

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to India, Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 65th Republic Day of India and the Anniversary of the National Day of the Commonwealth of Australia which fall on 26th January 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India and His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister of the Republic of India, and another messages of felicitations to Her Excellency the Hon. Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and His Excellency the Hon. Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014 kicks off



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014 kicked off today at Myodaw and Yepyaw golf courses with the participation of about 300 golfers from 32 teams.

The opening of golf tournament took place at Myodaw golf course and Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-

in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Chairman of Leading Committee for holding the tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan opened the event.

The golfers from teams took part in the first round.

Ministry of Finance leads inter-team (scratch) event with 257 strokes and Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Defence jointly lead inter-team (handicap) event with 325 each.

The 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014 will be held at Myodaw and Yepyaw golf courses till tomorrow and prizes will be awarded at Myodaw Golf Course tomorrow evening.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham tees off a ball at opening of 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014.—MNA

2013 Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Ceremony in February

YANGON, 25 Jan—2013 Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Ceremony will be held in Yangon in coming February.

The award winners are Dr Chit (second time National Literary Award winner), Maung Maung Tun Aung (Health), Kaung Set Naing and Dr Khin Maung

Nyunt.

This year's Dr Tin Shwe Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to veteran writer Maung Khin Min (Danubyu).

For further information, may dial 01 536444, and 09 5117683 of Tin Shwe Literary House.—MNA

No. 2 Pauk Bridge (Yepyaw) under reconstruction

No. 2 Pauk Bridge (Yepyaw) located on the road linking Mindat, Matupi, Pathein, Monywa, Pauk and Pakokku Road is under construction.

Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Lin, Executive Engineer Daw Thit Thit Aung and engineers of Special Project Group (3) of Public Works supervise reconstruction of the reinforced concrete bridge which will be 3230 feet long and will have 24 feet wide motorway flanked by 1.5 feet wide pedestrian on either side.

Upon completion, local people will have easy access to Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet townships of Chin State, Gangaw, Htilin, Kyaukhtu and Saw townships of Gangaw District, major cities such as Pathein, Pakokku, Monywa and so on and Pauk and other townships from Pakokku District all the year round.

In addition, local farmers will enjoy the fruitful results of better transportation to send domestic products, potato, onion, chick pea, gram, pigeon pea, and other beans and pulses to other towns and villages anytime. Smooth transportation will contribute to economic development of the people,

Byline: Nyan Toe

said U Nay Win of Yepyaw Village.

The construction of the bridge started on 11 November 2013, and it is estimated that the bridge would be completed in August

2014, said an official of Special Project Group (3).

The bridge was destroyed by O2B storm in 2011.

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Photo shows No. 2 Pauk Bridge (Yepyaw) under construction.

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Dhamma School conducts instructor course



DAWEI, 25 Jan—Organized by Dhamma School Foundation, the Dhamma school instructor course was opened at Thiri Shwebontha Kantha monastery in Thaukkyabyin Village of Launglon Township in Dawei District

in Taninthayi Region on 22 January.

Thiri Shwebontha Kantha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nantisena gave Ovadakatha. Wazwantaw Monastic Education School Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasana explained emergence of the

Dhamma Schools.

Dr Nanavamsa of Dhamma School Foundation (Central) supplicated on matters related to Dhamma School Foundation. Patron of the foundation missionary Sayadaw for Korea Bhaddanta Sumangala (Waw) opened the course.

It was attended by 11 members of the Sangha, two men and 23 women and the training course will be run from 22 to 27 January.

The training course was opened at Four-Storey Parahita Monastery in Dawei from 15 to 20 January and attended by 36.

MMAL-Po Shwe Thun

Share of commercial tax handed over to Township DAC

NYAUNGLEBIN, 25 Jan—A ceremony to hand over share of commercial tax to Township Development Affairs Committee was held at the

hall of Township Internal Revenue Department in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region on 24 January.

It was collected as

third quarter for 2013-14 fiscal year.

Staff Officer Daw Thet Thet Nwe of the Township Internal Revenue Department explained share of tax to the committee.

She then presented K 1,837,612 to Deputy Head

of Department (Revenue) U Zaw Win of Township DAC.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, guests and staff of Township Internal Revenue Department.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

National Sports

Pyithu Hluttaw MPs' Shield football tournament held

PYU, 25 Jan—The Pyithu Hluttaw MPs' shield U-23 football tournament kicked off at the Myoma sports ground in Pyu Township of Toungoo District in Bago Region on 23 January.

Pyu Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyunt Hlaing read the message sent by Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann.

The MPs greeted the players of eight football teams.

Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Myint opened the football tournament.

In the debut, Zeyawady-2 beat Kanyutkwin-1 with 2-1.

Among the spectators were the township administrator, departmental officials, social organization members and towns' elders.

The tournament is being participated by four teams in Group A and another four teams in Group B.

The group matches

will last up to 4 February. Semifinals will be held on 6 and 7 February and the final on 11 February.

MMAL-Pyu Myint Oo



Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in KhinU Tsp



KHINU, 25 Jan—A ceremony to hoist Umbrella atop Hsutaungpyae Pagoda was held in Kabwet Village of KhinU Township in Sagaing Region on 23 January morning.

The pagoda was damaged at the umbrella

due to shake of earthquake in 2012 in the village. After repairing the pagoda, the umbrella hoisting ceremony followed.

In addition, the consecration ceremony took place at the pagoda.

The renovation of the

pagoda was contributed K 1 million donated by the State and K 1.2 million by (U Mya Thaung)-Daw Khin Aye under the supervision of Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye.

MMAL-Khin Oo Soe Wai

Anti-human trafficking squads of Thailand, Malaysia visit Tachilek



TACHILEK, 25 Jan—Leader of Thai delegation Director-General Mr Wanchai Roujanavong of department of Labour Litigation and the delegation of Malaysia led by Senior Deputy Secretary-General (Security) Dato Alwi Haji Ibrahim of Home Affairs Ministry of Malaysia, totalling 40 paid a trip to Tachilek Anti-Human Trafficking Squad Office on 23 January.

They came from the Thai-Malaysia joint anti-human trafficking meeting

in Chaing Rai of Thailand.

Police Captain Yin Yin Aye of the Myanmar Squad explained formation of the anti-human trafficking squad in Myanmar, cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand BACTIPs, provisions and penalties of Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Law and process of exposing the anti-human trafficking cases. The delegation of Thailand and Malaysia left the office of Tachilek and went to Mae Sai of Thailand.

MMAL-Myintmo (Tachilek)

WORLD

Abe to further discuss energy policy with ruling parties, public

TOKYO, 25 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday he will further discuss a new energy policy that supports the use of nuclear power with the ruling parties and the public. “The energy policy is an important agenda that is directly related to public life,” Abe told reporters. “I hope to compile a desirable energy policy by hearing what people have to say and

discussing it with the ruling parties.”

While the Cabinet was set to approve this month the so-called Basic Energy Plan, the first of its kind after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex disaster, Abe’s remarks apparently suggest such approval will be postponed to February.

Some ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers

have stirred controversy over the draft of the energy policy, calling for the need to break away from nuclear power generation, while former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who is running in the Tokyo gubernatorial race with support from another former premier, Junichiro Koizumi, shows antinuclear stance during the election campaign.—Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers a policy speech at the House of Representatives in Tokyo on 24 Jan, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

Suga says US concern stymies talks on status of forces accord

TOKYO, 25 Jan — Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Friday negotiations with the United States on revising the bilateral agreement on US base operations did not proceed because US officials were concerned by a lack of progress in the relocation of the Futenma air station in Okinawa Prefecture.

According to a source, Suga held more than one rounds of secret talks with US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel last year on a revision of the status of forces agreement.

Eventually, they reached an agreement to start consultations toward a conclusion of a new accord concerning environmental conservation and research within the US base premises, separate from the status of forces agreement, the source said.

Suga said in a programme on broadcaster NHK, “Because no progress was made on an agreement (about Futenma), the United States had strong distrust in Japan in the course of 18 years. It was not easy.”

Kyodo News

Secretary of State Kerry rejects notion US is disengaging from world

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 25 Jan — Secretary of State John Kerry dismissed on Friday as “a myth” suggestions that the United States was withdrawing from world affairs.

“I’m perplexed by claims I occasionally hear that somehow America is disengaging from the world — this myth that America is pulling back, or giving up, or standing down. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth,” Kerry told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

His remarks were seen partly as a response to Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal, a former intelligence chief, who told a Davos panel ear-

lier on Friday that the world was disappointed with a “sense of no direction” in US foreign policy.

Kerry cited US involvement with issues from Israel to Iran to Syria and in Asia and Africa to counter a similar view expressed by others in the Middle East and by critics in the United States.

He said it was based on a false assumption that the only tool of US influence was its military. “If we don’t have a huge troop presence or aren’t brandishing an immediate threat of force, we are somehow absent from the arena,” Kerry said.

“You can’t find an-

other country — not one country — as proactively engaged or that is partnering with so many Middle Eastern countries as constructively as we are, on so many high-stake fronts,” he said.

While in Davos, Kerry has continued his pursuit of an Israeli-Palestinian deal, holding talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

And Kerry defended an agreement among world powers and Iran to curtail Teheran’s nuclear programme, although he insisted that Iran’s compliance needed to be verified.

“Iran must meet this test,” Kerry said. “If it does, the Middle East will be a safer place, free from the fear of a nuclear arms race. And diplomatic engagement, backed by sanctions and other options, will have proved its worth.”

Kerry, who attended the launch of Syrian peace talks on Tuesday in Montreux, Switzerland, said a political solution was the only way to resolve the crisis, and he reiterated that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had no place in the country’s future.

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry delivers his speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on 24 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Bomb hits Cairo, Qaeda-linked group claims attacks

CAIRO, 25 Jan — A bomb exploded near a police academy in Cairo on Saturday, security sources said, a day after a wave of deadly blasts raised fears that an Islamist insurgency was gaining momentum.

An al Qaeda-inspired group, based in Egypt’s lawless Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for Friday’s attacks which killed six people, said the SITE monitoring organization.

No one was wounded in Saturday’s explosion, said the interior ministry, but more violence was expected as rival political

central Cairo, in a message posted online, said US-based SITE.

The message told Muslims to stay away from “enemy headquarters and security centers”.

Last year, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed responsibility for a failed assassination attempt on the Interior Minister.

The army-backed government, along with state-run and most private media, accuse Mursi’s Brotherhood of carrying out terrorist attacks.

Authorities have tightened security around Cairo in anticipation of trouble,



A police officer walks over rubble from a blast, after a bomb attack in downtown Cairo on 24, Jan 2014.

REUTERS

movements gather to mark the third anniversary of the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Islamist militants based in the Sinai Peninsula have stepped up attacks since the army toppled President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in July. Hundreds of security forces have been killed.

Militant group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis (Supporters of Jerusalem) claimed responsibility for the attacks, including a car bomb at a security compound in

as rival political factions plan to gather to mark the anniversary of Mubarak’s downfall.

Police and army have deployed heavily, and helicopters flew over a ghostly quiet downtown Cairo on Saturday morning.

Mohamed Saleh, A 63-year-old taxi driver said he planned to commemorate 2011 revolt by going to Tahrir Square, the symbolic heart of the uprising, but the square was tightly sealed off by armored vehicle

Reuters

Egyptian diplomat kidnapped in Libyan capital

TRIPOLI, 25 Jan — Unidentified gunmen kidnapped an Egyptian diplomat in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Friday, officials said, hours after a powerful Libyan militia reported the arrest of its leader in Egypt.

The diplomat works as administrative attaché at the Egyptian mission, the Libyan and Egyptian foreign ministries said. No

more details were immediately available.

“Talks are being held to free him,” said a spokesman for the Egyptian foreign ministry.

The kidnapping comes shortly after the Operations Room of Libya’s Revolutionaries, a powerful militia, said its leader Shaban Hadia had been arrested in Egypt.

“Mr Shaban Hadia was

arrested in Egypt where he travelled with his family for medical treatment,” said Adel al-Gharyani, one of the leaders of the group, adding that security forces had stormed the place where he had been staying.

He denied the group had kidnapped the Egyptian diplomat but called on Cairo to release Shaban.

“We warn the Egyptian authorities to release

him in the next hours,” he said. “If this doesn’t happen then there will be a strong response from our side.”

There was no immediate comment from Egyptian officials on the Shaban arrest.

The Operations Room is one of dozens of large militias which helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising but refuse to disarm. Govern-

ment officials blamed the group for the brief kidnapping of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan in October.

Foreigners have been targeted in several incidents recently in the OPEC producer. Libyan security forces earlier this week freed a South Korean trade official who had been held for days by unknown gunmen.

An American teacher was shot dead in Benghazi

in December, and in January, a British man and a New Zealand woman were killed execution-style on a beach in western Libya.

Security has deteriorated in Libya as the government struggles to control former rebels, militias and Islamist militants in the vast North African country still awash with weapons.

Reuters

WORLD



Yukiya Amano (R), director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, attends a special session of the IAEA Board of Governors on monitoring Iran's nuclear programme, in Vienna, Austria, on 24 Jan, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

China, India open "Year of Friendship"

BEIJING, 25 Jan —China and India on Friday launched their "Year of Friendship in 2014," which they hope will increase understanding and cooperation between the two big countries.

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao attended the opening ceremony in Beijing, along with dozens of diplomats, cultural figures, businesspeople and officials.

Li said China-India ties are facing new opportuni-

ties and mutual friendship and cooperation will benefit the two peoples as well as contributing to world peace, stability and prosperity.

He pledged to further bilateral relations as this year also marks the 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, which were agreed upon by China and India as a guideline for bilateral and international relations.

Xinhua

Prince Akishino, Princess Kiko leave for Peru, Argentina

TOKYO, 25 Jan—Prince Akishino, the youngest son of Japan's Emperor Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko left for Peru and Argentina on Saturday.

Their visit follows last year's marking of 140 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Peru, and 50 years since an immigration agreement between Japan and Argentina came into effect.

The royal couple is scheduled to arrive in Lima on Sunday via Paris and

stay in Buenos Aires from Thursday before returning home on 5 February.

They are expected to attend commemorative events in both countries and meet Peruvian President Ollanta Humala and Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

In Peru, they also plan to visit the residences of elderly Japanese Peruvians. In Argentina, migrants of Okinawan descent will hold a welcome event in their honor.—Kyodo News



Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao (C) attends the opening ceremony of China-India "Year of Friendship in 2014", in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 Jan, 2014.
XINHUA

Iraq politician warns elections may further alienate Sunnis

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—The speaker of Iraq's parliament warned on Friday that upcoming elections might be used to further marginalize already-frustrated Sunni Muslims, who have chafed against what they call unfair treatment from the country's Shi'ite prime minister.

Usama al-Nujaifi, a Sunni, said in an interview during a visit to Washington that he feared attempts to discourage voting or "provoke the situation" in Sunni areas, or to sideline certain would-be candidates, were designed "to weaken Sunni representation in parliament."

He also warned that poor security could pose problems for the parliamentary polls, scheduled for 30 April.

"If the security conditions worsen, the elections could be postponed (or) if they are held, they will take place under inappropriate conditions," he said.

Nujaifi held talks this week with President Barack

Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and other senior US officials, as violence appears to be spilling into Iraq from the war in neighboring Syria, and as tensions grow between Iraq's Sunnis and Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

This week, Maliki warned he may take military action against al-Qaeda-linked militants in mostly Sunni Anbar province.

While US officials say they are encouraged by Maliki's cooperation with some Sunni tribesmen there, the conflict in Anbar - once a symbol of the US military success in Iraq — has heightened fears about Iraq's trajectory two years after the United States completed its military drawdown.

While Nujaifi described meetings with US officials as positive, he also spoke of "neglect" following the US military withdrawal from Iraq at the end of 2011, as the Obama administration has turned toward the war in

Afghanistan, the challenges of the Arab Spring, and the growing crisis in Syria.

The United States has sought to staunch instability in Iraq in part by speeding up delivery of missiles, surveillance drones

and other weapons that could help Iraqi forces fight off a resurgent militant threat.

"We have been and we continue to work with the government of Iraq at very high levels," a US State Department official said on condition of anonymity.

Nujaifi and other Sunnis have complained that Maliki has applied laws selectively and has systematically undermined the position of Sunnis, who dominated majority-Shi'ite Iraq under former President Saddam Hussein. Maliki denies such charges.

Still, Iraqi voters could hand Maliki a third term in April. The US official said that Iraq had held numerous elections since 2003 that were deemed largely fair and transparent despite

some complaints.

As those polls approach, Nujaifi called on the Obama administration to ensure that the United States' long, costly effort to build a democracy in Iraq was not in vain.

"What we have now is a facade of a democracy — superficial — but on the inside it's total chaos," Nujaifi said, warning of the consequences of further instability.

"If the country doesn't return to the right path, it could descend into something that resembles Syria. There might be sectarian killing, there might be partition - big catastrophes."

The US official said Washington continued to press Iraq leaders to do more themselves to end political disagreements, which have often broken down along sectarian or ethnic lines.

"These are long-standing issues that were in Iraq before 2003 and are still there today," the official said.—Reuters

MYANMAR'S FAVOURITE FOOD

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



Myanmar Manhinga

Food Favourites Lahpet (pickled tea-leaves)

Pickled tea leaf, unique to Myanmar and very popular, is a savoury, flavourful paste made with seasoned tea leaves that are mixed with crisp fried beans and lentils, roasted nuts and sesame, slices of fragrant fried garlic. It tastes pesto and is eaten as a snack or after meals.

Monhinga or fish broth noodles

A favourite dish eaten throughout the day in lower Myanmar where fish are abundant. Monhinga is made with thin, soft rice noodles in a fish based broth. The soup is heavily laced with lemon grass, ginger and garlic and garnished with chopped coriander, crispy fried gourd or fried fish cakes.

Ohn No Khaut Swei or coconut noodles

This dish is made with fresh egg noodles in a rich creamy broth of chicken and coconut milk, which is slightly thickened with roasted bean powder, garnished with crisp fried noodles, slices of raw onions and lime juice.

Mondhi noodles

Thick rice noodles are mixed with shredded chicken cooked in a light gravy and roasted bean powder and garnished with chopped coriander and slices of fried fish cake.

Glass noodle soup

Rich chicken stock is boiled with glass noodles, tiny fish balls, chunks of chicken, dried ear mushrooms and sprigs of dried lily flowers. It is served with chopped coriander and pepper.

Salads

Myanmar people eat salads the whole day as snacks, side dishes or as a one-dish meal. There is such a variety of salads that everything edible seems to end up as an ingredient, including peas, beans, vegetables, fish, fowl, rice and noodles.

Shan noodles

Delicious Shan noodles are served in soup or dry, mixed with a curry of minced meat or fish in a watery gravy, and garnished with blanched greens.

Snacks

Snacks of all varieties are popular. They include steamed sticky rice packets filled with coconut, deep fried fritters, grilled or boiled corn-on-the-cob, and pancakes in all sizes, including the tiny ones, two halves of which are served in one piece and are therefore called 'Husband and Wife' cakes.

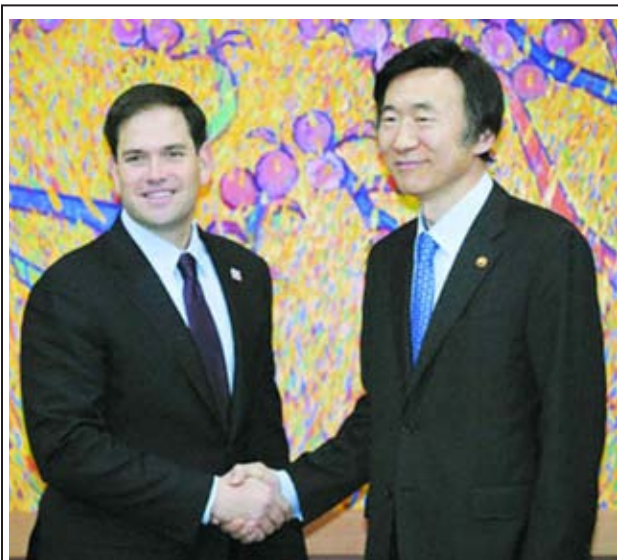
Sweets

Coconut and jaggery, the dark brown palm sugar, are the base of many sweets. A dish known as 'Golden Heart Cooler', with strips of jelly, a lump of sticky rice, a slice of white bread and a spoonful of sago pearls is eaten in a thin coconut and sugar syrup. Semolina cake or Hsa Nwin M'kin is rich and creamy, while steamed bananas, Nga Pyaw Thee Paung, are actually cooked in coconut cream.

Seasonal fruits

The best mangoes are available in summer and early in the monsoon season. Strawberries from the hills have an intense flavour and a heady aroma; honey oranges are tiny mandarins tasting like honey; fresh young coconuts have sweet juice and tender, jelly-like flesh. There are also mangosteens, with sweet, white flesh within a thick skin; the pungently aromatic durian with creamy flesh; honey-sweet pineapples from Kachin State; melons and honeydews that are available all year.

WORLD



Marco Rubio (L), a Republican senator for Florida, shakes hands with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se ahead of talks at the ministry in Seoul on 24 Jan, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

Student dies after shooting at South Carolina State University

CHARLESTON, (South Carolina) 25 Jan — A student who was shot outside a dormitory at South Carolina State University died on Friday as authorities searched for four suspects believed to be involved in the shooting, officials said.

Police said the male student was shot around 1:30 p.m. EST (1330 ET) on the campus of the historically black college in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Officials have not identified the victim or the suspects. Authorities are still investigating a motive for the shooting, said University Police Chief Mernard Clarkson.

The frequency of shootings at schools and universities in the United States is fueling a national debate over gun control. The latest attack follows a shooting death at Purdue University earlier this week and shootings at high schools and middle schools in recent weeks.

University President Thomas Elzey turned emotional as he announced the

student died several hours after the incident.

“South Carolina State University is saddened today because of the loss of one of our students,” he said. “He was a very nice young man and it hurts. It hurts us all.”

The university said a lock down imposed after the shooting was lifted, but warned students to remain cautious and report any suspicious activity to police, according to the school’s Twitter feed.

The four suspects were believed to have left the campus, Clarkson said. Police have identified one suspect but do not know the identities of the other suspected assailants, officials said.

South Carolina State University has an enrollment of about 3,200 students. Orangeburg, a city of nearly 14,000 people, is located some 75 miles northwest of Charleston.

The shooting was the latest in a rash of gun attacks at schools across the United States.—Reuters

UN documents new war crimes in Syria for future prosecution

GENEVA, 25 Jan — UN war crimes experts have documented more torture and killings by both sides in Syria and are confident they can build a case that could be taken up by the International Criminal Court, a leading member of the team said on Friday.

They are drawing up a fourth confidential list of suspects, either individuals or units linked to crimes committed since July, Karen Koning AbuZayd, an American expert serving on an independent commission of inquiry set up by the United Nations in 2011, said in an interview.

UN human rights chief Navi Pillay said in December that evidence collected by the investigators implicates President Bashar al-

Assad, later denying that she had direct knowledge of their secret lists.

AbuZayd said the lists went up to “higher levels” of the Syrian government, declining to be more specific in the interview in Geneva, where the first talks involving the warring parties are expected over the coming week.

Foreign fighters in Syria, mainly Islamist groups, have their “own agenda”, sometimes setting up sharia courts that issue summary sentences carried out immediately, including executions, AbuZayd said.

“Civil wars can be pretty bad, but people coming in from outside with radical agendas really don’t give a damn what they do to things or people in that

wonderful country that Syria was.”

Photographs allegedly taken by a Syrian military police photographer said to show the systematic torture

and killing of about 11,000 detainees are not deemed admissible evidence for now, although the team is trying to find out more, AbuZayd said.—Reuters



Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria Paulo Pinheiro (2L) arrives with members Carla del Ponte (R), Karen Koning AbuZayd (2R) and Viit Muntarhorn (L) before their report to the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva on 11 March, 2013. —REUTERS

Peru clears former government leaders after probe of forced sterilizations



Peru’s former President Alberto Fujimori attends a judge’s verdict about his sentence in prison, in Lima on 29 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS

LIMA, 25 Jan — Peru has closed an inquiry into whether former president Alberto Fujimori and his cabinet members forcibly sterilized thousands of indigenous women as part of a birth control campaign that targeted the rural poor.

Prosecutor Marco Guzman told Reuters on Friday that after interviewing hun-

dreds of affected women, he found no crimes against humanity were committed and no evidence they were systematically coerced into being sterilized.

The emblematic human rights case in Peru, archived in 2009 and reopened in 2011, could have extended the 25-year jail sentence of Fujimori, al-

ready in prison for corruption and human rights abuses linked to a crackdown on armed rebels.

It also threatened to lock up half a dozen members of his cabinet, including Alejandro Aguinaga, now an influential congressman and spokesman for Fujimori’s political party.

Human rights groups that have sought high-level prosecutions for the 2,000 women who say they were coerced into sterilizations said they were “outraged” by the decision.

“Fujimori might be in prison but blanket immunity continues for the perpetrators of one of the most atrocious human rights violations in Peru,” said Rossy Salazar, a lawyer with the NGO Demus.

Demus said it will appeal the closure of the investigation.

Reuters

Coalmine explosion in Indonesia’s Sumatra leaves 1 dead, 4 missing

JAKARTA, 25 Jan — One person was killed Friday in an explosion in a coalmine on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island that has left four others missing, a local police chief said.

Mohamad Syahrial, police chief of Sawahlunto Regency in West Sumatra Province, said the incident occurred at 10:30 a.m. as eight mine workers were repairing a blower inside the coal mine. Three of the workers managed to escape.

“We are still questioning the three workers to tell us the exact location of their colleagues so we can evacuate them,” Syahrial said.—Xinhua

Tired rescue workers pause in search for bodies in Quebec blaze

OTTAWA, 25 Jan — Exhausted Canadian police and firefighters prepared to break off work for the night on Friday after using steam machines to melt thick ice encasing the bodies of elderly people who died in a retirement residence fire.

Police said eight people died and about 30 were unaccounted for after the blaze ripped through the Residence du Havre in the small community of L’Isle-

Verte, about 230 km (140 miles) northeast of Quebec City, early on Thursday morning. Teams of police, firefighters and coroner’s office officials - dealing with conditions so cold they could only work 45-minute shifts - used steam machines to melt thick ice that had formed after the blaze was doused.

Police spokesman Guy Lapointe said the teams planned to take a break at

7 pm eastern and would resume early on Saturday morning. “Our people are exhausted ... the conditions are very, very difficult,” he told a televised briefing, saying police might bring in more equipment. Temperatures in the area hovered around minus 20 C (minus 4 Fahrenheit).

Police said the number thought to be missing might not all be casualties, as it was still unclear how many

of the home’s residents were in the building when the fire started.

The disaster has already raised demands that the Quebec government require homes for the elderly to be equipped with sprinkler systems, following the lead of neighbouring Ontario. Only a part of the L’Isle-Verte residence had sprinklers. “If the investigation shows that we need sprinklers or new rules, the government will



A firefighter looks on at the seniors residence Residence du Havre after a fire in L’Isle-Verte, Quebec, on 23 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

act and bring in the changes for sure,” said Jean-Thomas Grantham, spokesman for

Quebec Labour and Social Solidarity Minister Agnes Maltais.—Reuters

Republicans seek own policy cure to replace Obamacare

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — Top Republicans are saying they can no longer just be the party of “No” on Obamacare: They need to come up with an alternative healthcare policy. While many Americans are skeptical of President Barack Obama’s healthcare overhaul, they also tell lawmakers they worry about keeping their costs from getting out of control.

For those voters, a party that offers a platform to repeal the 2010 law without anything to replace it may not be very attractive. As

a result, lawmakers from both the establishment wing of the Republican Party and the more fiscally conservative small-government proponents in the Tea Party movement are exploring healthcare policies.

US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said it would be a major topic at a Republican retreat next week.

We need to present the American people with a positive,” said long-time Senator John McCain of Arizona, who in 2008 had



US House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) speaks next to Representative Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) (R) during a news conference at the Republican National Committee offices on Capitol Hill in Washington on 23 Oct, 2013.

REUTERS

a detailed healthcare reform plan as the Republican Party’s presidential candidate against Democrat Obama.” A number of people are working on it, and we’ve come up with

the various provisions, and now hopefully we’re going to put together a Republican package” on healthcare, McCain told Reuters outside the Senate last week.

Reuters

Microsoft profit beats forecasts, no word on new CEO



Guests are silhouetted at the launch event of Microsoft Windows 8 operating system in New York in this 25 Oct, 2012 file photo. — REUTERS

SEATTLE, 25 Jan — Microsoft Corp posted a bigger-than-expected quarterly profit on Thursday, boosted by strong sales of its software and

services for businesses, a solid holiday season for its new Xbox game console and Surface tablets, and a slightly lower tax bill. The world’s largest software

company did not say anything about its five-month search for a new chief executive to replace Steve Ballmer, who said in August he would retire within a year.

The company co-founded by Bill Gates 39 years ago was central to the personal computer revolution, and its Windows and Office products still dominate business desktops, but it lost its way with consumers in the last decade under Ballmer as Apple Inc and Google Inc stormed ahead in mobile computing. The quarter may well be the last full

one for Ballmer, and it at least showed some positive momentum for the Surface tablet, Microsoft’s long-delayed attempt to knock Apple’s iPad off its perch.

“It’s a good print to ride off into the sunset with, for the current CEO,” said Colin Gillis, an analyst at BGC Financial. “There’s still the over-arching question for this company: who’s going to be the new CEO, and what direction they take.” Sources have said the search is down to a handful of candidates, including internal and external executives.— Reuters

Boeing, General Dynamics reach \$400 million A-12 settlement with US Navy

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — Boeing Co (BA.N) and General Dynamics Corp (GD.N) on Thursday each agreed to give the US Navy \$200 million in aircraft and services to settle an epic, 23-year legal dispute over cancellation of the \$4.8 billion A-12 stealth aircraft in 1991.

The agreement resolves the last of series of legal cases spawned in 1991 when then-Defence Secretary Dick Cheney canceled the A-12 Avenger II programme after it ran into major schedule delays and cost overruns in the 1980s.

At the time, the government demanded the companies pay back \$1.3 billion they had already received for work on the next-generation, carrier-based tactical airplane. The Justice Department announced the agreement, which was au-



thorized as part of the 2014 defence authorization bill, noting that the US government would not pay any money in connection with the companies’ claims. The companies had sued the US government in federal claims court to retain the money they had received, plus more than \$1 billion in additional amounts, plus interest. They argued that the government had wrongfully terminated the contract.

“It’s long been time to move on,” said Virginia-based defence consultant Loren Thompson, noting that the dispute centered

on the way that Cheney chose to terminate the programme, not the actual cancellation. “What this illustrates is how one careless decision by a senior government official can cost taxpayers a huge amount of money.” The case dragged on for over two decades, spanning five trials and three appeals, including one to the US Supreme Court, which in 2011 threw out a ruling that could have forced the companies to repay \$3 billion in contract fees and interest. It said the decision would make neither side happy.—Reuters

China’s solar industry rebounds, but will boom-bust cycle repeat?

HONG KONG, 25 Jan — China’s solar panel industry is showing signs of booming again after a prolonged downturn — raising fears of another bust when the splurge of public money that is driving a spike in demand dries up. Lured by generous power tariffs and financing support to promote renewable energy, Chinese firms are racing to develop multi-billion dollar solar generating projects in the Gobi desert and barren hills of China’s vast north and northwest.

- largely on surging demand from China and Japan - are expanding production capacity, even though the overall sector remains mired in a severe glut.

But industry officials worry fast-growing generation capacity will increase fiscal pressures on China and Japan and force them to cut subsidies which will then hit demand, just as happened with previous big solar users Germany, Spain and Italy. “The key is whether the Chinese government is



A worker inspects solar panels at a solar farm in Dunhuang, 950km (590 miles) northwest of Lanzhou, Gansu Province on 16 Sept, 2013. — REUTERS

The sweeteners have not only lured traditional energy investors like China Power Investment Corp, but also a host of solar panel makers and even companies such as toll road operator Huabei Express and Jiangsu Kuangda Auto Textile Group. Some solar panel manufacturers, encouraged by a recovery in sales in the last two quarters

determined enough to boost solar generation,” Sun Haiyan, senior executive at Trina Solar, said when asked if the current solar expansion in China was sustainable. China already boasts solar manufacturing capacity of about 45 gigawatts (GW), enough to meet global demand this year.

Reuters

ANU develops online quick test to assess Alzheimer’s risk

CANBERRA, 25 Jan — A free 10-minute online test developed by researchers at the Australian National University (ANU) is helping people assess their risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease, the university said on Friday. The test, known as the ANU Alzheimer’s Disease Risk Index (ANU-ADRI), asks simple questions about exercise, diet and lifestyle to work out a person’s exposure to known Alzheimer’s risk factors.

“Anyone can use the ANU-ADRI to identify areas where they can change their lifestyle and reduce their risk of Alzheimer’s,” said lead researcher Professor Kaarin Anstey. “Until now there hasn’t been a self-assessment tool to help the public identify which

common risk factors they have, and what they can do about them.” Alzheimer’s affects more than 30 million people worldwide, and this will increase with population aging. There’s no known cure, but there’s good evidence that it can be prevented by reducing risk factors, she said.

Using long-term studies that follow adults over decades, Anstey and her team identified several risk and protective factors for Alzheimer’s disease. They used this information to work out a risk score for each participant. They then examined how this risk score was linked to dementia after several years of follow-up. “The benefit of this tool is that it is backed by high-quality science,” she said. “We found that

the ANU-ADRI score predicted those who were at increased risk.

This is the first time a comprehensive measure has been developed and then validated on external studies.” Common risk factors for Alzheimer’s include smoking, depression, pesticide exposure and low social engagement, while protective factors include cognitive activity, fish consumption and physical activity, Anstey said. “Risk reduction for Alzheimer’s disease is similar to risk reduction for heart disease,” she said. While ANU-ADRI assesses risk and protective factors, the professor said it can’t predict with certainty if an individual will develop Alzheimer’s, as other genetic and medical factors also contribute. — Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Qualcomm acquires patents from HP to bulk up portfolio

BANGALORE, 25 Jan — Chipmaker Qualcomm Inc acquired a patent portfolio from Hewlett-Packard Co, including those of Palm Inc and its iPaq smartphone, in a move that will bulk up HP's offerings to handset makers and other licensees.

The portfolio comprises about 1,400 granted patents and pending patent applications from the United States and about 1,000 granted patents and pend-

ing patent applications from other countries, including China, England, Germany, Japan and South Korea.

The San Diego-based chipmaker did not say how much it paid for the patents.

The majority of Qualcomm's profits come from licensing patents for its ubiquitous CDMA cellphone technology and other technology related to mobile devices. Instead of licensing patents indi-

vidually, handset vendors, carriers and other licensees pay royalties to Qualcomm in return for access to a broad portfolio of intellectual property.

The patents bought from HP, announced in a release on Thursday, cover technologies that include fundamental mobile operating system techniques. They include those that HP acquired when it bought Palm Inc, an early player in mobile devices, in 2010 and

Bitfone in 2006.

HP tablets made using Palm's webOS operating system failed to catch on.

"There's nothing left at Palm that HP could get any use out of so it's better to sell the patents, which are always valuable to Qualcomm," said Ed Snyder, an analyst with Charter Equity Research. "They have to keep that bucket full."

The new patents will not lead to increased royalty rates for existing Qual-



A man walks past a Qualcomm advertising logo at the Mobile World Congress at Barcelona, on 27 Feb, 2013. — REUTERS

comm licensees, a Qualcomm spokeswoman said. Last year, HP sold webOS, which it received as part of the \$1.2 billion Palm acquisition, to South Korea's LG Electronics Inc.

Reuters

Icahn's stake in eBay close to 2 percent



A sign is shown at the headquarters of eBay in San Jose, California February 2, 2010. Picture taken on 2 Feb, 2010. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — Activist investor Carl Icahn's stake in e-commerce company eBay Inc is more than previously reported at close to 2 percent, a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

eBay said this week that Icahn had taken a 0.82 percent interest in the company earlier this month and made a non-binding proposal for eBay to spin off its PayPal payments business. eBay has a market capitali-

zation of about \$70 billion.

Representatives for both eBay and Icahn did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the size of Icahn's stake. Icahn told Reuters in an interview he preferred a spinoff of the business to an outright sale. "I personally think you do a spinoff tax-free. After that maybe it could potentially be sold at a great premium," Icahn said.

eBay Chief Executive

John Donahoe forcefully rejected Icahn's proposal on Wednesday, saying the company was better off remaining intact. Icahn has also proposed two nominees to the eBay board. eBay identified them as Icahn Enterprises LP employees Daniel Ninivaggi and Jonathan Christodoro, both of whom Icahn regularly nominates to boards.

Christodoro is a director at Herbalife Inc and Talisman Energy Inc, while Ninivaggi is a director at Federal-Mogul Corp. Donahoe told Reuters on Wednesday that eBay had a "world-class" board.

eBay is not the only technology company in Icahn's sights. The billionaire investor said Wednesday he had bought \$500 million more shares in Apple Inc in just the past two weeks, bringing his investment in the iPhone maker to over \$3 billion.

Reuters

Finding of most livable mud marks 10th birthday of Opportunity



CANBERRA, 25 Jan — A team of researchers has found what may once have been the most liveable mud on Mars, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia's leading scientific research body, said on Friday. Some of the oldest minerals ever analyzed by NASA's Mars Opportunity Rover show that around four billion years ago Mars had liquid water so fresh it could have supported life.

The findings were announced in a special "Exploring Mars Habitability" edition of the journal *Science* released Friday to coincide with the 10th anni-

versary of the Mars Opportunity Rover and its twin, Spirit, landing on the red planet. CSIRO's Dr Paulo de Souza, who is on the science team led by Cornell University's Professor Steven Squyres, said a major focus on NASA's decade of research on Mars surface was whether the planet may ever have been habitable.

"While Mars is too cold now to have the liquid water needed for life, we've had evidence for past water activity on the planet from satellite images of valleys and analysis of rocks by the Rovers," de Souza said. "But the water that once shaped those landscapes and minerals was as acidic as vinegar." Latest research has found not only the earliest episode of water activity documented yet by the Opportunity Rover, but that

the geochemistry of the 4 billion years old rocks indicates extensive deposits of past water that's among the freshest, most life-sustaining found so far anywhere on Mars.

"If there was ever life on Mars, then this would have been the mud for it to live in," he said. De Souza is a Science Leader at CSIRO in micro-sensors and has worked with NASA since the Mars Exploration Rover Programme began, having collaborated with NASA's research teams for many years.

Opportunity's Mars mission was expected to last just months but she's still going strong 10 years on with no signs of stopping. She's traveled 38 km instead of the few hundred meters planned.

Reuters

AOL to acquire firm that personalizes content for \$83 mln

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — AOL Inc has agreed to buy Gravity, a company that tailors content according to the reader's interest, for \$83 million, a move to help better target advertising the company said on Thursday.

AOL, which is already part of Gravity's network, said it will use its technology across its own properties like TechCrunch and the Huffington Post as well as AOL's publisher network of more than 2,000 partners. "Our theory is the web is going from search to social to personal," said AOL CEO Tim Armstrong. "Gravity is the best company in the world to do personal."

Gravity co-founder



The AOL logo is seen at the company's office in New York on 5 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

and CEO Amit Kapur said Gravity uses machine based algorithms to determine what topics are interesting to a specific reader based on their preferences and habits. "When you go to a website, it organizes the entire experience just for you," said Kapur, who was also the chief operating officer of MySpace.—Reuters

Google fixes Gmail after brief outage around the world

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Jan — Google Inc suffered a service outage on Friday that briefly took down Gmail, the email service used by hundreds of millions of people and many businesses across the globe. Google, which first acknowledged the outage at 11:12 am Pacific Time (1412 ET), said a little over an hour later that the problem with Gmail had been resolved.

As of late Friday, the company did not offer an explanation for the outage, which affected users in at least India, Britain and the United States and prompted a stream of complaints on

Twitter from users in many more countries. "We're investigating reports of an issue with Gmail. We will provide more information shortly," the company said on its "App Status" dashboard online, which tracks the state of various Google services.

Google Docs, the cloud-based productivity application that competes against Microsoft Corp's Office suite, also suffered a service disruption, according to the Google dashboard. Other Google properties, the social network Google Plus, and YouTube, appeared to load slowly as well. Gmail, which includes



calendar and chat features, has soared in popularity over the past decade to become one of Google's most successful product offerings. With more than 420 million users, it has begun to make small inroads against Microsoft Exchange in the battle to provide email services for corporate customers as well as individual consumers.

Yahoo Inc, which also runs a rival Internet mail

service, seized the moment to post a screenshot of the Gmail error page to Twitter. Yahoo later apologized for the barb and deleted the tweet. Google users attempting to sign on saw a "temporary error" message and a brief note: "We're sorry, but your Gmail account is temporarily unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience and suggest trying again in a few minutes." — Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 January, 2014

Free rider

In economics, a free rider (or freeloader) is someone who consumes a resource without paying for it, or pays less than the full cost. The term free rider comes from the example of someone using public transportation without paying the fare. If too many people do this, the system will not have enough money to operate.

Another example of a free rider is someone who does not pay his or her share of taxes, which help pay for public good that all citizens benefit from, such as roads, water treatment plants, and fire services. We have been hearing a lot more these days about free riders.

Like other countries, Myanmar face free rider problem. Free-riding would cause a loss to people as well as to the country. Myanmar sees a lot of reforms since the current government takes office. Myanmar is now on the right track to the democracy. In line with the democratic practices, we should pay our share of taxes. Only when not only entrepreneurs but also citizens pay their share of taxes, the government can operate its functions properly. People should not consider the taxes imposed on them as burden.

We all must keep in mind that paying taxes is serving the country's duties. We must show our civic responsibilities by paying income taxes right in accord with the laws. So, each and every citizen must try not to be free rider.



Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo accepts 156 hockey sticks for players of Defence Services donated by President of Myanmar Hockey Federation Col Htin Zaw Win (Rtd) at Theinbyu Turf Hockey Pitch on 24 January.—MHF

Japan, Germany to assist in Myanmar's insurance industry

YANGON, 25 Jan—Credit Guarantee Insurance Course was opened at Myanma Insurance (Head Office) on Merchant Street, here, this afternoon, with an address by Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein.

The deputy minister said credit guarantee insurance is crucial for development of SMEs. The four-day course attended by 20 officers from Myanma Insurance was given lecture

by the experts from Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) of Japan

and GIZ from Germany.

He then held a meeting with resident representa-



The noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana

In order to carefully preserve the noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation, and promotion of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) at home and abroad, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar always attaches great importance to the implementation of this noblest task.

In this regard, we all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and greatly honored to learn that the President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Notification No. 1/2014 regarding presenting religious titles on the 66th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2014.

According to the Notification No. 1/2014 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has presented the respective religious title as follows to internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, Buddhist nuns and laypersons who earnestly carried out this noblest task for promotion, purification, perpetuation and propagation of Buddha Sasana at home and abroad. **Religious titles for distinctively fulfilling two Dhuras (duties), Gantha**

Dhura (duty of learning and teaching of the Pitaka Scriptures) and Vipassana Dhura (duty of engaging in meditation)

- (a) Abhidhajamharatthaguru title to two eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks).
- (b) Aggamahapandita title to eight eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks).

addhammajotika title to four eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks)

- (b) Aggamahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to seventeen eminent monks including seven eminent monks from abroad, one from the Republic of Korea, one from the People's Republic of China, two from Thailand, one from Nepal,

(f) Mahakammathanacariya title to two eminent monks.

(g) Kammathanacariya title to seven eminent monks including one eminent monk from abroad, the People's Republic of China.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for laypersons)

The outstanding laypersons who generously donated and provided the four requisites for this noblest task of excellent works on Buddhism at home and abroad have been presented the respective religious titles as follows. It is learnt that these religious titles have been presented since 1991. **For male**

- (a) Sirisudhammanijotadhara to one layperson.
- (b) Sihasudhammanijotadhara title to one layperson.
- (c) Sudhammanijotadhara title to seven laypersons including one layperson from abroad, Taiwan.

For Female

- (a) Aggamahasirisudhamma Theingi title to two laypersons.
- (b) Sihasudhamma Theingi title to one layperson.
- (c) Sudhamma Theingi title to ten laypersons.

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

(c) Dhammalcahtika'-Bahujanahitadhara title to one eminent monk.

(d) Aggamahaganthavacdapandita title to eleven eminent monks and one eminent nun.

(e) Mahaganthavacakapandita title to nine eminent monks and one eminent nun.

(f) Ganthavacakapandita title to seventeen eminent monks and three eminent nuns.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism Both internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, nuns and laypersons who distinctively carried out this noblest task of the excellent missionary works on Buddhism at home and abroad have been presented these religious titles as follows.

(a) Abhidhaja-aggamahas-

one from Lao PDR and one from Sri Lanka.

(c) Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to nineteen eminent monks and two eminent nuns including four eminent monks from abroad, one from the People's Republic of China, one from Sri Lanka, one from the United States of America, and one from India.

(d) Sadhammajotikadhaja title to twenty-one eminent monks, two eminent nuns and one layperson including two eminent monks from abroad one from Vietnam and one from Bangladesh and one layperson from Thailand.

(e) Aggamahakammathanacariya title to five eminent monks including one eminent monk from abroad, the People's Republic of China.

Exporters urged to boost livestock, forestry, mining, value added products to India

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint has called on traders and merchants to boost the export of products from livestock, forestry and mining and value added products

to India.

At the meeting with traders and merchants at Kalay, Sagaing Region, yesterday, the Union minister also said that agricultural products, fishery products and industrial materials

were Myanmar's major exports in the last year fiscal year.

Myanmar and India has planned to hold expos in Mandalay and Imphar of India, in early this year. The two countries have seen in-

creasing in bilateral volume of trade via Tamu and Reed border trade camps. Border trade camps are opened at Tamu and Reed in Myanmar and Champai and Moreh in India.—MNA

Slight earthquake hits Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about five miles southwest of Shwebo) about 49 miles northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 05 hrs 55 min 25 sec MST today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

He called on them to give lecture courses on life insurance, vehicle insurance, fire insurance and marine insurance to the staff who are taking part in the role of development of Myanma insurance industry.

Under the supervision of foreign insurance companies and insurance supervisory committee, those courses will be conducted to the officers from Myanma Insurance and private insurance companies one week each from March to November.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun takes part in 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014. (News on page 1)
MNA



A golfer taking part in 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014. (News on page 1)
MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing participates in 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament for 2014. (News on page 1)—MNA

Rural electrification to benefit 20,000 villages in 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Jointly organized by Seabell International and Renova Environmental Services, Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and Workshop on Rural Electrification through Small-scale Hydropower were held at Myat Tawwin Hotel, here, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin said that the government is carrying out work procedures to relieve air pollution and global warming that materialized due to factories and greenhouse gas emission along with economic

1st Book Show of Reader's Channel ...

(from page 16)
signing of the writers and meeting between writers and readers. Over 100 book

100 million kyat ...



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivers an address in meeting with local people in Sagaing Region.—MNA

(from page 16)
should not harm current stability and development, unity of national people, national reconciliation and

the rule of law and should encourage the multi-party democratic system and the market-oriented economic system.—MNA

shops will participate in the show.

The book show will be kept open from 9 am to 7

pm till 28 January and every enthusiast can observe the show free of charge.

MNA



Union Minister U Aung Kyi views round at 1st Book Show of Reader's Channel.—MNA

Myanmar ready to host ATF-2015 in Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Myanmar is ready to host the ASEAN Tourism Forum-2015 in January, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung at the 17th ASEAN tourism ministers's meeting in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, on 19 January.

The Union Minister also held talks with Dr Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, Mr. Martin J Craigs of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, Mr. Ma Mingqiang, Secretary-General of ASEAN-China Centre, and Mr Hae Moon

Chung, Secretary-General of ASEAN-Korea Centre.

The Myanmar tourism delegation led by Union Minister U Htay Aung also attended the Tourism Conference from 20 to 23 January.

About 700 international delegates gathered at the forum where over 296 booths were set up.

Union Minister U Htay Aung accepted the commemorative pennant of the ASEAN Tourism Forum handed by Malaysian counterpart Mr Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz.

MNA

Slight earthquake jolts inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 4 miles east of Thabeikkyin) about 61 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 16 hrs 34 min 41 sec MST today announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

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

Voluntary Services

ICRC to open branch in Myitkyina

YANGON, 25 Jan—With a view to providing more humanitarian aid to the local people, International Committee of the Red Cross will open its branch in Myitkyina of Kachin State, northern part of the nation, in February, said Michael Obrian of ICRC to Myanmar at the press conference on 23 January.

“We have permission from the local authorities to open our branch. ICRC will

give humanitarian aid and protection for the people from the armed conflict areas and riot areas. Moreover, we will renovate Laiza Hospital,” he added.

ICRC has opened branches in Yangon, Mandalay, Sittway, Hpa-an and MraukU townships. Now, the branch will be opened in Myitkyina. In addition, buildings of health sector are being renovated and medicines donated in

Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, he continued.

In 2013, ICRC got 17.22 million USD. In 2014, ICRC was funded US\$ 24.41 million. This year, the committee will share 1.055 million USD for the budget of Myanmar. All the tasks for Myanmar will be carried out in transparency manner, said Michael Obrian.

MMAL-Tin Maung Oo

Chartered flight for Myanmar workers from Malaysia



YANGON, 25 Jan—Sitagu Sayadaw Support Group (Malaysia) of Sitagu World Buddhist Academy Chancellor and Kanbawza Bank Ltd donated cost for chartered flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) for return of Myanmar workers from Malaysia to home. It will be the ninth time of its kind.

“MAI will run its ninth flight for the Myanmar workers. The flight transport about 170 passengers each time. At a time when

Myanmar workers are facing difficulties in other country, our airlines give transport services to them as much as we can. It is free transport. We will go on such tasks in the future,” said Marketing and Social Relations Manager Daw Aye Mra Thar of MAI.

Myanmar workers will arrive back at Yangon International Airport from Kuala Lumpur Airport of Malaysia at 3 pm on 29 January.

MMAL-Myat Sandi
Thinzaw

Fruit, vegetables production methods shared

MYEIK, 25 Jan—Thai orchid, fruit and vegetable cultivation experts gave lecture on production methods and exportation to officials of Myeik District

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, entrepreneurs and those of Myeik University held at Myeik District CCI on 23 January.

MMAL-Myeik District

Community-based Child Protection Committee meets at Workshop



Members of Township Community-based Support Group at the workshop together with Township Committee for the Rights of the Child.

THATON, 25 Jan—Thaton Township Committee for the Rights of the Child and Community-based Support Group held the workshop at the hall of Township Administrator in Thaton Township of Mon State on 22 January.

Chairman of Township

CRC Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing stressed the need to carry out child protection for emergence of good and able persons in the future.

In-charge of UNICEF Daw May Zin Kyaw explained purpose of the workshop.

Child Supportive Group members of project villages reported on child protection, difficulties, success and suggestions.

Officials progress of their tasks and cooperation in works.

MMAL-Thet Oo (Thaton)

Pay Your Tax

Basic fish breeding course opened

TADAU, 25 Jan—Kyaukse District Fisheries Department and Natyegan fingerling camp jointly conducted the second basic fish breeding course at the office in Yegamoe Village in TadaU Township recently.

Officials of Fisheries Department gave lectures to 42 trainees from Myinthe, Thangedaw and Pyugan villages how to breed fish in arid zones.

The two day course was provided training from 9 am to 4 pm daily.

Officials of the department lectured facts about basic fish breeding,

use of pamphlets and teaching aid.

Officials of TadaU Township Rural Development Department and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave necessary lectures and practical works to the trainees. The training course was supervised by Mandalay Region Fisheries Department.

The course was aimed to enabling the youths to have knowledge for breeding fish.

MMAL-Kyaukse
District Fisheries
Department



An official give lecture on technics of fish breeding.

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

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

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

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

MNA

REGIONAL



"Maiko" (apprentice "geiko" or geisha) and "geiko" in Kyoto receive a lecture about traditional Japanese arts and crafts as part of their training programme on 22 Jan, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

Abe asks for understanding of Japanese dolphin hunting

Tokyo, 25 Jan—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sought to explain to the international community in a recent interview with CNN the practice of dolphin hunting in a small town in western Japan, responding to online comments posted by US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy last week, who denounced the practice.

"The dolphin hunting that takes place in Taiji town is an ancient practice rooted in their culture and

supports their livelihoods," Abe said in the interview, part of which is on CNN's website. "We hope you will understand this."

While acknowledging criticism of the dolphin hunt, Abe said, "In every country and region, there are practices and ways of living and culture that have been handed down from ancestors. Naturally, I feel that they should be respected."

Kennedy said on her official Twitter account,

"Deeply concerned by inhumanity of drive hunt dolphin killing. USG (the US government) opposes drive hunt fisheries."

The town in Wakayama Prefecture came into the spotlight through the Oscar-winning US documentary "The Cove" which depicted the mass killing of dolphins during a drive hunt and sparked international controversy.

The full interview will air on CNN on Sunday.

Kyodo News

Two Koreas agree to hold family reunion

SEOUL, 25 Jan — South Korea on Friday welcomed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s acceptance of its recent proposal to hold reunion of separated families, heralding a thaw in inter-Korean relations amid Pyongyang's repeated peace call.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said in a statement that the DPRK sent a notice in the name of the Red Cross at around 6 pm on Friday to propose holding reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

The notice said that the family reunion will be held in the DPRK's scenic resort of Mount Kungang as agreed upon before, but it noted that the date of the event can be determined for the South's convenience af-

ter the Lunar New Year's holiday passes by and the weather starts to thaw.

The DPRK said that other issues would be discussed through the Red Cross communication channels at the truce village of Panmunjom. "North Korea (DPRK) turned up a card that the South cannot rebuff. The North showed flexible attitude to prove its sincerity (over its recent peace call)," Cheong Seong-chang, a senior analyst at the private Sejong Institute in Seoul, said by phone.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye proposed at her New Year's press conference to resume the family reunion around the Lunar New Year that falls on 31 January, but the DPRK rejected the offer, saying

that obstacles should be removed.

Pyongyang called for Seoul to cancel its annual joint military drills with Washington scheduled for late February to April, but South Korea rejected the demand, saying that the exercise is defensive in nature.

The National Defence Commission sent an open letter on Thursday on a special order from DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Un, saying that Pyongyang's repeated peace call was not "camouflaged," the official KCNA news agency reported on Friday. On 16 January, the commission said in its "important proposal" that the two Koreas should stop all hostile acts starting from 30 January on the eve of the Lunar New Year.—Xinhua



The Diet building in Tokyo is illuminated on 24 Jan, 2014, as nighttime illumination of the Japanese parliament resumes after a nearly three-year hiatus. The illumination, which started in 1990 to mark the centennial of the launch of the Diet, was halted on 14 March, 2011, three days after the massive earthquake and tsunami that triggered the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, leading to power shortages in Japan.

KYODO NEWS

Two killed in gunfire exchange between troops, rebels in E Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Jan — Two people were killed in a fresh gunfire exchange between Indonesian troops and an insurgent group in Indonesia's easternmost mineral-rich province of Papua on Friday, a senior army officer said.

The Indonesian troop, Private First Class Sugiarto was killed after his group was being ambushed by an insurgent group member when they were about to backup their troops colleagues who were involved in a gunfire exchange with the insurgent group in Pintu Angin, Puncak Jaya regency in the province reported earlier in the morning.

"The ambush on the backup team occurred at 10:10 am local time, conducted by an insurgent group led by Yambi," Head of Indonesian Armed Forces Information Service (Kadispenad) Brig. Gen. Andika Perkasa said in a

statement. Sugiarto was among 25 troops sent to backup the team involved in shootout against a radical insurgent group in gunfire location occurred on 7:15 am in the morning. An insurgent group member was killed by Indonesian troops in the gunfire. Indonesian troops collected a rifle gun from the killed insurgent.

The shootout took place when a patrolling group of Indonesian troops from Joint Battalion 751 Raiders unit encountered with the insurgent group in the areas suspected as stronghold of the insurgent group.

Andika said that body of the killed soldier was now taken to the Mulia regional hospital before being flied to his hometown for burial. Joint operation by Indonesian troops and police has been conducted to pursue the remaining members of the radical group, he added.—Xinhua

India's opposition BJP set to beat Congress in general election

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — India's opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to win over two fifths of the seats in the parliamentary election in April to May, while the incumbent Congress will win around one fifth, said a local survey Friday night.

According to CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS National Election Tracker, BJP and its allies may win 211-231 seats in the Lok Sabha or Lower House of the Parliament, while the Congress

and its allies will win 107-127 seats.

The Lower House of the Indian Parliament has a total of 543 seats. The general election will also produce a new prime minister to replace Manmohan Singh, who has governed this south Asian nation for 10 years.

If the survey is credible, BJP PM candidate Narendra Modi could be India's next prime minister after the party sets up a coalition with some regional parties.

Congress Vice President and Nehru-Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi has not been nominated by the Congress as its PM candidate, which is seen as showing pessimism of the Congress about its perspective of winning the election.

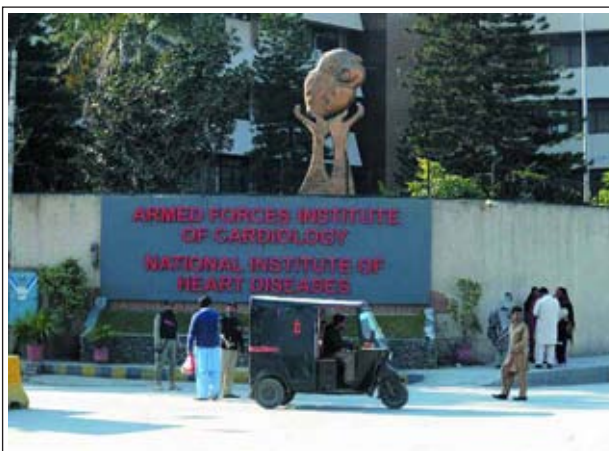
The Congress has lost a series of local elections recently due to alleged corruption, high inflation and what is called incumbency syndrome. West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress is projected to get 20- 28

Lok Sabha seats, while the Tamil Nadu's ruling party AIADMK would get 15-23 seats. Left-ing parties are projected to get 15-23 seats. The new antigraft AAP party, which has become the ruling party in the Indian capital, will get only six to 12 Lok Sabha seats, according to the survey. —Xinhua

6.1-magnitude quake hits 39km SSE of Adipala, Indonesia

BEIJING, 25 Jan — An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted 39km SSE of Adipala, Indonesia at 2014-01-25 05:14:20 GMT on Sat (2014-01-25 13:14:20 Beijing Time), the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 83.18 km, was initially determined to be at 8.0044 degrees south latitude and 109.2383 degrees east longitude. —Xinhua



An auto-rickshaw drives past a military hospital where Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf was admitted for a heart condition in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on 24 Jan, 2014. A medical report of Pakistan's former ailing military ruler Pervez Musharraf, who faces high treason charges, has suggested an immediate angiography, his lawyers said on Friday.—XINHUA

GENERAL



A little "migratory bird" is on the way home with parents.—XINHUA

Cuba to freeze bank assets affiliated to al-Qaeda

HAVANA, 25 Jan — Cuba will freeze any bank assets affiliated to al-Qaida in the country, including those in the foreign financial institutions, according to a decree published here on Friday. The new decree, signed by Cuban leader Raul Castro, was aimed at combating money laundry,

financing terrorism, the proliferation of weapons and the movement of illicit capitals, according to an official gazette.

Cuba's Council of Ministers would supervise all the operations against those activities. There are 11 foreign banks operating in Cuba.—Xinhua

London's Tate Modern art gallery announces 11-year sponsor deal

LONDON, 25 Jan — The Tate Modern art gallery on Monday announced an 11-year sponsorship deal with South Korean car manufacturer Hyundai. The deal will fund the continuation of one-off displays by contemporary artists in the museum's iconic Turbine Hall which have been a feature of the annual round of exhibitions at the gallery since it opened in a converted power station in central London 13 years ago.

Tate Modern director Nicholas Serota told a press conference, "This sponsorship will last 11 years. It is the largest and longest that we have enjoyed with an international company." Serota added, "It will give us an opportunity to extend the great commissions we have made for Tate Modern's Turbine Hall."

"The Turbine Hall is the iconic space at Tate Modern, and is the sym-

bolic heart of the building," he said.

Serota would not reveal how much the sponsorship deal was worth.

British government Culture Secretary Maria Miller said, "Private sector support for the arts is absolutely vital in terms of generating a sustainable mixed economy for our arts organizations. And I think there are few that have done more than the Tate to get this right."

Previous star exhibits in the 35 meter high by 152 meter long Turbine Hall have included 'Marsyas' by Indian artist Anish Kapoor, who designed a tower for the London Olympics site, and French-American artist Louise Bourgeois 'I Do, I Undo, I Redo' which was the first exhibition in the space in 2000, and last year's 'These Associations' by British-German artist Tino Sehgal.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 23 Jan, 2014 shows the winter scenery in Kanas, Altay Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.—XINHUA

Colombian drug kingpin, 'Diego Rastrojo' pleads guilty in Miami

MIAMI, 25 Jan — One of Colombia's top former drug traffickers, Diego Perez Henao, pleaded guilty to smuggling more than 80 tons of cocaine into the United States over the course of almost two decades, according to federal prosecutors in Miami.

Perez Henao, 42, who goes by the alias Diego Rastrojo, was extradited from Colombia in August 2013, and is due to be sentenced on 5 June when he could face up to life in prison.

At a plea hearing held before US District Judge Patricia Seitz on Friday, Perez Henao admitted to shipping 180,000 pounds of cocaine starting in 1994, using various transportation methods including airplanes and semi-submersibles, to Mexican cartels supplying the US market, according to a statement by the US Attorney's office in Miami.

"Diego Perez Henao was the kingpin of a prolific drug cartel," said US Attorney Wifredo Ferrer. "The conviction of Perez Henao concludes one of the most significant chapters in the history of the Colombian drug trade," he added.

One of the heads of the Rastrojos criminal gang, Henao was captured in Venezuela in June 2012, then deported to Colombia. A \$5 million bounty was offered for his capture. Colombia's five main criminal gangs, which have around 3,800 members, were mostly formed after the disbanding of right-wing paramilitary groups in 2006.

Many of the paramilitary units morphed into criminal gangs supplying cocaine to cartels in Mexico and the United States, making the arrest of their leaders a top priority for Washington in its battle against drug trafficking.

Colombia is one of the world's top cocaine producers, making about 300 tons a year even after US-backed efforts to stamp out the illegal trade. The country's leftist guerrillas, the FARC and the smaller ELN group, levy taxes on local production of coca but deny involvement in trafficking the drug.

The coca leaf is the

raw material used to make cocaine.

The government has been in peace negotiations with the FARC, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, since last November. Both the FARC and ELN, or National Liberation Army, are considered terrorist organizations by the United States and European Union.—Reuters



Colombian alleged drug trafficker Diego Perez Henao is escorted by policemen before being extradited from Bogota on 28 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS



Two tourists take photos of themselves amidst rape flowers in Chishang Township of Taitung County, south-east China's Taipei, on 24 Jan, 2014. In Taitung County, a major rice-producing area in Taiwan, farmers would grow rapes in their rice paddies during the winter fallow. The rapes, though planted as fertilizers, have become an attraction for the tourists.—XINHUA

Kitchen god's day kicks off worship season

BEIJING, 25 Jan — Shivering believers crowded the ticket office of the White Cloud Taoist Temple in central Beijing early on Thursday, the kitchen god's day. "I have come here every year for decades, to burn incense to the kitchen god and meet fellow devotees," said Wu, a woman in her 70s.

Taking three sticks of incense from her bag, Wu lit them, bowed to the gods with the burning incense in her hands, then put them in a censer in front of the altar.

"I also come here on the eve of Spring Festival Eve every year. It will be too crowded on Spring Festival," said Wu.

The kitchen god Zao Shen is one of the most important deities in Taoism

and protects the hearth and family.

On the twenty-third day of the twelfth lunar month, just before New Year, he is said to return to heaven to report the activities of every household over the past year to the Jade Emperor who either rewards or punishes a family based on Zao Shen's annual report. Senior priest Meng Zhiling, deputy secretary of the Chinese Taoist Association, said the temple, as one of the most prestigious in Beijing, has had busy incense seasons since the 1980s during the Spring Festival holiday.

"The upcoming Spring Festival will bring a tremendous number of people, more than 40,000, to offer incense in the temple and

worship the gods, including the Jade Emperor, Cai Shen, god of wealth, and Men Shen, the door god," said Meng.

Priests will be on duty to greet visitors and maintain order. Scores of security guards have been employed to assist with emergency plans to control crowds. The police will take care of security and any traffic problems around the temple, Meng added.

On Wednesday, Chinese Buddhist and Taoist figures called for an end to what they perceive as "uncivilized" behavior when offering incense at religious sites, and environmentally friendly ways to burn incense during Spring Festival to reduce air pollution.

Xinhua

Malawi transport minister resigns

BLANTYRE, (Malawi), 25 Jan — Malawian Minister of Transport and Public Works Sidik Mia, who was also vice president for the ruling People's Party (PP) announced his resignation on Friday.

Mia, an influential politician in the south, made the unexpected announcement to journalists in Blantyre, Malawi's largest commercial city located in the southern region.

"I have arrived at this decision after serious consultations with my family members and I would like to lead private life," Mia told journalists.

Rumors are rife that he has been tipped for running-mate by the country's leading opposition, Malawi Congress Party, whose May 20 presidential candidate, Lazarus Chakwera, is from the centre.

But the former cabinet minister declined to comment much on the rumor, saying "only time will tell" what his next move will be.

President Joyce Banda, founder of the ruling PP, is yet to react to the development.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Babe Ruth's 1923 World Series gold pocket watch up for auction

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — Babe Ruth's 1923 World Series championship pocket watch, long thought to be lost, will hit the auction block in New York next month and is expected to fetch more than \$1 million, a spokesman for the auction house said on Friday.

The 14-karat gold watch — the predecessor to today's World Series championship ring — was awarded to the baseball legend after he led the Yankees to their first of 27 world championship vic-

tories. The watch had not been seen since. "It is the most significant piece of Yankees memorabilia ever offered," said Chris Ivy, director of sports collectibles for Heritage Auctions.

"He was the first American sports icon and was a pivotal player in bringing the Yankees into the forefront, into an American dynasty," Ivy said. Ruth, who began his career as a pitcher, went on as an outfielder to become one of the most powerful hitters in baseball history, setting a home run

record and earning the nickname "Sultan of Swat."

Championship pocket watches, believed to be more practical than rings, were given to World Series victors in the 1920s, Ivy said. Before his death in 1948, Ruth gave his close friend, Charles Schwefel, the timepiece engraved "to my pal, Charlie Schwefel." Schwefel then gave the watch to Lewis Fern, Ruth's golf caddy, who sold it in 1988 to the current, anonymous owner for \$200,000, according to Ivy.

Bidding online has already started on the pentagonal watch, but will culminate in a live auction in New York City on 22 February. In the late 1990s, actor Charlie Sheen bought Ruth's 1927 championship ring for \$250,000, said Ivy. He expects the pocket watch will go for over \$1 million. "It's a seminal piece of memorabilia and signifies the dominance of the most significant sports franchise in America," Ivy said.

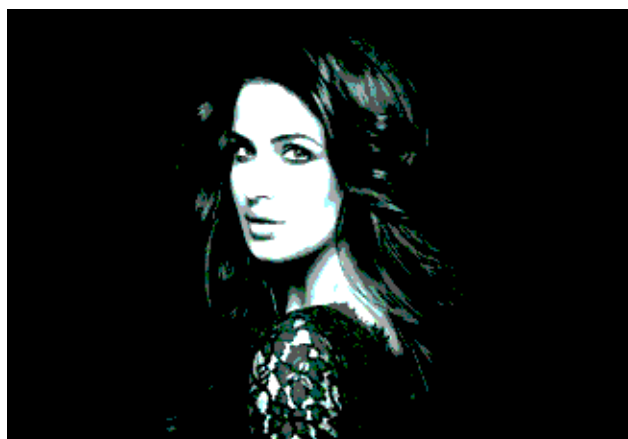
Reuters

Katrina Kaif named fourth Indian face of L'Oreal

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — After Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Sonam Kapoor and Freida Pinto, actress Katrina Kaif is the fourth Indian to join the list of spokespersons of global beauty brand L'Oreal Paris.

The Dhoom:3 star says it's an "incredible privilege to join this league of ladies" and feels honoured.

"It's been a brand that I have always admired for its glamour and powerful message of 'Because you're



Katrina says she feels honoured.

Why Sonam Kapoor's Khoobsurat name was changed from Anju to Mili

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — Actress Sonam Kapoor will play Mili in the remake of 1980 movie Khubsoorat which starred Rekha. She says that since she and the makers of the new film are huge fans of late director Hrishikesh Mukherjee, who helmed the classic, they decided to club names of Mili a

remak

S the re rat, bu name below from Mukh Mili. ' direct my f also h ter, an to nan That ' was g Khub: to nar

Son make rat is from

Mili," said Sonam.

Her father Anil Kapoor was the last lead actor to work with the late director Hrishikesh Mukherjee in Jhooth Bole Kauwa Kaate. "We are all huge fans of Hrishikesh Mukherjee. My dad worked in his last film. Unfortunately, I couldn't work with him. Shashank

me. And since Mili is another favourite film of mine by Hrishida, I decided to incorporate that as well into our Khoobsurat," she added. Sonam says her Khoobsurat is very different from the original.

"The spirit is the same. The characters are also the same. But the milieu and circumstances have been changed. I thoroughly enjoyed playing a character that Rekha has played so wonderfully in the past," she said. "Obliterating Rekha is too harsh a thought. Her spirit runs through Khoobsurat. But I haven't copied her in any way. Not in my clothes, performance or attitude. I am Mili, not Anju," she added.—PTI



worth it'. The stunning women that represent the brand across the globe are strong motivators," Katrina said in a statement.

Global Ambassador for L'Oreal Paris Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who has been a part of the brand for 12 years, said: "I would like to extend a warm welcome to Katrina to the L'Oreal Paris family. I am sure she will enjoy representing team India as brand ambassador and I wish her the very best." —PTI

Sony Pictures buys film rights to Sheryl Sandberg's 'Lean In'



The chief operating officer of Facebook, Sheryl Sandberg, listens at the Clinton Global Initiative 2013 (CGI) in New York on 24 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — Sony Pictures Entertainment has purchased the film rights to Facebook Inc executive Sheryl Sandberg's bestselling memoir on female empowerment, "Lean In," a source familiar with the deal said on Friday.

Sony Pictures' Columbia Pictures division will handle development of the script, which will be based on themes in the book and not on Sandberg's life, the source said. The script will be written by Nell Scovell who helped Sandberg, Fa-

cebook's chief operating officer, pen the book. Sandberg will donate her portion of proceeds from the deal to her Lean In foundation, the source said.

Sony Pictures is the film and television arm of Sony Corp. The deal was first reported by industry website Deadline Hollywood. Sony Pictures spokesman Charles Sipkins declined to comment. "Lean In" reignited debate over women's opportunities in the professional world after it was published last March.



Mohit is a huge fan of SRK.

Shah Rukh Khan shares tips with TV actor Mohit Raina

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — Bollywood's 'King of Romance' Shah Rukh Khan recently shared some tips with small screen actor Mohit Raina who is seen in a serious role in the TV show Devon Ke Dev Mahadev.

Shah Rukh was hosting a segment in the 20th Annual Life OK Screen Awards when he called Mohit on stage and the latter asked him to teach him a few nuances of attracting a variety of roles.

That's when SRK made him learn how to spread out his arms for a lady and how to dance a bit. But all in vain!

A source says that the superstar also took some time out during the event's rehearsals to guide Mohit who has won praise galore for his act as Mahadev.

"Shah Rukh was extremely helpful and co-operative and was lending a helping hand to Mohit during rehearsals. He got down to the minutest details like the stance on stage, dialogue delivery and patiently helped out Mohit."

"Mohit, who is a huge SRK fan, was more than happy to get some tips from his favourite actor," said the source.

PTI

It focuses on ways for women to attain more power in the workplace, including how to command more respect from colleagues.

At age 44, Sandberg is considered to be one of the world's youngest billionaires after shares of Facebook rose earlier this week and made her one of the few women to cross the \$1 billion mark in net worth. Sandberg worked for the US Treasury Department and Google Inc before joining Facebook in 2008. Columbia Pictures also distributed 2010's "The Social Network," about the founding of Facebook by Mark Zuckerberg. — Reuters



Iranian actors perform during the 32th Fajdr International Theater Festival in Teheran, capital of Iran, on 24 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA

SPORTS

Podolski double helps Arsenal rout Coventry in FA Cup

LONDON, 25 Jan — Arsenal striker Lukas Podolski scored twice in the opening half-hour as the Premier League leaders romped to a 4-0 win over third-tier Coventry City in their FA Cup fourth round tie at the Emirates on Friday. Podolski's goals were set up by fellow Germans Mesut Ozil and Per Mertesacker as the 10-times winners eased into the last 16 on a rainy night in north London.

The Polish-born forward rifled home from inside the area after a pass from midfielder Ozil in the 15th minute and headed in a corner at the far post from defender Mertesacker's flick-on at the near post in the 27th. Podolski was replaced by Olivier Giroud in the 79th and within five minutes the Frenchman

had scored Arsenal's third goal with a tap-in from left back Kieran Gibbs' cross. Fellow substitute Santi Cazorla completed the rout in the 89th from a rebound after keeper Joe Murphy had parried a shot.

Three minutes after the opening goal Coventry, the 1987 FA Cup winners who now play in League One, almost hit back with Arsenal stopper Lukasz Fabianski making a diving save to keep out midfielder Carl Baker's fine shot from outside the area. Striker Leon Clarke also missed two good chances to get a more enterprising Coventry side back into the game early in the second half. Fabianski saved his first effort and the striker then hit the post from a central position inside the box after Franck



Arsenal's Mesut Ozil (top) is challenged by Coventry City's John Fleck during their English FA Cup fourth round soccer match at The Emirates in London on 24 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

Moussa's square pass with the second.

"In the first half we did the job and took the game to them in a serious way and played the way we know we can," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was quoted as saying by the BBC. "In the second half we dropped off and, give them credit, they gave it a go. Coventry should be pleased with their performance and we should be pleased with the result." Former European

champions Nottingham Forest, now in the second tier Championship, were held 0-0 at home by League One side Preston North End in a clash of former FA Cup winners. The fourth round continues on Saturday with holders Wigan Athletic, who were relegated from the top flight three days after their dramatic late win over Manchester City in last season's final, at home to Premier League Crystal Palace. —Reuters

Li Na beats Cibulkova to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan — China's fourth seed Li Na beat Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 7-6 (7-3), 6-0 to win her first Australian Open women's singles title here on Saturday.

Both players broke each other twice and forced a tiebreak in the first set. Mini-breaks exchanged in the tiebreak before Li

served out to win the first set.

Cibulkova failed to keep her serve games in the second set and Li used only 27 minutes to thrash her opponent 6-0 and won the final.

The champion is Li's second Grand Slam title as she won her first in the 2011 French Open. —Xinhua



Li Na of China hits a return during her women's singles final match against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia at 2014 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, 25 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA

Barca reveal Neymar deal cost almost \$118 million

BARCELONA, 25 Jan — The deal to sign Neymar cost Barcelona 86.2 million euros (71.47 million pounds), including payments to the forward and his family, the club said on Friday after the player's father revoked a confidentiality agreement. The Brazil international's close-season move from Santos, which the Spanish club initially said was worth 57.1 million euros, is being investigated by a court for possible misappropriation of funds following a complaint from a Barca member.

Sandro Rosell, who was named in the lawsuit but denies wrongdoing, stepped down as president on Thursday. He said he wanted to protect the club's image and alleged he and



Brazilian soccer player Neymar (R) shakes hands with Barcelona's president Sandro Rosell after signing a five-year contract with FC Barcelona, in front of their offices close to Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona in this 3 June, 2013 file photo. —REUTERS

his family had been threatened. Barca had been reluctant to reveal all the details of the deal, citing the confidentiality agreement, but after a board meeting on

Friday, Rosell's successor Josep Bartomeu told a news conference Neymar's father had given them permission to go public.

Barca director Raul

Sanllehi reiterated the transfer on its own had cost 57.1 million euros including 17.1 million euros to Santos and 40 million euros as a "compensation fee" paid to a company owned by Neymar's parents. However, he also detailed other payments around the transfer such as a signing bonus of 10 million euros and various other fees paid to the family that took the total cost to 86.2 million.

Barca are paying Neymar 8.8 million euros in wages per season for his five-year contract, said Sanllehi. "Neymar's father waived the confidentiality agreement because he considers what has happened (to Rosell) to be unjust," Bartomeu said.

Reuters

Nadal win may intensify 'all-time greatest' debate

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan — Rafa Nadal has the opportunity to add another chapter to his storied career, and intensify an already robust debate, should he beat Stanislas Wawrinka in Sunday's Australian Open final.

A victory would make the Spanish left-hander the third man to win all four grand slam titles twice, joining Australians Rod Laver and Roy Emerson, and also draw him level with Pete Sampras on 14 career major titles. It would also leave him three behind Wawrinka's compatriot Roger Federer, who Nadal beat in the semi-finals, and would no doubt generate another round of debate as to who can justifiably be called the greatest player of all time. "Is there one greatest player of all time?" Sampras replied when asked by reporters if Nadal or Federer could be labeled with that mantle.

"I believe when you look at the history of the game, each decade has their player." Certainly Roger has been the best player for the last 10 years. Rafa is up there with him. (Novak) Djokovic is pushing. So it's really hard to say. "Rafa has won all the majors, he's been number one. You could argue that he's well up there. If he plays the next four or five years, he could have 17, 18 majors." Let's just appreciate what we're watching.

It's hard to compare the numbers and the eras where we all did our thing. "Both sides have a strong case in the Nadal v Federer debate.

Fans of the Swiss suggest Nadal's record is skewed by his claycourt dominance over the years, while the Spaniard's supporters point to his 23-10 head-to-head record over Federer.

Reuters



Rafael Nadal

Fit-again Feuz back to Sochi to surprise



Feuz Beat of Switzerland skis to sixth place during the Men's World Cup Downhill ski race in Beaver Creek, Colorado, in this file photo from 6 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

WENGEN, (Switzerland), 25 Jan — Having undergone 10 knee surgeries

since 2008, Switzerland's Beat Feuz naturally considers his Winter Olympics

qualification a "miracle" and the 26-year-old will return to the Sochi slopes next month hoping to spring a surprise. Feuz, one of skiing's top talents, was the first to win a World Cup downhill race on the Olympic piste in Sochi in February two years ago. A month later, a knee injury threw him off the race circuit for 20 months.

"At some point at the hospital, my comeback to the competition was uncertain," Feuz told Reuters. "I was so happy to be back in my element. It was a little

bit like the first time seeing your girlfriend after a long absence." Feuz had knee surgery during the off season in 2011-12 but he suffered from inflammation and bleeding at the articular capsule.

He had to stay in hospital for weeks until December 2012 and missed the whole 2012-13 season. "I'll ski without any pressure at Sochi. I already have my qualification in the pocket. That's a miracle," Feuz said, adding his 2012 Sochi victory was an advantage.

Reuters

GENERAL



Visitors watch furnitures with Chinese character 'Xi', meaning "Double Happiness" in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan. About 150 exhibits featuring the traditional "Xi" culture were displayed at Taipei Museum of History on Friday.—XINHUA

S Africa condemns white powder scare against e-tolls

JOHANNESBURG, 25 Jan — The South African road management system on Friday denounced the white powder scare against the e-tolls.

"Whoever is not happy about a government policy, has appropriate channels to express their dissatisfaction," said the spokesperson of the South African Na-

tional Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Nazir Alli.

The speech came following the agency's central operation centre in Johannesburg received an envelope containing the suspected white powder on Friday afternoon.

Showing his fury over the scare deed, Nazir Alli said, "We are extremely worried about the impact this kind of behavior is having on people who work at the centre, as most of them are first-time workers and relatively young."

Though the biological test indicated that the power was not the deadly anthrax, the agency's staff had to be

evacuated. It was presumed to be a protest against the e-tolling in the highways in the richest province of Gauteng which started on 3 Dec, 2013.

This was the second time for the agency to be scared by the suspected powder this week. On Tuesday the scare of powder once forced the e-toll system to be temporarily shut down.

The SANRAL is the South African government-owned public company, responsible for the management, maintenance and development of the national road network.

Xinhua

Albania to cut business registration time from 24 to 8 hours

TIRANA, 25 Jan — Albanian Economic Development Minister Arben Ahmetaj on Friday announced new measures designed to reduce new business registration time from 24 to eight hours.

"Providing online English-language service to foreign entrepreneurs will help foreign businesses in Albania," he said during a visit to the National Registration Centre (NRC) in Tirana.

Ahmetaj added that the NRC's website would be friendly and easy to access, offering a wide range of services to customers.

"For the first time e-signature system will be applied at NCR for the business," he said. Official data show a positive trend in registration of new businesses in Albania in January.—Xinhua

Manchester United agree deal to sign Chelsea playmaker Mata

MANCHESTER, 25 Jan — Manchester United have agreed a deal to sign Spain playmaker Juan Mata from Premier League rivals Chelsea. "MUFC has reached agreement with Chelsea for the transfer of Juan Mata for a club record fee," United said on their Twitter feed on Friday.

"The deal is subject to a medical and the agreement of personal terms. A further announcement will be made in due course."

According to media reports, the 25-year-old will cost league champions United 37 million pounds (\$61.06 million).

The transfer fee breaks the previous record of 30.75 million pounds the club paid Tottenham Hotspur for Bulgaria striker

Dimitar Berbatov in 2008. United do not have a game this weekend but Mata, a skilful attacking midfielder, could make his debut in Tuesday's league game against Cardiff City at Old Trafford. The Spaniard joined Chelsea from Valencia for 23.5 million pounds in August 2011.

Mata won the Player of the Year award in his first two seasons, helping the Londoners win the 2012 Champions League and 2013 Europa League, but has been out of favour this term under manager Jose Mourinho.

The Portuguese has preferred Brazilian internationals Oscar and Wilian and Belgium's Eden Hazard in the three creative roles behind the lone

striker in Chelsea's 4-2-3-1 system. Mata, who has played 30 times for his country, has scored nine international goals including the last one in Spain's

4-0 win over Italy in the Euro 2012 final.

With competition fierce for places in the 2014 World Cup squad, Mata needs regular first



Chelsea's Juan Mata acknowledges the fans after winning their game against Swindon Town in their English League Cup soccer match at the County Ground in Swindon, western England on 24 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(26-1-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am	12:35 pm
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	19. Myanmar Movies
6:20 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	20. News
6:30 am	3:15 pm
3. Musical Programme	21. Myanmar Movies
6:40 am	3:40 pm
4. Documentary	22. Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe
7:00 am	4:00 pm
5. News/Weather Report	23. News
7:25 am	4:15 pm
6. Teleplay	24. Documentary
8:00 am	4:40 pm
7. News/ International News	25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Oriental)
8:25 am	
8. Amazing World	5:00 pm
8:45 am	26. News
9. Teleplay (Health)	5:15 pm
9:00 am	27. Sing & Enjoy
10. News	6:00 pm
9:25 am	28. News/Weather Report
9:50 am	6:20 pm
11. (38) Phyar Mingalars	29. Cartoon Series
10:00 am	7:00 pm
12. Beautiful "ASEAN"	30. News
10:15 am	7:20 pm
13. News	31. Documentary
10:15 am	8:00 pm
14. Teleplay	32. News/International News/Weather Report
11:00 am	8:35 pm
15. Documentary	33. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
11:15 am	8:45 pm
16. Gitadagale Phwintbaohhn	34. Hit Songs of Stars
12:00 pm	9:00 pm
17. News/International News/Weather Report	35. News
12:30 pm	36. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
18. Round Up of The Week's International News	37. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

26-1-14 07:00 am ~ 27-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Come and Visit, no matter the distance (Pathein)
- * World News
- * Brilliant Woman "Dr Mya Thidar Sway Tin"
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond
- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Yangon City)(Ep-8)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-3)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * Kaung Mhu Lon and its spectacular surrounds
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]
- * Local News
- * The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
- * World News
- * Dhamma School
- * Local News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt Popa
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends felicitation to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 65th Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2014, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun sends felicitation to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 65th Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2014, U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

100 million kyat funded to each township for basic infrastructures

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The recently allotted 100 million kyat funds to each township is allowed to be used for building basic infrastructures for the people, said Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw.

At the meeting with

local management committees, development committees and townsenders from Myinmu and Myaung townships, Sagaing Region, today, the speaker has urged township management committees and township development affairs committees to launch the

projects before March in coordinate with respective township development supporting groups and to fund each project not exceeding 5 million kyats.

During the meeting, the speaker also said that the Joint Committee for

Reviewing the Constitution has been worked for amending the constitution in the interests of the people, seeking advices from political parties and experts.

He also suggested that constitutional amendments (See page 9)

Union FM sends felicitations to India, Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 65th Republic Day of India and the Anniversary of the National Day of the Commonwealth of Australia which fall on 26 January 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Her Excellency the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

1st Book Show of Reader's Channel open

YANGON, 25 Jan—The 1st Book Show of Reader's Channel took place at Myanmar Event Park in Sangyoung Township this morning.

First, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi and party opened the book show.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi said that all works should be for the people and first priority should be given to the people. He continued that all cooperation is not for someone's interest, saying it is serving important duty to broaden horizon of the people.

Then, CEO U Win Maw of Forever Group and Chairman Dr Tha Tun Oo of Myanmar Publishers and Distribution Association

explained matters related to the book show.

Secretary of MPDA U Myint Tun clarified undertakings of the association and Joint Secretary (1) U Thein Soe selection of best publisher award and best book house award.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi presented best publisher award for 2012 to U Kyaw Oo of Parami Book House and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw, best book house award for 2013 to U Maung Maung Lwin of Inwa Publishing House.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party viewed round the booths.

The book show includes literary talks, book (See page 9)

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—An opening of Kyaukkyi Bridge took place at the bridge on Penwogon-Kyaukkyi-Thambo road in Kyaukkyi in Toungoo district in Bago region today.

It is the 41st facility opened in the time of the new government. First, Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win and Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Win Myint spoke on occasion.

The newly-inaugurated bridge is 270 feet long and its two-lane motorway flanked by 3-foot pedestrian lanes on both sides is 24 feet wide. Thanks to the opening of the reinforced concrete bridge, local people from the villages on the eastern side of Sittoung river and Shwegyin and Toungoo will be able

to have transport access to Yangon-Mandalay express way via the bridge, thereby enabling them to travel length and breadth of the country.

Sittoung river crossing bridge (3), Madaukkalay bridge and Htanbingon bridge are under construction in Bago Region. Moreover, it is planned to build

Sittoung bridge (1) on Kywepwe-Myothsoe-Zayatkyi road and Pyu-Bannaung-Mwaytwin-Nyaungbinyoe road soon.

MNA



Kyaukkyi Bridge is put into service in Kyaukkyi Township in Bago Region.

BYLINE: KYAN TAING AUNG; PHOTO: THEKKA



North Zamani elephant sanctuary emerges in Bago Yoma region

According to the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, plans are underway for the designation of an elephant sanctuary in order to minimize human-elephant conflicts in Bago Yoma region.

Such conflicts in Bago Yoma mountain ranges are mainly attributed to increased human settlements in the elephant's pastures, farmland reclamation and road and dam construction projects. Aiming at the reduction of human-elephant conflicts in the region, the ministry has initiated a plan to establish a protected area

for elephants in north Zamani forest reserve which is homes to wild elephants since 2012. A total surface area of 2,410,938.48 acres which includes Yenwe, Okpo, north Zamani and Kyaukdaga forest reserves has been declared as "North Zamani Elephant Sanctuary".

The sanctuary includes paddy and pigeon fields and banana and sugarcane plantations that lie in an area of around 100 acres for feeding elephants. So far two support teams based in Thayawady and in the neighbourhood of

Bago Yoma forest have been formed for the sanctuary. Moreover, erection of fences, deployment of forest guards and examining elephant tracks are underway.

Myanmar has the second largest Asian elephant population in the world after India. Apart from 1903 elephants owned by the Forest Department and the private-owned 2478, it is estimated based on field data that there are about 2000 wild elephants in the deep forests of the country.

Myanma Alinn: 24-1-2014

Trs: YM