wish and long for peace. It is the only way to ensure a peaceful region and peaceful society.

Stability can be realized by establishing a lasting peace in a region or in a society. Stability is not possible in a region or a society that lacks security. Stability is important for achieving sustainable development in a certain country.

There can be true happiness and peace through the fullest respect for peace and stability. Without peace and stability, development cannot be realized. It is required to value peace and stability for achieving development.

Likewise, prosperity can be obtained only through effective development project implementation management. Prosperity would come as a result of sustainable development that enables a certain country to achieve prosperity and develop a prosperous society.

Let's build a prosperous world through our commitment to peaceful co-existence for ensuring peace, stability, sustainable development and prosperity.

Sniper scopes, military equipment seized on Mongla-Kengtung road



KENTUNG, 23 Jan — A combined team seized sniper scopes, military equipment and illegal cans of meat while conducting a search of a six-wheeled truck heading for Kengtung from Mongla at about 11 am yesterday.

Officials said 250 sniper scopes measuring 11.5 inches in length with

a diameter of 1.5 inch, 250 containers of sniper accessories, 500 military equipment and 1656 cans of meat were found in the truck.

It is learnt that actions will be taken against driver Sai Sam Aun, 34, and his colleague Aye Tun, 40, who have been taken into police custody in accord with the law.—Kengtung IPRD

(from page 16)

Eighteen were arrested during the raids on pharmacies in Yangon Region

for selling banned stimulant tablets, said the deputy minister at Amyotha Hluttaw today.

During today session of Amyotha Hluttaw,

Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin, Member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, put forward a report on findings of the Anti-Terrorism Bill and sought the

approval from Amyotha Hluttaw to approve the bill.

The bill was approved by Amyotha Hluttaw today. MNA

Equal aid for both communities in Rakhine State discussed



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win holds talks with EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win received EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland

Kobia at the Border Affairs Ministry this evening.

At the meeting, they discussed aid of EU member countries for both com-

munities in Rakhine State and more humanitarian assistance, equal assistance of EU for both communities in Rakhine State and more as-

sistance for needy regions, and further cooperation between EU and Ministry of Border Affairs.

MNA

Union SWRR Minister holds talks with UNSG's Adviser

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin held talks with UNSG's Special Adviser Mr. Vijay Nambiar at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

The Union minister talked about completion of formulation of social security policies and laws for women, children, persons with disabilities and the aged and ongoing works, works being carried out for provision of assistance to IDPs in Rakhine State in co-operation with UN agencies and INGOs and homecoming of 134 Myanmar fishermen who drifted out to the sea due to the bad weather in 2013 and were rescued in neighbouring countries.

The UNSG's adviser insisted that the UN's humanitarian agencies have helped both communities



Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin receives UNSG's Special Adviser Mr. Vijay Nambiar.—MNA

equally and fairly in Rakhine State.

MNA

Regional stability ...

(from page 16)

They visited Kantha Ht-wetwa and Taungpaw relief camps and donated offertories to Thiri Mingala Southern monastery Sayadaw.

They looked round basic education primary schools being constructed with the assistance of Indonesia in Minbya Town-

ship and met with locals in MraukU Township.

On 22 January, they visited Kyeinpyin and Hsintetmaw relief camps in Pauktaw Township and coordinated the essentials. They also inspected relief camps, rehabilitation and progress of housings in Sittway in the evening.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. (6/2014)

8th Waning of Pyatho, 1375 ME
(23 January, 2014)Union Pa-O National Organization
allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that Union Pa-O National Organization headquartered at No. (Nya/ 1094), region (3), West Circular Road, Nyaungphusakan Ward, Taunggyi Township, Shan State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 23 January, 2014 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the party is 73.

By order,
(Myint Naing)

Member

Union Election Commission

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of the following heads of service organization shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Daw Hla Hla Kyi
Director (Admin)
Administration Department
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy | Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy |
| (2) Professor Dr Myint Han
Professor
Medical Education Department
University of Medicine (1), Yangon
Medical Science Department
Ministry of Health | Director-General
Food and Drug Administration
Ministry of Health |
| (3) U Aung Thwin
Deputy Director-General
Directorate of Road Administration
Ministry of Rail Transportation | Director-General
Directorate of Road Administration
Ministry of Rail Transportation |

C-in-C receives ...

(from page 16)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the Defence Services has taken the national duty of "Our Three

Main Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration Solidarity and Perpetuation of the Sovereignty" and made efforts for

ending armed conflicts. He also expressed his willing for coordination between the Defence Services of Myanmar and the UN to work for the social security of the people.

Myawady

Joint committee for Reviewing the Constitution meets

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—The meeting (4/2014) of Joint Committee for Reviewing the Constitution took place at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building, here, today.

On the occasion, Vice-Chairman of the committee

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein extended greetings.

Joint Secretary of the committee U Khin Maung Yi clarified the tasks carried out on the minutes of the meeting (3/2014) of the committee. The five

reviewing committees presented reports on their findings and undertakings. Committee members participated in the discussion on reviewing the constitution. The vice-chairman and the joint secretary gave supplementary remarks.—MNA

Tourists travelling Myanmar in their automobiles

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—A total of 53 foreigners of The Road to Mandalay 2014 Classic Car Rally reached here on board 26 antique cars yesterday.

They went sightseeing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

This morning, Deputy Ministers for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe and Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn welcomed them at Golden Palace Hotel. The classic car rally left here for Kalaw. The rally will go along the route of

Yangon-Toungoo-Nay Pyi Taw-Kalaw-Inlay-Pindaya-Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin-Monywa-Bagan-Popa-Bagan-Pyay-Yangon.

Their trip started on 19 January and will finish on 8 February.—MNA

Two children injured as Mingaladon explosion in critical condition



Photo shows child injured in explosion in Mingaladon Township.—MNA

YANGON, 23 Jan—An explosion occurred at 7:20 am today in Mingaladon, injuring two children.

An unidentified item exploded at the backyard of Room No (6) of U Hla Win and Daw Khine Khine Win at staff quarters No (A) in Htautkyaunk Akarit Ward on Yangon-Bago Road in Mingaladon Township while 8-year-old Maung Myo Ko was playing it along with his 10-month-old sister Ma Khaing Thaz-in Win.

The two children got life-threatening injuries in the explosion. They were rushed to Yangon General Hospital where intensive care is given to them.

UEC Chairman receives MPA trainees



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets faculty members and trainees from Master of Public Administration of Institute of Economics.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW 23 Jan—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye met with the professor (Dean), faculty members and trainees from Master of Public Administration Course of Yangon Institute of Economics at UEC Office, here, this afternoon.

UEC members Dr Daw Myint Kyi and U Win Kyi explained formation of

UEC and its responsibilities and reviewed the election held in Nepal and replied queries raised by the trainees.

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye clarified programmes for holding free and fair elections, arrangements for casting vote of eligible citizens, establishment of political parties, rights of eligible voters and prepara-

tions for 2015 general elections.

Applied Economics Department of Yangon Institute of Economics opens two-year MPA course for the officers who mainly serve to make policy decision. The course includes MPA, economics, statistics, finance and statistics, public affairs policy and law.

MNA

Union Minister at President Office receives German guests



Union Minister U Hla Tun shakes hands with Deputy Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg of Germany and Minister for Finance and Economics Dr. Nils Schmidt.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Union Minister at the Presidential Office U Hla Tun re-

ceived a delegation led by Deputy Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg of

Germany and Minister for Finance and Economics Dr. Nils Schmidt at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here yesterday.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on the progress of Myanmar reforms in political, economic and administrative machinery sectors, reforms for decentralization, and prospects to industrialize the nation through development of agricultural sector, assistance for opening of more vocational training schools to turn out technicians for SMEs in Myanmar, and sharing of experiences of Germany in reform of decentralization.—MNA

776 illegal huts evicted in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 23 Jan—Illegal settlements that can be harmful to rule of law, stability and livelihood of the people in Twantay and Hlinethaya areas in Yangon Region have been evicted in a systematic way. Over 2800 squatted huts in Twantay Township and 102 in Ward-19 in Hlinethaya Township have already been evicted recently. They continued removal of 776 squatted huts in Ward-15, Wunhtangyi Housing and

Shwe Linban Creek in Hlinethaya Township today.

Illegal settlers blocked the routes to their squatted huts and used women and children as human shields to prevent the eviction.

CNA officially opens ...

(from page 16)

It includes Dr Maung Maung Lay, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI); Kanthan Shankar, Country Manager, East Asia & Pacific of The World Bank Group; Melvyn Pun, CEO, Serge Pun & Associates (Myan-

The authority could remove the illegal huts after negotiating with the settlers. Those who made profits on the illegal settlers have managed to escape from the areas.—MNA

mar); Associate Professor Simon Tay, Chairman of Singapore Institute of International Affairs; and William Greenlee, Jr., Partner/Deputy Managing Director, DFDL, Myanmar. Business Insights Myanmar—Understanding the Changing Myanmar is recorded and will broadcast on Channel News Asia on 2nd September, 2014.—MNA

6th Rakhine Traditional Coach pulling festival on 12-14 Feb

SITTWAY, 23 Jan—Rakhine traditional coach pulling ceremony will be held for the sixth time at Wingabar

Ground in Ywagyitaung Ward of Sittway, Rakhine State from 12 to 14 February. The organizing

committee will hold the ceremony in Rakhine traditions. It is a significant

traditional festival of Rakhine national.

The winning team has to incinerate the coach before noon of the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.

MMAL-Sittway District IPRD



Suspects in playing card, illegal two-digit lottery seized in Meiktila District

MEIKTILA, 23 Jan—Under the supervision of Meiktila District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Sao Nay Lin,

police stations of Meiktila, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Thazi townships seized those from gambling.

On 20 January, the

police of Hseto Police Station of Mahlaing Township searched a motorbike driven by Aung Ko, 23, of Htantabin Village. They seized one

paper of ledger book used in illegal two-digit lottery, three voucher books and K 32850. Mahlaing Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Aung Ko under the law.

The same day, the police of Mahlaing Myoma Police Station together with witnesses raided the house of Saw Tun, 58 of Phettaw Village and arrested five persons of Phettaw Village while they were playing cards together with K 26700.

The police station opened a file of lawsuit against them under the law.

One police squad of Meiktila Myoma Police Station also raided the tea shop of Ywathitgon Village in Aungsan War and seized documents related to illegal two-digit lottery and K 58000. The police station

Three traffic lights to be installed in downtown Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 23 Jan—Plans are underway to install three more traffic lights at downtown Meiktila of Meiktila District in Mandalay Region.

“As Meiktila is a district level town, it has five highways in a junction. The town is bustling with runs of vehicles. Hence, three more traffic lights will be installed in three junctions of the town

such as the junctions near No 1 Basic Education High School in Nandawgon Ward, near Meiktila Education College in Paukchaung Ward and near Highway Bus Terminal in Thiri Mingala Ward. Tenders have been invited for the works. The installation of traffic lights will be completed soon,” said Township Administrator U Myo Hlaing.

The traffic lights and traffic police outposts have built in Tawwinnan Junction in Aungzeyer Ward, Yoma Bank junction in Myoma Ward in Meiktila. The already built traffic lights are located on the inner circular road of the town heading for Yangon-Mandalay-Myingyan-Kyaukpadaung-Taunggyi.—MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)



National Objectives of 67th 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

CONSTRUCTION

Corridor recently collapsed under repairs

MEIKTILA, 23 Jan—The circular corridor of Meiktila Lake collapsed at 8 pm on 7 October 2013 near Yangon-Mandalay Road in Meiktila.

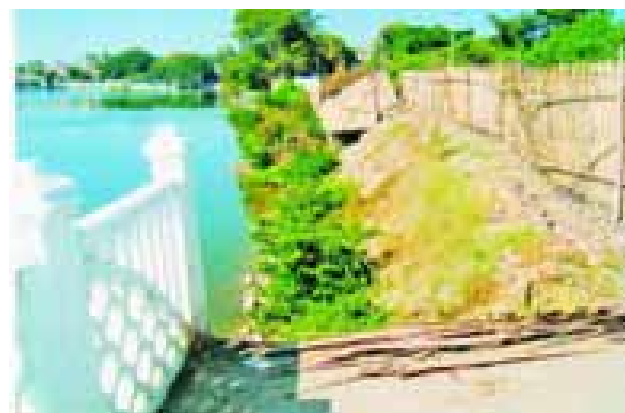
The collapsed corridor was worth K 6 million. It was built 60 years ago.

Meiktila District Deputy

Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe inspected the collapsed corridor at the night and said the plan will be implemented to repair the corridor as soon as possible.

After three months, the corridor is being repaired.

NLM-017



opened a file of lawsuit against Myo Kyaw Han, 40 of Ywathitgon Ward under the law.

NLM-017

PAY YOUR TAX

Special sales of Chanmyae Trading Cooperative Society

MANDALAY, 23 Jan—Chanmyae Cooperative Trading Cooperative Society held the special sales at its office at the corner of 22nd and 86th Streets in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on 21 January in commemoration of its 20th anniversary ceremony.

It was attended by Township Cooperative Department Staff Officer U Kyaw Hsan Lin and officials,

Chairman of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Han and party.

The Staff Officer met with Chairman of the cooperative society U Ba Kyi and party, accountant U Tun Hla Aung and staff at the office.

The chairman reported on purpose of holding the special sales after abolishing the consumer cooperative society in line with the

1992 Cooperative Law. The accountant explained the financial statement.

The staff officer and party cordially greeted the customers at the special sales and viewed the display of goods. Members of the cooperative society got the opportunity when they bought goods worth K 3000, they would get one Pyi of Manaw Thukha rice worth K 1500.—MMAL-387

REGIONAL

LDP lawmakers urge government to devise nuclear phase-out policy

TOKYO, 23 Jan — A group of ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers on Thursday compiled a proposal calling on the government to devise an energy policy that seeks to phase out nuclear power generation in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis.

“The plan should make clear that new commercial reactors should not be built...and that reactors that have operated for 40 years should be scrapped,” the group of about 50 lawmakers, led by anti-nuclear

lower house member Taro Kono, said.

The proposal, which also calls for the need to end Japan’s long-standing spent fuel recycling policy, goes against the content of a draft energy plan devised by a government panel in December.

The draft said that nuclear power is an “important base-load power source” that should continue to be used. Base-load power refers to electricity sources that are cheap and stable, and can also be used continuously.

Kono said the group opposes nuclear power being given such a status and that it should be referred to as “an energy source in a transition period.”

“We must not allow the government to decide a Basic Energy Plan that does not show our regret over the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant,” Kono told reporters.

The group plans to submit the proposal to the government in the near future.

In 2012, the previous government led by the

Democratic Party of Japan crafted an energy strategy that sought to phase out nuclear power by the end of the 2030s.

But the LDP returned to power in December the same year, seeking to retract the goal and shape what it calls a “responsible” energy policy.

Nuclear power supplied about 30 percent of Japan’s total electricity before the Fukushima crisis, but concerns over its safety have led to a prolonged halt of many nuclear reactors.

Kyodo News



Photo taken 24 Oct, 2013, shows “rokyoku” storyteller Keiko Haruno, who will make her first overseas performance in New York in March 2014 with money raised on an online crowdfunding platform.—KYODO NEWS

Japan calls on S Korea to move bilateral ties forward

MONTREUX, (Switzerland), 23 Jan — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday stressed his hopes for moving Tokyo’s relations with Seoul forward in a meeting with South Korean Second Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae Yul.

According to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Kishida described Japan’s relations with South Korea as “important to Japan” in his talks with Cho and said he “would like to move the relationship forward with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se.”

Cho said he will convey Kishida’s message to Yun and expressed hopes that the two countries will have productive discussions, the Japanese ministry said.

Kishida and Cho met on the sidelines of an international conference on Syria in Montreaux.

Kyodo News



Zuo Linshu(L) and his partner Xi Hongqiang wait for a train on Wuhan Changjiang River Bridge in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 22 Jan, 2014. Zuo Linshu is a trackwalker who is in charge of maintainance work of Wuhan Changjiang River Bridge. Because of the Spring Festival travel rush, more frequent and careful check is needed for the safety of trains. He spends 8 hours to check the track 8 times a day. The 57-year-old Zuo would soon embrace the 34 Spring Festival on the bridge without his family.—XINHUA

Philippine president gets “very good” rating from typhoon victims

MANILA, 23 Jan — The performance of Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III was rated “very good” by victims of Typhoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda, according to a survey published by research institute Social Weather Stations (SWS) on Thursday. Results of the SWS fourth quarter survey, which was conducted on 11 to 16 December, showed that 13 percent of Filipino households suffered “serious harm” during the recent super typhoon.

SWS noted that the survey found higher satisfaction ratings for Aquino among typhoon victims compared to those who were not victimized by Haiyan. Among typhoon victims, 73 percent reported that they were satisfied with Aquino’s performance as president. This boosted the net satisfaction rating of Aquino to +54 which the SWS classifies as “very good.”

In contrast, 69 percent of non-victims said they were satisfied while 21 per-

cent were dissatisfied with Aquino’s performance, bringing his net satisfaction rating to +48. SWS said this is classified as “good.”

Typhoon Haiyan struck central Philippines on 8 November, killing more than 6,200 people and causing billions of pesos worth of damage to agriculture and infrastructure.

Aquino’s government was criticized earlier for the delay in delivering relief goods and other assistance needed by typhoon victims.

Xinhua

Indonesian police prepares to dispatch personnel to catastrophe-hit areas

JAKARTA, 23 Jan — Indonesian national police plans to deploy 3,500 of its personnel to catastrophe-affected areas nationwide to help affected people as fears for risks of heavy downpours linger in months to come, police officer said here on Wednesday.

Badrodinhop Haiti, senior police officer at the police headquarters, said that the deployment was part of police participation in a quick response to the possible catastrophe in the country. “We prepare our personnel as the meteorology agency foresees rain is going to peak up to March. We are preparing to take part in efforts to handle its risks in a long term,” Haiti told the media.

“Once the provincial police require help from us, we are ready to comply with it, sending personal and equipment.”

Indonesia, a vast archipelago country, has been battered by floods, landslides and volcano eruption as the country enters wet season and vulnerable to volcanic upheaval.

Consecutive days of torrential downpours have indulged several areas, including Jakarta, West Java, South Sumatra, Jambi, Central Java and South Sulawesi, leaving dozen of casualties and forced more than 80,000 others to flee home.

Seasonal downpours have often incurred floods each year in Indonesia, a chain of 17,500 islands where millions of people live in vulnerable flood plains that are near to rivers. Indonesia is homed by 129 active volcanoes and is located on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

Xinhua

Philippine education chief fears rise of out-of-school youth

MANILA, 23 Jan — The Philippines’ education minister expressed fear on Wednesday of a possible increase in the number of the country’s out-of-school youth as a result of the devastation caused by super typhoon Haiyan on 8 November last year.

Armin Luistro said even as the government is working doubly hard with private donors for the rehabilitation of damaged schools in the central Philippines, there are also efforts to account for children

who have failed to return to their schools.

“When I toured the affected places at a time that schools have already reopened, I saw some children walking around on a Thursday, which is supposed to be a school day. I was wondering why they were not in school, or do they really intend to go to school?” Luistro told reporters after receiving pledges and actual donations from several private organizations and companies for the reconstruction of wrecked school

buildings.

According to the government, close to 2,800 classrooms in various elementary and high schools were totally destroyed while 13,021 others were partially damaged by what was described as the strongest typhoon to hit land ever.

Some 1.5 million elementary and high school students, representing around 7 percent of the country’s total enrollment for the current school year, were affected, of which, 254,723 need to be covered

by a month-long free food provision in school.

On Luistro’s prodding to encourage the start of normalcy, almost all affected schools started operations on 2 December last year to account for and debrief their students. Formal, partial classes resumed only on 6 January this year.

“I’m looking at around 10 percent (of the total affected students) who may either be out of school and may not plan to return. But I will have to validate that number because we have yet to estimate those who might have migrated already elsewhere,” Luistro said. “In past disasters, we really monitored an upsurge in the number of street children, or out-of-school youth,” he said, adding that it is important to locate them early on because if they have not been in school for three to six months, it will be more difficult to encourage them to return.—Kyodo News



Local residents receive vegetable for free at a community in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Jan, 2014. In order to ensure a warm Spring Festival for families with difficulties, a total of 32 tons of vegetables were given to needy residents for free in Xi’cheng District of Beijing on Wednesday.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV GIANG HAI 05 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIANG HAI 05 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (019)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (025)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MVRHOON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TASNEEM INT'L**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DA ZHONG VOY NO (111)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA ZHONG VOY NO (111) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



A girl poses for photos at the 28th Longqingxia Ice Lantern Festival in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Jan, 2014. The 28th Longqingxia Ice Lantern Festival kicked off in Beijing on Wednesday with 350 pieces of ice lanterns and 300 sets of ice and snow sculptures being shown to visitors.

XINHUA

China shoe workshop collapse kills five, injures two

CHONGQING, 23 Jan — Five people were crushed to death and two injured after a building rented by a small leather shoe factory as workshops in southwest China collapsed on Tuesday night, local authorities announced Wednesday.

The accident took place at about 7:45 pm Tuesday when 13 workers were having meals in the first floor of a three-story building in a village in the Nan'an district in the city of Chongqing, the district government said in a statement.

The rescue operation ended on Wednesday and among seven buried, two were pulled out alive and five were already dead.

An investigation into the cause of the collapse is underway.

Xinhua



Pedestrians walk in snow in Altay Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 22 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

Nigerian parliament seeks end to communal crisis nationwide

LAGOS, 23 Jan — The Nigerian House of Representatives on Wednesday urged President Goodluck Jonathan to intervene in the incessant communal clashes resulting in deaths between herdsmen and farmers. The House also urged the Nigerian leader to convene a stakeholders' meeting of leaders of ethnic groups to put an end to the incessant clashes.

More than 500 people were killed in various communal clashes across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria in 2013.

The resolution followed a motion moved by a member of the parliament from central north Kogi State Sunday Karimi, which was unanimously adopted.

Karimi told the lower chamber that the continued attacks on communities across the country by herdsmen and the counter-attacks has become a daily occurrence.

He said within the last 30 days over 100 innocent lives have been lost on account of these needless attacks and counter attacks.

According to him, the

duty of any government, as enshrined in section 14(2) b of the 1999 Constitution, is to guarantee the welfare of the people.

He stressed that as representatives of the Nigerian people they owed them the duty to protect them.

The west African country has a population of 167 million and disputes about land and the ensuing violence has long been a headache for the Nigerian government, who is struggling to fight the rampant Boko Haram militants in the north.—Xinhua

First chocolate salon in Brussels set for February

BRUSSELS, 23 Jan — The first chocolate salon in Brussels will be held from 7 to 9 February in the Belgian capital, announced Vice Mayor Marion Lemesre at a Press conference on Tuesday.

The salon will be attended by 89 chocolatiers, Belgian and international.

At the salon, visitors can not only follow the great masters and sample their recipes, but also try their skills at the workshops.

The event will also include a parade of chocolate dresses, fashion creators and chocolate masters' common work.

Famous Belgian chocolatier Leonidas will show a colossal chocolate sculpture, measuring nearly four meters high, for its 100th anniversary.

A work of Jean-Luc Decluzeau, the sculpture is an effigy of the king of Sparta, the emblem of the brand Leonidas since its creation. It is created to pay

homage to its founder Leonidas Kestekides who bore the same name as the Greek King.

Chocolate is considered as one of the three specialties of the small kingdom Belgium, along with diamond and beer.

Belgium is now the second largest consumer of chocolate in the world, behind Switzerland, with an average of nearly ten pounds per year per person. Belgian chocolate is known for its original and diverse tastes.

Chocolate is a major player in Belgium's local economic development.

The pentagon of Brussels alone has 32 companies specializing in the manufacture of cocoa and chocolate.

Between 2004 and 2009, the turnover of the chocolate rose 53 percent in Brussels, while investment rose in the same period by 50 percent, from 10 million to 15 million euros (13.68 million to 20.52 million US dollars). —Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Boy band, The Wanted, to take a break after tour

NEW YORK, 23 Jan — Boy band, The Wanted, said on Wednesday they were taking a break and that their upcoming Word of Mouth Tour would be their last for a while.

The group, whose members are British and Irish and whose hit singles include “I Found You,” “Chasing the Sun” and “Glad You Came,” said they had decided to pursue their own personal plans.

“The band wants to stress to their fans that they will continue on as The

Wanted and look forward to many successful projects together in the future,” they said on their website, which also announced the release of a new video and single “Glow in the Dark.”

The group, comprising Max George, Siva Kane-swaran, Nathan Sykes, Tom Parker and Jay McGuiness, was formed in 2009 and its members are in their early 20s.

They were signed by Justin Bieber’s manager Scooter Braun and hit the US pop charts in 2012

with their infectious dance songs.

Known for their raucous behaviour, the band appeared in a reality show produced by Ryan Seacrest Productions on US cable network E! that premiered in June. It followed the band as they prepared for their album and world tour.

The Wanted’s 2014 tour will take them to Europe and Britain and Ireland during February and March, and to the US in April and May.

Reuters



Members of The Wanted, an English-Irish boy band, perform in the Village during the iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada on 21 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Bruce Springsteen’s ‘High Hopes’ lands atop Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan — “The Boss” is back on top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday as Bruce Springsteen scored his 11th No 1 album with “High Hopes,” more than three decades after first reaching the chart’s apex.

The album from the 64-year-old rocker sold 99,000 in its opening week

to top the soundtrack of the film “Frozen,” which had topped the charts for the past two weeks and sold 87,000 copies last week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Springsteen now has the third-most albums to reach the top of the weekly Billboard chart, surpassing Elvis Presley and trailing only rapper Jay Z, who has

13 No 1 albums, and the Beatles’ record 19 chart-topping albums, Billboard said.

But “High Hopes” is Springsteen’s first album to have fewer than 100,000 in first-week sales since Nielsen SoundScan began compiling figures for Billboard in 1991, the magazine said.

More than a third of the album’s sales were physical copies sold online, Billboard said, noting that Amazon.com’s special offer of the album paired with a DVD of a Springsteen concert helped boost overall sales.

“Kidz Bop 25,” the newest release from the Kidz Bop series of albums in which children sing pop hits, entered the charts at No 3, selling 76,000 copies.

Country singer Jennifer Nettles, half of the duo Sugarland, entered the chart at No 5 with her first solo album, “That Girl,”

selling 54,000 copies.

Christian alternative rock band Switchfoot capped the new entries in the top 10 at No 6 with their ninth studio album, “Fading West,” selling 39,000 copies.

Pop singer Katy Perry’s song “Dark Horse,” featuring rapper Juicy J, kept its top spot on the digital songs chart with 261,000 downloads in the past week, up 7 percent from last week. Total album sales for the week were 4.4 million, an 11 percent decline from the same week last year but up 4 percent from sales last week.

Album sales for the year to date are 14.1 million, a 14 percent decline from the same period in 2013.

Individual song downloads total 80.3 million for the year so far, off 12 percent over the same period last year.

Reuters



Kristen is working with Julianne in Still Alice.

Kristen Stewart excited to work with Julianne Moore

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan — Actress Kristen Stewart is said to be excited about working with Julianne Moore in emotional drama Still Alice.

“Kristen is super excited to work with Julianne Moore. It’s just been confirmed that she will play the part of her daughter in a movie called Still Alice,” showbizspy.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

“They will film in New York and Kristen plans on bringing her dog Bailey, who may have a part in the film,” the source added.

An adaptation of Lisa Genova’s novel, Still Alice centres around Moore’s character, a psychology professor who battles an early onset of Alzheimer’s disease. The production is set to begin in mid-February.—PTI



Singer Bruce Springsteen and the E-street band perform during their concert at Molinon Stadium in Gijon, northern Spain on 26 June, 2013.

REUTERS

Selena Gomez parties with mystery man



Selena was attending a Grey Goose party in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, 23 Jan — Singer Selena Gomez was partying with a mystery man at the Sundance Film Festival.

The Come & Get It

singer, who was recently thought to have reunited with her ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber, appeared at the festival to promote her new film Rudderless Tuesday night (21 January) and attended the Grey Goose party alongside a man described as having shaggy blond hair and wearing a green sweater. “She went right up to him really early on in the evening,” people.com quoted a source as saying. Selena Gomez was then seen getting very close to the mystery man.—PTI

Kareena Kapoor not sure about Shuddhi

MUMBAI, 23 Jan — Actress Kareena Kapoor is not sure about the status of Shuddhi and says she will now “decide whether to do it” depending on her “mood”.

Karan Johar’s production Shuddhi, to be directed by Karan Malhotra, features Hrithik Roshan in the lead role. But the movie has been delayed.

At an event for a tea brand, when Kareena was asked about doing the film when it goes on the floors, she said, “I will decide whether to do it. It will de-

pend on my mood at that time.”

The film got postponed following Hrithik’s health issues. The actor had to undergo brain surgery following a blood clot.

Shuddhi is yet to go on the floors. Kareena says she doesn’t know about what lies ahead for the project.

“As of now I don’t know what is happening regarding that film (Shuddhi) as since one and half years it is being postponed,” Kareena said.

“I have not met Karan Johar and I don’t think he



Kareena says she doesn’t know about what lies ahead for the project.

even has got Hrithik’s dates for the film as he is busy

with Bang Bang,” she added.—PTI

SPORTS



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates victory after his men's singles quarterfinal against Andy Murray of UK at 2014 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 22 Jan, 2014. Federer won 3-1. XINHUA

Federer ousts Murray into 11th consecutive Australian Open semi

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan— Roger Federer has set up a 33rd clash of his epic rivalry with Rafael Nadal with four-set quarterfinal triumph over Andy Murray at Australia Open on Wednesday.

The revitalised Swiss reached his 11th consecutive Australia Open last

four by eliminating Murray 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3 in a compelling encounter loaded with sublime shot-making and lung-busting rallies. The win set up a showdown with Nadal who beat Bulgarian 22nd seed Grigor Dimitrov 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (9-7), 6-2 in the other quarterfinal.—Xinhua

Li Na beats Bouchard, reaches third Australian Open final

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan—



Li Na of China celebrates victory after beating Eugenie Bouchard of Canada in the quarterfinal of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 22 Jan, 2014. XINHUA

Real Madrid stay top of money league despite barren year

LONDON, 23 Jan — Spain's Real Madrid retained the title of the world's richest soccer club in the past year thanks to sponsorship and TV deals robust enough to endure a season without a major trophy, a study showed on Thursday.

Real's revenue of 519 million euros put the club ahead of domestic rivals Barcelona in fiscal 2012/2013, with European champions Bayern Munich edging into third ahead of Manchester United, in the annual Football Money League compiled by accountants Deloitte.

Qatari-owned Paris St Germain (PSG), where former England captain David Beckham ended his career last year, underlined its emergence as a soccer power with an 81 percent rise in revenue to almost 400 million euros to claim fifth spot.

Revenue for the top 20 teams rose by 8 percent to

5.4 billion euros, Deloitte said, underlining the appeal of soccer to broadcasters and sponsors targeting mass consumer markets.

Real Madrid and Barcelona are two of the most consistently successful teams in Europe, fielding top players such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi respective-

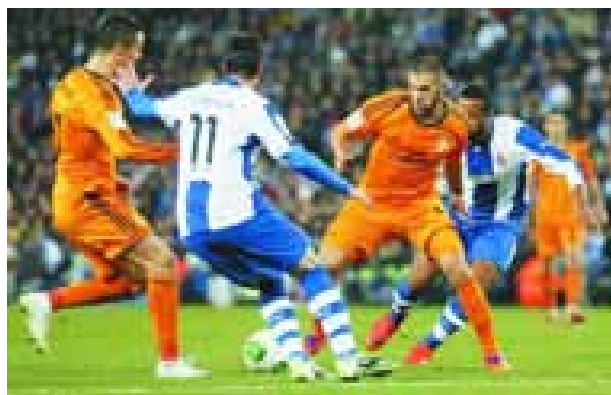
ly. The two clubs enjoy the financial advantage of being able to negotiate their own TV deals, rather than pooling TV rights income as teams in other major leagues have to do. Yet Spain's TV rights model and the country's economic crisis have left many of its smaller clubs facing a struggle to survive and de-

manding a bigger share of cash from broadcasters.

Speaking to Reuters this week, Barcelona Vice President Carles Vilarrubi said only the bigger teams could deliver the kind of viewing figures TV companies demand. "It's a question of balance because people want to watch Barca and Real Madrid and PSG and Bayern Munich games," Vilarrubi said.

"We should equalise a little bit the income of the clubs but at the same time we should consider that the TV channels need to offer the games that people want to watch." Manchester United won the English premier league for a record 20th time last year, but the team has struggled on the pitch this season and risks missing out on qualification for a place in the lucrative UEFA Champions League.

Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) and Karim Benzema (2nd R) battle for the ball against Espanyol's Joan Capdevila (11) and Sidnei Rechel during their King's Cup soccer match at Cornellà El Prat stadium, in Barcelona on 21 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

Moyes suffers nightmares at Theatre of Dreams

LONDON, 23 Jan — When Alex Ferguson took the microphone at Old Trafford in May to implore Manchester United supporters to back his self-appointed successor, David Moyes, he did so with a warning of tough times ahead. Few, though, would have expected it to be this trying.

"I'd like to remind you that we've had bad times here," Ferguson said after signing off his last match in charge at United's fortress home he had spent 27 years building up with a 2-1 win over Swansea City.

"The club stood by me. All my staff stood by me. The players stood by me. So your job now is to stand by our new manager. That is important."

Following Wednesday's League Cup semi-final exit at the hands of struggling Sunderland, that request is being severely tested by United fans all over the world who have gorged on the glory of

trophy after trophy arriving at Old Trafford.

Their trophy hopes this season now lie only in the Champions League, where the English champions will remain confident of beating Greeks Olympiakos Pireaus in the Last 16 next month but less so of taking out others after that.

The challenge of European giants such as Barcelona, Real Madrid or Bayern Munich looks far beyond a confidence sapped side who have seen long unbeaten home records against Ever-

ton, Newcastle United and West Bromwich Albion all end this season.

The absence of Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie from the starting lineup in recent weeks has been greatly felt, with reports linking both forwards away from the club, but the problems lie deeper than their return to fitness.

Defenders are making mistakes, midfielders are being overrun, chances not being created, while commentators question why Moyes is opting to be more defen-

sive and shy away from the crowd-pleasing, attacking style his predecessor implemented.

"Of course, you would expect a better standard because, don't forget, there are a lot of internationals out there," Moyes said after the penalty shootout loss to Sunderland, who will play Manchester City in the final at Wembley.

"In the end, I just don't think we got the level of performance we needed to go through the game. If we had got through, I would have been disappointed with the performance, but I'm doubly disappointed that we haven't got to the final."

United are not in action this weekend as their rivals City, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea compete in the fourth round of the FA Cup, a tournament Ferguson once famously shunned in favour of going after what is now the Club World Cup.

Reuters



Manchester United's manager David Moyes gestures during their English League Cup semi-final second leg soccer match against Sunderland at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 22 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

Cibulkova beats Radwanska to make first-ever Grand Slam final

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan— Dominika Cibulkova became the first Slovakian tennis player ever to reach the final of a Grand Slam event when she beat Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-1, 6-2 at the semifinals of the Australian Open here on Thursday.

Xinhua

Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia celebrates after winning women's singles semifinal against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland at 2014 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 23 Jan 2014. XINHUA



GENERAL

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford calls latest rant video a 'minor setback'

TORONTO, 23 Jan — A video of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford ranting in a Jamaican accent and slurring his words on Monday was a "minor setback," he said, maintaining that his personal life did not interfere with his job. "Monday was unfortunate. I had a minor setback. We all experience these difficult bumps in life," Ford said at a Press conference called on Wednesday to discuss the city's budget vote.

"This is completely a private matter. There are some counselors who claim that my personal life is

somehow impacting their work," he said. "Folks, that is absolute nonsense." Ford, who pledged last year to clean up his act after a crack-smoking scandal, admitted on Tuesday he had been drinking the previous evening when the video was shot at a suburban eatery.

In the video, taken from a low angle and posted on YouTube, Ford stands at the counter of a fast-food restaurant and rants about surveillance that police carried out last year during a drug investigation.

"Chase me around five months, man," he said, be-



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford arrives to make a statement about his personal life and the Capital and Operating Budgets meeting that had just finished at City Hall in Toronto, on 22 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

fore using a Jamaican profanity. In much of the video, Ford puts on a Jamaican accent. "He's hiding here; I'm hiding here. You know how much money that costs?"

In November, Ford said he had smoked crack while in a "drunken stu-

por" and driven a car after drinking. Those admissions came after police revealed they had a video of the mayor smoking what appeared to be crack. The video had been uncovered in the course of a drug investigation.—Reuters

Expert warns of grim flu season in China

BEIJING, 23 Jan — A low vaccination rate and multiple active virus strains have led to a more serious flu control situation in China this winter, a disease control expert warned on Thursday.

Compared with previous years, the flu virus is much more active, especially in south China, said Feng Zijian, deputy director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to Feng, health departments have detected three major strains of the flu virus: H1, H3 and Influenza B.

In past years, usually only one strain prevailed, but this winter all three strains are active, adding difficulty to both prevention and treatment, Feng said.

The best way to prevent the flu is vaccination, but China's vaccination rate remains at 2 to 3 percent of the population each year, lagging far behind 27 percent in the United States, noted Feng.

The main reason for the low vaccination rate is a general lack of awareness among the public about the dangers of the flu, as well as concerns about the safety of domestic vaccines, according to Feng.

Xinhua

42 killed in Afghanistan since Friday, with Taleban vowing to speed up attacks

KABUL, 23 Jan — The ongoing violent attacks mostly in the shape of suicide bombings have claimed 42 lives with majority of them civilians in the militancy-hit Afghanistan since Friday amid the Taleban threat to continue fighting until eviction of foreign forces from the country. In a massive suicide attack against a restaurant in the diplomatic enclave of Wazir Akbar Khan District in Kabul on Friday which has drawn worldwide condemnation, 24 people including three attackers and 21 civilians

were killed. Among the 21 civilians, 13 were foreigners, according to officials.

Taleban outfit immediately after the incident claimed responsibility for the deadly suicide attack. The Taleban purported spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid immediately after the attack said in a statement that the armed outfit targeted elements supported invaders in Afghanistan.

In a related incident, three Afghan youths were killed while four others wounded when a rocket fired by the Taleban landed in Maiwand District of

southern Kandahar Province on Saturday evening, spokesman for provincial government Jawed Faisal said. In another bloody suicide bombing which took place on Monday in the southern Kandahar province, 12 people including two civilians, one US soldier and nine attackers were killed, according to local officials.

However, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi who said to speak for the Taleban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location claimed that dozens of foreigners were killed in the

suicide attacks and gunfire lasted for several hours in a main base of foreign forces in Kandahar on Monday, which was rebuffed by officials. A day later on Tuesday, three more civilians lost their lives as a mine planted by militants on a road in Maiwand District of Kandahar province exploded.

Anti-government militants in another incident but bloodless kidnapped 63 miners from Pashtun Zarghond district in the western Herat Province on Tuesday morning but set them free in the afternoon.—Reuters

Tiger likes look of firm and fast Torrey Pines

NEW YORK, 23 Jan — Tiger Woods could not wish for a better place to launch his 2014 PGA Tour campaign than at the Torrey Pines Golf Club for this week's Farmers Insurance Open outside San Diego where he will be hunting a

record eighth victory.

Not only was the picturesque venue perched above the Pacific Ocean the scene of his remarkable playoff win at the 2008 US Open but the firm, fast and difficult conditions this week mirror those of six years

ago. "The greens, I haven't seen them this firm maybe since the (2008) Open," the defending champion told reporters on the eve of the tournament on Wednesday.

"It's hard to imagine watching wedges, nine-irons and some of the short irons, balls bounce up as high as the top of the flagstick but that's what was happening this morning.

"If they keep the golf course like this it's going to be one hell of a test as the week progresses. It's going to get really difficult to post some good numbers."

Asked whether he liked the challenging, sun-baked conditions at Torrey Pines, the world number one smiled broadly.

"I find it good," said

Woods. "I'm hitting it well. I have the option now as my swing has evolved working with (coach) Sean (Foley) that I can start elevating it again.

"Probably going to need it a little bit this week. We're going to have to start setting some balls up, but it's important to get the ball in the fairway. The rough is thick."

Woods, who won last year's Farmers Insurance Open by four shots in a fog-delayed Monday finish, has always relished competing at Torrey Pines.

"I feel comfortable here, there is no doubt," said the 14-times major champion, who will launch his title defence on the South course, one of

two layouts co-hosting this week's event.

"It's fantastic to be able to have had the success that I've had on this golf course, and not just playing here in the Tour event but also putting a stamp on it with a US Open win.

"That was a very special week, especially considering the circumstances, the things that I had to kind of go through to get to that point." Woods won the 2008 US Open in a playoff with fellow American Rocco Mediate, sealing victory at the 91st hole despite having suffered a double stress fracture in his left shinbone two weeks.

He has not landed another major title since then but, at the age of 38, believes he has enough time to pile up the additional five he needs to overhaul

the record total set by Jack Nicklaus. "All I know is that I'm still in I feel my peak years, I'm still playing well," he said.

"There have been a number of guys who have gone on even in their early 40s to win major championships.

"Mark (O'Meara in 1998) did it, he's the oldest one to do it, to win multiples in the same year. Jack won in his 40s, (Ben) Hogan won multiples in his 40s, actually 38 and above.

"I feel like I've got a number of years ahead of me and I'm really looking forward to that."

This week, Woods will attempt to win his 80th PGA Tour title with only Sam Snead (82) ahead of him in the all-time standings.—Reuters



Tiger Woods

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

24-1-14 07:00 am ~
25-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Naga Traditional Cultural Showroom
- * World News
- * In The Studio: LCO
- * Local News
- * "Pride of Myanmar" Bagan Arts and Crafts
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Superb"
- * Local News
- * A Trip to Mon State "Mawlamyine"
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist
- * Local News
- * Adventurous Journey to Bontalar Waterfall
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "The White Castle of Romance"
- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * Tea Leaves
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Shorts & Logs (EP-2) Ye'Pyae
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"

MoI no plan to publish Book on Panglong Conference Two sent to prison for banned sexual stimulant tablets sales

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Ministry of Information has no plan to publish a book on the Panglong Conference that took place at Panglong in Shan State on 12 February, 1947, said Information Deputy Minister U Paik Htway at Pyithu Hluttaw today.

It needs to form a committee first with the level of expertise required for the gigantic task said the deputy minister in his reply to the question of U Min Swe of DaikU Constituency if there is a plan to publish a book on the historic meeting as part of efforts for keeping the conference on full record.

U Min Swe also suggested including intention of the conference, discussion of the delegates during the conference and the agreements reached during the conference in the book.

During today session

of Pyithu Hluttaw, Daw Mi Myint Than of Ye Constituency asked if there is a plan to construct necessary bridges in Ye Township in the 2013-14 FY.

U Aung Thein, Deputy Minister at the President Office, replied that the government has no plan

to construct the bridges as Kawdutchang-Kadoseik Village and Hnitkayin Village are easily accessible by motorized boat and by car.

Regarding the sales of sexual stimulant tablets which are banned in Myanmar, one staff of Sein Gay Har Supermarket and

one staff of Tawwin Centre have been sentenced to one month in prison and fined K50000 each and two sales staff have been released on restrictions, according to Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs.

(See page 8)

Speaker of Pyidaungsu, Pyithu Hluttaw receives EU Ambassador, UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia at Hluttaw building here at 8.30 am today.

The Speaker also met UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar at the same venue at 2 pm.

At the meetings, they cordially exchanged views on legislative matters, rule

of law, national unity, national reconciliation and internal peace-making processes.—MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw receives New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tony Lynch at Amyotha Hluttaw Building

here at 1.30 pm today.

It was also attended by Mining and Resources Affairs Committee Chairman U Nay Win Tun, Women and Child Affairs Commit-

tee Chairperson Daw Nan Ni Aye, Amyotha Hluttaw Committee members U Kan Nyunt and U Tin Shan, and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Regional stability and development tasks inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Secretary of Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in Rakhine State Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Le Le Thein and party made field trips in Sittway, Myebon, Minbya, MraukU and Pauktaw Townships to inspect peace, stability and development tasks in the state.

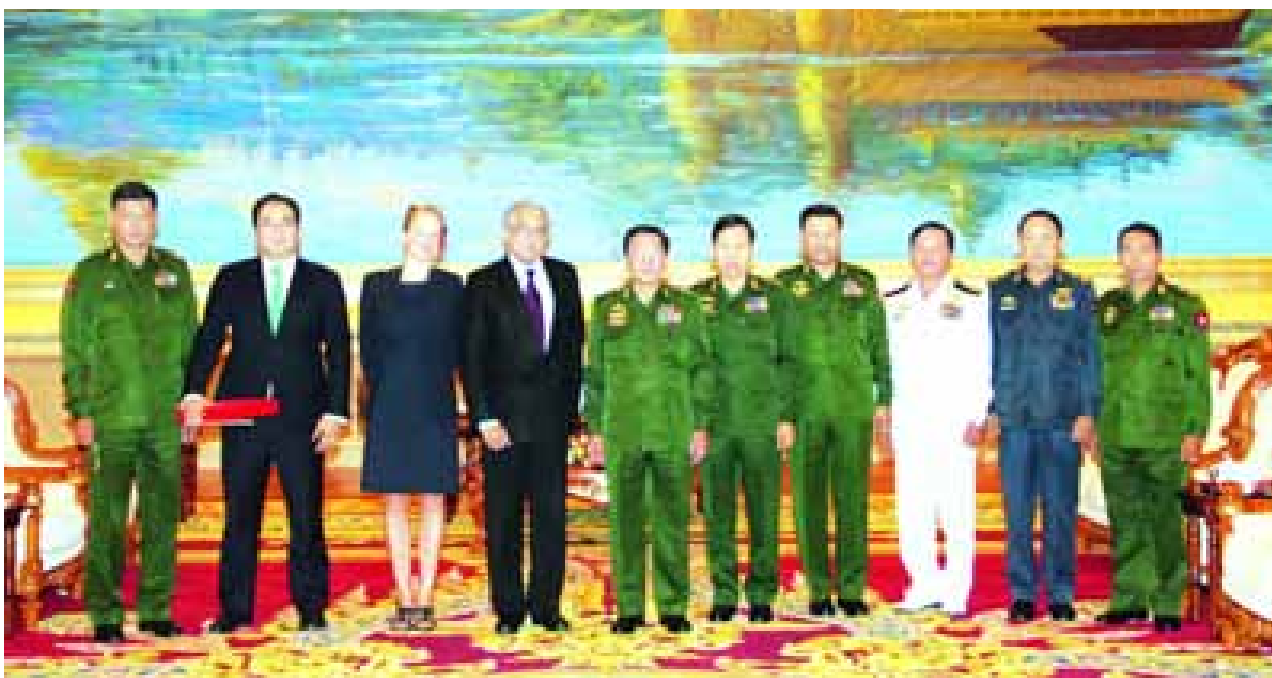
They held a meeting with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, state ministers, chairmen and secretaries from six working subcommittees

and departmental officials at state government office on 20 January. The chief minister clarified work progress, requirements and ongoing work procedures and the deputy ministers, plans to be made field trips to fulfill requirements and promotion on tasks of emergency coordination center (ECC).

They together with State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htein Lin and representatives from UN agencies met townsenders, members of township supportive committee and officials in Myebon Township on 21 January.

(See page 8)

C-in-C receives UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo together with Mr Vijay Nambiar, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar and party.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Vijay Nambi-

ar, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman here today.

The Defence Services

of Myanmar want to see stability and development in the country and would contribute to reform process till to the success

though there are challenges of the process, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting.

Mr Vijay Nambiar said the UN pushed Myanmar to do reforms in the past and it was currently assisting in reforming process of the country. He continued to say that the UN recognized the efforts of the Defence Services to achieve peace with ethnic armed groups.

The United Nations is interested in role of the Defence Services in implementing democratic and peace making process and willing to cooperate with the Defence Services of Myanmar in providing social security of the people, Mr Nambiar said.

(See page 9)

CNA officially opens Myanmar News Bureau in Yangon



YANGON, 23 Jan—Channel News Asia (CNA) officially opened its news bureau here today.

Myanmar News Bureau has become the regional broadcaster channel's 13th bureau in Southeast and East Asia.

Ms Debra Soon, Managing Director of Channel News Asia speaking at opening of CNA bureau in Yangon.—MNA

In his opening speech, Ms Debra Soon, Managing Director of Channel News Asia said that CNA would step up not only news coverage, but also documentaries and programmes on Myanmar in the past few years.

"Today, we are adding another thrust to our engagement with Myanmar with a regional business seminar. This provides a platform for political and business leaders to understand more about the changing face of Myanmar," Ms Debra Soon

said.

The ceremony to open the news bureau was formally opened by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and Ms Debra Soon at the Sedona Hotel.

The opening ceremony was followed by the seminar, Business Insights—Understanding the Changing Myanmar at the Sedona Hotel, gathering think tanks, captains of industry and leaders from the governmental and private banking sectors.

(See page 9)