

In remaining Government's term, seven priority areas will be focused; projects and programmes that will directly benefit people be implemented

President U Thein Sein addresses 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum



President U Thein Sein delivers opening address at 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum at MICC.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — President U Thein Sein delivered an opening address at 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation

Forum at MICC, here, this morning.

As you all are aware, the First Myanmar Development Cooperation Fo-

rum was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 20 January 2013. At that forum, “Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development

Cooperation” was adopted and made public. Nay Pyi Taw Accord includes both the Government of Myanmar and develop-

ment partners’ commitments and obligations. It is observed that the Government’s commitments under Nay Pyi Taw Ac-

cord are also in conformity with the current reform processes being undertaken by the Government.

(See page 7)

Myanmar delegation attends World Economic Forum

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — A three-member Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Soe Thane took part in World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, from 23 to 25 January, holding talks with the UNSG and world leaders on global economic issue.

The Union minister and party held talks on investment sector with United Nations Secretary-Gen-

eral Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Borge Brende, Mr. George Soros, founder of Open Society Institute, the President of Estonia, presidents of Standard Chartered Bank, Telenor, Ta Ta and Carlsberg, the vice-presidents of GE and Sun. They also participated in Relationship of ASEAN together with leaders of fellow

ASEAN countries.

The Union minister also held separate talks with the director-general of International Labour Organization on labour affairs.

Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, member of the delegation, also held discussions on global energy issue with leaders of other countries.—MNA

**Union Minister
U Soe Thane takes part
in World Economic
Forum.—MNA**





Environmental Conservation

Sanitation carried out at lake of Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda in Panglong



LOILEM, 27 Jan—Sanitation tasks were carried out at the lake of Maha Ratthabhisamaggi

Interfaith friendship group meets

THATON, 27 Jan—The people regardless of religion and national are to live in amity and unity, said Chairman of Township Interfaith Friendship Group U Tun Hein at the first meeting of Interfaith Friendship at Thuwunna Hall in Thaton on 25 January.

It was attended by Deputy Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw U Htay Lwin, Mon State ministers, leaders of respective religious affairs and officials.

Mon State Minister for Bamar national affairs U Thet Win and Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Saw Ohn made speeches.

Leaders of the religions discussed peaceful co-existence among the religions and discussed friendship process.

They had cordially lunch.

Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

Pagoda, which is one of the symbol of Panglong where the historic Panglong Conference conceived, in Shan State (North) on 24 January.

At first, volunteers salvaged fish from the lake and released them to Loilem Lake (Myakantha).

The task was supervised by Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han and township level officials.

The root cause of releasing the fish into

Loilem Lake was die of hundreds of fish due to lack of oxygen. The area of the lake and number of fish were unbalance. It was estimated that there are about 50000 fish in the lake.

After managing change of water from the lake and dredging silt from it, fish will be placed into the lake.

Up to 25 January, fish have been moved to Loilem Lake with the use of 15 Lifeng vehicles.

Kyemon-Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

HRD

Wunna Theikdi reading club gives service to readers

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—Under the aegis of Thabye-aye Mogok Vipassana Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandamala, Wunna Theikdi reading club located in Wunna Theikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township, allows borrowing of various subjects of books to the readers.

The reading club was set up on 12 July 2013 by Myat Parami social association.

The club plans to hold the raising of reading habit,

essay contest and literary talks for broadening horizon

of the local youths.

Than Naing (Zabuthiri)



Gold foils offered to Mingala Pagoda in Kyaukpadaung Tsp



KYAUKPADAUNG, 27 Jan—Under the auspices of venerable monks, members of the Board of Trustees of Kondawgyi Hsutaungpyae Mingala Pagoda in Kyaukpadaung Township and youths of social organizations offered gold foils to the pagoda built in 371 AD in Bagan period.

Gold foils were offered to the pagoda from 1993 to 1998 gradually. In 2004, the all-round renovation

tasks were undertaken at the pagoda and then the rock on the pagoda was guilt.

“In the past, we offered gold foils to the pagoda step by step depending on the financial situation. Due to impacts of natural disasters, the plan is being implemented to guild the whole structure of pagoda. The donation centre is kept open on 8 January on the platform of the pagoda. Tipp 24 January, we have collected over K 6 million

to the fund of the pagoda,” said a member of the pagoda board of trustees.

New umbrella of the pagoda was donated by U Tin Maung Yin (a) U Ton Kin (retired senior assistant teacher) of Market Ward of Kyaukpadaung. The officials estimated that it will cost K 10 million on offering the gold foils to the whole pagoda.—*Kyemon-Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)*

Development

Magway Region Chief Minister on inspection tour of Minbu District

MAGWAY, 27 Jan—Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe and party inspected regional development tasks in Minbu District on 24 January.

After paying homage to Upper and Lower Footprints of the Lord Buddha in Settawya Pagoda in Minbu Township, the Chief Minister heard reports on



preparations for holding the Buddha Pujaniya, greening tasks around the pagoda, maintenance of the pagoda platform, security and enforcement of discipline during the festival, fire prevention and health care services presented by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

The Chief Minister inspected progress of 240 feet long Kyeechaung Creek on Padan-Ngaphe-Sedoktara Road in Sedoktara Township with the concerted efforts of Bridge Construction Group

(4) of Public Works.

He also viewed progress of Ngaphe-Sedoktara-Laungshe road section being undertaken by Myanme Ahla Co. He also looked into progress of paving the Sedoktara-Kanbya Road with asphalt.

He then viewed proper flow of water along South and North Mone feeder canals of Mezali Dam, dredging of the conduit near Thanawa Village and maintenance of the south and north Mone drains of Mezali Diversion Weir.

Nan Maung (Thayet)

WORLD

Netanyahu would let Israeli settlers live in future Palestine

JERUSALEM, 27 Jan — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will insist that Jewish settlers in the West Bank have a right to remain under Palestinian rule in any future peace deal, a government official was quoted as saying on Sunday. The apparent trial balloon, reported on the English-language Times of Israel website, drew a no-comment from a spokesman for Netanyahu and angry words from Naftali Bennett, a key pro-settlement partner in his govern-

ing coalition.

"The idea of Jewish settlements under Palestinian sovereignty is very dangerous and reflects an irrationality of values," Bennett wrote on his Facebook page. The Israeli report quoted an official in Netanyahu's office as saying he did not intend to uproot Jewish settlements anywhere in the West Bank, land that Palestinians seek for a state under US-brokered peace talks showing few signs of progress since they resumed in July after a

three-year break.

Netanyahu would "insist that settlers be given the free choice of remaining in place and living under Palestinian rule, or relocating to areas under Israeli sovereign rule," the official was quoted as saying. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Friday, Netanyahu said he did not intend to uproot a single settler in a future Palestinian statehood agreement. The Times of Israel quoted the unidentified official as saying Netanyahu's idea of

allowing settlers the option of staying in their homes under Palestinian rule fell under that pledge.

Some Israeli political commentators suggested the leak was aimed at heading off settler opposition to a framework deal, or as guidelines for a final peace agreement that US Secretary of State John Kerry has been trying to formulate. Bennett, leader of the Jewish Home party and an advocate of Israeli annexation of the West Bank, demanded in his Facebook



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on 26 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

post that Netanyahu "immediately refute this dangerous proposal." There was no immediate Palestinian reaction to the report. Palestinian President Mahmoud

Abbas has already balked at an Israeli demand to keep an Israeli troop presence in the Jordan Valley, an area likely to be the eastern border of a Palestinian state.—Reuters

Fast Retailing to debut on Hong Kong stock exchange

TOKYO, 27 Jan — Fast Retailing Co, the operator of the Uniqlo casual clothing chain, said on Monday it is planning to debut on the Hong Kong stock exchange on 5 March, aiming to boost its presence in the growing Chinese and Southeast Asian markets.

With the listing of depository receipts, the company hopes to add momentum to its business expansion abroad. It has been opening shops in Asia, including the world's largest flagship store which opened last year in Shanghai.

Fast Retailing is not planning new issues or other forms of fund procurement through the listing. The company says it will continue to view the Tokyo bourse as its main market.

Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe answers reporters' questions in New Delhi, India, on 26 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Thai Election Commission suggests minimum one month vote delay

BANGKOK, 27 Jan — Thailand's Election Commission said a contentious election planned for next week should be postponed for at least a month, warning of more bloodshed after violent clashes over the weekend.

The commission meets embattled Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Tuesday to discuss the election date after a Constitutional Court ruling opened the way for a delay in the face of months of anti-government protests in the capital.

"As election officials, it is our job to make sure elections are successful, but we also need to make sure the country is peaceful enough to hold the election.

We don't want it to be bloody," Somchai Srisuthiyakorn, a Commission member, told Reuters on Monday. Interior Minister Jarupong Ruangsuan, also head of the ruling Puea Thai Party, told Reuters the government would not back down on the date.

"We have to press ahead with the on 2 February election ... A postponement would be futile and would only give independent organizations more time to target the government," he said.

A protest leader was killed and 12 injured in a clash at an advance voting station in the Bangkok district of Bang-Na. That brought the death toll to 10 since protesters took to the streets of Bangkok in November to try to throw Yingluck's government out of office.

Reuters

Five Afghan border police killed in insider attack

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 27 Jan — Five Afghan border policemen were killed in a so-called insider attack in Kushk-i- Kuhna district of western Afghanistan's Herat province over, sources said on Monday. "According to initial reports, a member of Afghan Border Police (ABP) named Bismillah was involved in shooting incident in a border outpost in the district,

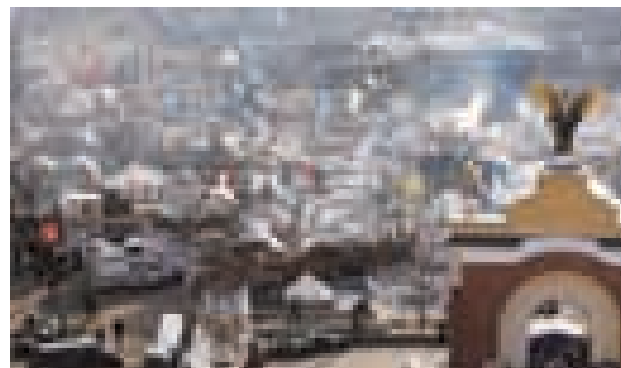
northern of provincial capital of Herat city midnight, killing five cops," a provincial ABP senior official Juma Gul Adil told Xinhua.

The attacker reportedly fled and joined the Taliban insurgent group in the district bordering Turkmenistan, sources said. Over the past years, hundreds of the Afghan forces and foreign soldiers had been killed in the so-called insider attacks in

the war-torn country. Taliban had in the past claimed responsibility for insider attacks. This is the first such attack so far this year.

The Afghan soldiers and police casualties have risen recently as the United States and NATO troops in Afghanistan switched from combat to support role, namely training, advising and assisting Afghan forces.—Xinhua

New clashes as Ukraine's president tries to tempt opposition



Tents of anti-government protesters are seen at Independence Square in central Kiev on 26 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

KIEV, 27 Jan — Police clashed with protesters in central Kiev on Sunday and the fate of Ukraine's government was uncertain after embattled President Viktor Yanukovich offered important posts to opposition leaders, including the role of prime minister. One of the president's main foes described his offer as a "poisoned" attempt to divide the opposition and kill off mass protests.

The demonstrations erupted late last year when Yanukovich ditched landmark agreements with the European Union and opted instead for closer ties with Russia. Emboldened opposition leaders said they

would press for more concessions, including early elections, setting the stage for a tough political battle when parliament meets for a special session on Tuesday. The two-month standoff has sparked the worst violence in Ukraine since it won independence in 1991 as the Soviet Union collapsed.

At least six people have been killed, according to the prosecutor's office and medics, and the crisis has deepened tension between Russia and the West. For the opposition, accepting Yanukovich's offer to serve under him in a revamped government carries the risk of breaking faith with thou-

sands of peaceful demonstrators as well as alienating more radical protesters over whom it has only tenuous control. "Yanukovich's offer always appeared as a poison chalice for the opposition — meant to divide the opposition, and boost his chances in the March 2015 presidential election," Tim Ash of Standard Bank said.

In violence on Sunday, a few thousand protesters tried to storm an ornate cultural center where hundreds of security forces personnel were gathered in central Kiev, a few hundred meters (yards) from the hub of weeks of opposition protests on Independence Square.

In a two-hour pre-dawn confrontation, demonstrators threw stones and smoke bombs while police fired stun grenades and sprayed water into the crowd. Police and security forces later left the building, its windows shattered, and streamed out through a corridor created by the crowd after an opposition leader, Vitaly Klitschko, arrived at the scene and helped to negotiate a solution.—Reuters



An anti-government protester holds a placard during a rally in Bangkok on 27 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Egypt, reneging on roadmap, to start elections with presidential vote

CAIRO, 27 Jan — Egypt will hold a presidential vote before electing parliament, President Adly Mansour said on Sunday, reneging on a roadmap and increasing the likelihood that army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will be elected as head of state within months.

Parliamentary elections were supposed to happen first under the timetable agreed after the army deposed Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July following mass protests

against his rule. "I have taken my decision to amend the roadmap for the future in that we will start by holding the presidential elections first followed by the parliamentary elections," Mansour said in a televised speech.

Critics have campaigned for a change of the roadmap, saying the country needs an elected leader to direct government at a time of economic and political crisis and to forge a political alliance before a potentially divisive

parliamentary election. Opponents say it risks creating a president with unchecked power. Were that Sisi, who is widely tipped to win, it would put the army back in a post controlled by military men until Mursi was propelled to office by the Muslim Brotherhood.

A new constitution voted in this month opened the way for a change in the order of the elections by leaving open the question of which should come first.—Reuters



Egypt's interim President Adly Mansour attends a meeting with General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu (not pictured) at El-Thadiya presidential palace in Cairo, on 14 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Fidel Castro meets Argentine president in Havana

HAVANA, 27 Jan — Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro met on Sunday with visiting Argentine President Cristina Fernandez. Local media reported that Castro lunched with Fernandez, who is in Havana to attend the 2nd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), scheduled for 28-29 January.

"After exchanging warm greetings, the South American head of state and Cuban leader discussed topics of regional interest, particularly the main problems facing humanity, food and the various armed conflicts that threaten peace on the planet," the state-run Cubadebate website said.

In January 2013, Fernandez met with Fidel Castro and his brother Raul Castro during a visit to Cuba to look in on then Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who was undergoing cancer treatment in Havana.

The Argentine president arrived here Friday, becoming the first head of state to arrive for the regional summit. The CELAC, established in December 2011 in Caracas, comprises 33 countries of the western hemisphere with the exception of the United States and Canada. Cuba took the bloc's rotating presidency in January 2013.

Xinhua



People gather around a damaged vehicle at the blast site in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 26 Jan, 2014. At least four people were killed and 14 wounded in the afternoon when three car bombs detonated almost simultaneously in separate neighborhoods in the city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

XINHUA

Israeli left-wing politicians slam PM over settlements

JERUSALEM, 27 Jan — Israeli left-wing politicians on Sunday slammed a hawkish speech given by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Davos on Friday in which he said he would not evacuate any settlements. Netanyahu, who had previously pledged his commitment to the two-state solution, spoke at a press conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos that he does not intend to evacuate a single settlement, adding "I do not intend to uproot a single Israeli."

One of the key demands of the Palestinians amid the peace talks with Israel, which started in July after a three year halt due to Israel's expansion of its West Bank and east Jerusalem settlements, is that Israel withdraws from the occupied West Bank territories it annexed and settled following the 1967 Mideast War, while it would keep its control on major settlement blocks.

Left-wing Labor party leader and head of the Israeli opposition in parliament,

MK Yitzhak Herzog, said on Sunday that Netanyahu is "dissolving the negotiations with the Palestinians."

"Netanyahu is bringing us towards a dangerous dead end," Herzog told Israel Radio. "The reality obligates us to make crucial decisions now and not leave them for future generations, as is implied by Netanyahu's words," he added.

Head of the left-wing Meretz party MK Zehava Galon wrote on her Facebook page that "Netanyahu is the settlers' partner." "Netanyahu insists on settlements and on security arrangements with minor security benefits, which is against the great strategic gain Israel would get out of signing a peace agreement with the Palestinians," she added. US Secretary of State John Kerry, who has pushed forward the talks between Israel and the Palestinians, is interested in producing a framework proposal to advance the peace talks towards an interim agreement in the upcoming weeks.—Xinhua

Syrian forces re-open key freeway after intense clashes

DAMASCUS, 27 Jan — Syrian troops on Sunday re-opened the freeway that connects the capital Damascus with the southern province of Daraa after intense clashes with the rebels, local media reported. The rebels attacked the freeway over the past 24 hours and intense clashes erupted with army forces, the report said, adding that the rebels' attack aimed at cutting off the freeway and taking some positions there.

However, the rebels' attempt was rendered flat and the military re-opened the road for the civilians after securing it on Sunday morning. Meanwhile, the oppositional Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Sunday that 16 rebel fighters were killed in the northern province of al-Raqqa and the eastern Deir al-Zour province as a result of the battles between the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front and armed Kurdish militias known as YPG.

The observatory also

claimed that 13 others were killed in the northern province of Aleppo as a result of the government troops' shelling on al-Salheen neighborhood. The violence in Syria has been persistent since the eruption of Syria's crisis in 2011. The Syrian government and a delegation of the Syrian opposition are currently holding meetings in Geneva to try to hammer out a political solution to the long-standing conflict that has killed over 130,000 people.—Xinhua



Police and government officials attend funeral ceremony of policemen killed in terrorist attacks in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 26 Jan, 2014. At least six policemen were killed and another was injured Saturday night in two different terrorist attacks in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, local media reported.—XINHUA

Chinese, French presidents vow to deepen ties

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart Francois Hollande pledged on Monday to work together to deepen bilateral relations. The two leaders exchanged congratulatory messages to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties.

On 27 Jan, 1964, late Chairman Mao Zedong and General Charles de Gaulle took the historic decision to establish diplomatic relations, which heralded a new era in China-Europe relations, Xi noted in his congratulatory message. As

permanent members of the UN Security Council, both China and France are countries with independent spirit as well as major forces in promoting world multi-polarization, economic globalization and the democratization of international relations, said the Chinese president.

He said the sound, stable and long-term development of China-France relations is in line with the fundamental interests of the two peoples and also conducive to world peace and development. China highly values its relations with France, and is willing to take the 50th anniversary

of their diplomatic ties as a good opportunity to lift their relations to a higher level, Xi said.

Hollande, for his part, said that France was the first major western country to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with China, and General de Gaulle made the great decision because the two countries shared an unbending spirit of independence. China's unprecedented development over the past decades showed that his decision was quite visionary and far-sighted, Hollande added.

He said that independent

spirit, along with mutual respect and placing high value on sovereignty and multilateralism, constituted an unshakable cornerstone for China-France relations. China will play an increasingly important role in global affairs, he said, voicing hope that the two countries will strengthen their coordination in global issues and make concerted efforts to safeguard world multi-polarization and deal with various crises and global challenges in a bid to create new splendor in the development of bilateral ties.

Xinhua

WORLD



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro

Venezuelan president unveils crime-fighting strategy

CARACAS, 27 Jan — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Sunday unveiled a crime-fighting strategy, which includes the imminent launch of a national pacification plan and a state institute to aid vulnerable youth. Addressing a large gathering in celebration of the Movement for Peace and Life, Maduro urged his

political opponents to back his government's plan to reduce violent crimes in one of South America's most violence-wracked nations.

"It's true that violent crime is generated by poverty and inequality," said Maduro, "we have been building equality, eradicating poverty, (and promoting) education." Announcing that the plan

will be launched on 8 February, he called on all sectors to get involved by offering anti-crime proposals. The president also announced the creation of a national institute for the treatment of victims of violent crime.

Through such an institute, "we are going to guarantee that they (the victims) will continue to work, to

study. To the families who have left children behind, we will give scholarships (and) moral, spiritual, psychological support," said Maduro. The institute will also aid troubled families, many single-parent households, in which the children are vulnerable to criminal influences, said Maduro.

Xinhua

Israel says permanent deal with Iran will not succeed

JERUSALEM, 27 Jan — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that a permanent agreement between the P5+1 countries and Iran would not succeed, reiterating the hardline stance that the Israeli government has towards Iran's ongoing diplomacy campaign it views as "dangerous." Netanyahu made the comments during the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, upon returning from the World Economic Forum in Davos which was also attended by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

"Rouhani said in Davos that he is in favour of acknowledging all the states in the Middle East, but refused to answer questions about recognizing the state of Israel," Netanyahu said, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. "He also said that Iran would not dismantle its centrifuges. The meaning of his statements is that if Iran continues to persist in this policy, a permanent agreement, which is the objective of the diplomatic process with Iran, would not be able to succeed," the prime minister added.

Rouhani said in Davos on Thursday that Iran has no intention of producing nuclear weapons but insisted on using nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes. Last week, Iran started implementing its interim agreement with the P5+1 countries (the US, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany), which required it to dismantle centrifuges used to enrich uranium and halt the operation of several nuclear facilities.

Xinhua

US police identify gunman in mall shooting

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — Local police said on Sunday that they have identified the gunman in Saturday's shooting at a shopping mall in Columbia, Maryland, which resulted in the deaths of two store employees and the shooter himself.

The Howard County Police have tentatively identified the shooter as 19-year-old Darion Marcus Aguilar. It is believed that he died from a self-inflicted gun shot wound. A shotgun and ammunition were found near the shooter.



People are evacuated from Columbia Town Centre Mall after three people were killed in a shooting in the mall in Columbia of Maryland, United States, on 25 Jan, 2013. — XINHUA

The two dead employees were Brianna Benlolo, 21, and Tyler Johnson, 25, according to the police. No additional information can be released at this time about the suspect or the weapon, the police said. And the motive in the shooting is still unknown.

A search of the shooter's bag found inside the store revealed two crude devices that appeared to be an attempt at making explosives using fireworks, the police said.

And the mall, with about 200 stores, remained closed on Sunday for safety reasons. Five victims with minor injuries were transported to Howard County General Hospital and detectives are still investigating the crime scene.

Xinhua

US carries out air strike in Somalia targeting militant suspect

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — The US military carried out a missile strike in Somalia on Sunday targeting a suspected militant leader with ties to al-Qaeda and al-Shabaab, a US military official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. The strike took place in southern Somalia, the official said, without offering further information, including the identity of the suspect or whether the strike

was believed to have been successful.

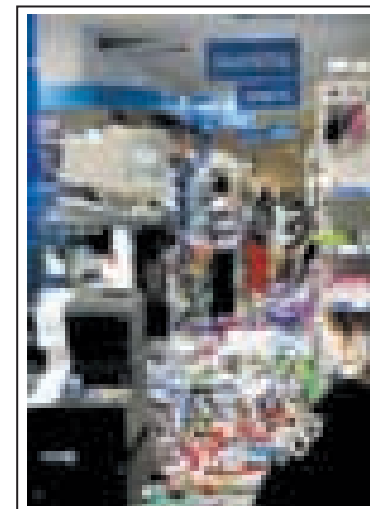
Another US official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the operation took place in a remote area near Barawe, Somalia. Barawe, a militant stronghold on Somalia's southern coast, was the site of a failed raid by American commandos in October targeting a militant known as Ikrima. The US forces pulled out after a gun battle without

capturing Ikrima, described as a planner and operator who has relentlessly plotted attacks on neighbouring Kenya.

Al Shabaab has been weakened by African Union troops over the past two years, ushering in some stability in many parts of the Horn of Africa country after a campaign of cross-border raids and kidnappings of Westerners and security forces.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 15 Dec, 2013 shows Nobuyoshi Ito, who describes himself as an "apprentice farmer," holding a dosimeter in front of snow-covered bags containing earth and sand resulting from decontamination work in the village of Iitate, Fukushima Prefecture.

KYODO NEWS



Workers arrange goods in a supermarket in Cephalonia, Greece, on 26 Jan, 2014. The 5.8-magnitude earthquake that jolted the western Greece island of Cephalonia on Sunday caused no casualties but just material damages, according to initial information issued by local authorities.

XINHUA

Iranian officials dismiss Kerry's nuclear remarks

TEHERAN, 27 Jan — Iranian officials have downplayed the recent remarks by US Secretary of State John Kerry on Iran's nuclear programme and threatened to target US interests if the Islamic republic is attacked.

The remarks by Kerry are a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham was quoted as saying by local media on Sunday.

"These remarks are undiplomatic" and have been made under the pressure of the opposition to Iran's recent nuclear deal with the world powers, Afkham was quoted as saying by Press TV. On Friday, Kerry said if Iran does not intend to pursue nuclear weapons, it should prove this in practice and demonstrate that its nuclear programme was peaceful. "Iran must accept extensive verification, abandon plans to build a heavy-water reactor that can produce plutonium, and resolve longstanding concerns by the International Atomic Energy Agency," media quoted him as saying.

Also, Kerry said on

Thursday that the military option was still on the table if Iran did not live up to its nuclear commitments under the Geneva deal it signed with the six world powers in November.

In the meantime, Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) chief commander dismissed Saturday what he called US threat of military action against Teheran over its controversial nuclear programme, Press TV reported. Major General Mohammad-Ali Jafari called the threat "ridiculous" and said wise US politicians would not keep the option on the table, admonishing Kerry to stop repeating "bankrupt strategies such as the use of military power."

The interests of the United States in the region will be completely destroyed in case of any military attack against Iran, Press TV quoted another senior Iranian commander as saying on Saturday.

Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri, the deputy chief of the Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, said that the US government knows that the military option against Iran is not practical.

Xinhua

Study suggests kids should unplug before sleep

NEW YORK, 27 Jan — Kids who regularly plugged into social networking sites before bedtime reported sleeping nearly an hour less on school nights than those who rarely connected online, a new study shows. “Using technology in the bedroom may result in sleep loss, delays in initiating sleep, daytime sleepiness and more,” the study’s lead author, Teresa Arora, told *Reuters Health* in an email. “In turn, this may affect daytime performance, particularly at school,” Arora, from Weill Cornell Medical College in Doha, Qatar, said.

The researchers found kids ages 11 to 13 slept significantly less when they frequently communicated on a cell phone, surfed the Internet, played video games, watched television, listened to music and even if they used a computer to study before hitting the sack. Social networking was associated with the biggest loss of sleep. Those who said they usually connected to friends online before getting into bed reported sleeping the least — an average of 8 hours and 10 minutes a night — compared with 9 hours and 2 minutes among those who never connected.

Earlier studies have linked sleep deprivation to obesity, depression, difficulty regulating emotions and lower grades. A Chinese study published last month found staying up late may raise teens’ blood pressure. For the current study, the researchers analyzed surveys on sleep and technology habits completed by 738 students at seven randomly selected schools in the Midlands region of England in 2010. Kids who frequently viewed TV before bed were four times more likely to report waking up several times during the night than non-viewers, and



Kids should unplug before sleep

frequent social networkers were three times more likely to wake up a lot. Kids who regularly played video games or listened to music at bedtime had significantly more difficulty falling asleep, the researchers reported in *Sleep Medicine*.

Teenagers’ sleep schedules naturally tend to

shift as a result of feeling alert later at night and having trouble falling asleep. But technology may worsen the tendency to burn the midnight oil, Arora and her colleagues wrote. The findings came as no surprise to Dr Nanci Yuan, medical director of the Sleep Centre at Lucile Packard Children’s

Hospital in Palo Alto, California. She was not involved in the new study. “The advent of technology has made every age group, but especially teenagers, have difficulties with their sleep,” Yuan, who also studies sleep disorders at Stanford University, told *Reuters Health*.—*Reuters*

Tavares could take helm of Peugeot in March

PARIS, 27 Jan — Carlos Tavares could take over as chief executive of PSA Peugeot Citroen PEUP. PAP in March, two sources close to the situation said. Tavares, the former second in command at rival Renault (RENA.PA), joined the loss-making French carmaker as CEO-in-waiting on 1 January.

Peugeot, which is in talks on a capital injection from the French government and China’s Dongfeng Motor Co (0489.HK), had previously only said that he would take over from current boss Philippe Varin sometime this year. “Some observers had thought Tavares could take

over by 19 February when Peugeot announces its annual results. That was the plan ... but Philippe Varin wants to remain in his post until the Chinese president visits France in March,” said one of the sources.

“Given that Varin played an important role in the Dongfeng deal, it is completely possible that the replacement can wait until March,” the source said. A spokesman for Peugeot declined to comment. Peugeot Chairman Thierry Peugeot told *Le Figaro* newspaper in an interview published on Saturday that the board would soon decide on the official date of the CEO transition. Peugeot’s



Carlos Tavares poses after the company’s First-Half 2013 results presentation in Boulogne-Billancourt, near Paris in this 26 July, 2013 file picture. — REUTERS

board has agreed in principle to a capital increase that would see the Chinese state-owned carmaker and French government acquire minority stakes and the founding family cede control, sources familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The company is look-

ing to raise 3 billion euros (\$4.1 billion) in a deal with Dongfeng, after unveiling a further 4.9 percent decline in global vehicle deliveries for 2013. Peugeot has said it needs fresh funding to stay competitive amid slumping car sales in its core European market and is also seeking to deepen its relationship with Dongfeng, with whom it already has a joint venture.

Reuters

Nestle to spend \$1 billion on new factories in Mexico

LONDON, 27 Jan — Nestle plans to invest \$1 billion in Mexico over five years, building two new factories and expanding a third in its sixth-biggest market, it said on Friday.

The world’s No 1 food maker said it would build an infant nutrition factory in Jalisco and a pet-food factory in Guanajuato, as

well as expanding an existing cereal factory. The investment would create 700 direct jobs, Nestle said.

The Mexican factories will produce goods for the wider region. For example, about 40 percent of the output from the baby food factory will be exported to Latin America and the Caribbean. — *Reuters*



Boxes of baby food are seen in the company supermarket at the Nestle headquarters in Vevey on 16 Feb, 2012. — REUTERS

Buyers’ market for oil companies in Davos



Christophe de Margerie, chairman and chief executive of Total attends a session at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on 25 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 27 Jan — Oil executives normally travel the world to win big contracts — but rarely do government officials travel the other way. This week in Davos, however, some of the most powerful oil CEOs gathered on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum and were presented with an embarrassment of riches.

While the appearance of Iran’s new president and oil minister in front of the heads of BP (BP.L), ENI (ENI.MI), Total (TOTF.PA) and Lukoil (LKOH.MM) made most headlines, the executives also heard presentations by officials from Canada, Mozambique and Mexico.

The head of BP (BP.L) Bob Dudley drew a simple

conclusion: “It just shows how big the shifts are in the industry.”

Oil prices peaked at \$147 a barrel in 2008 amid growing fears that the world was running out of oil. Five years on, oil is considered plentiful thanks to the US shale oil revolution and the discovery of massive oil and gas fields elsewhere.

Some executives are beginning to talk about an easing of resource nationalism, one of the hottest topics in the industry over the past decade as countries such as Russia and Kazakhstan became increasingly assertive about developing their reserves themselves.

“Today a number of countries which have huge reserves of oil and gas begin to say that they need investments to develop them,” said the head of Lukoil Vagit Alekperov.—*Reuters*

Detailed exams might benefit older cancer patients

NEW YORK, 27 Jan — Older people with cancer who seem to be coping well with the disease might still earn poor health scores when examined by a geriatrician, according to a new analysis of past studies.

The review focused on older people with leukemia and lymphoma. The findings suggest detailed examinations of those patients provide a better, more nuanced picture of their health for oncologists making treatment decisions, researchers said. “Most of what we know about treating cancer comes from research that

was done in young, fit patients,” Dr Marije Hamaker wrote in an email to *Reuters Health*.

Hamaker, a geriatrician at Diakonessenhuis, a hospital in Utrecht, The Netherlands, led the new review. “It is incorrect to assume that what is best for a younger person will also be best for someone who is older,” Hamaker said. She and her team reviewed 18 published studies that looked at geriatric assessments among people with blood and bone marrow cancers.

Those patients were 73 years old, on average. The

researchers found that patients who scored well on a simple health scale tied to daily activities were actually struggling in other areas especially relevant to the elderly, like cognitive function, depression, social environment, nutrition, medication interactions and frailty.

Ten of the studies examined relationships between geriatric assessment scores and death. They showed poor physical performance measured at a clinic and worse nutrition were consistently linked to a higher chance of dying early.—*Reuters*

In remaining Government's ...

(from page 1)

During the past 30 months, the Government has undertaken four phases of reform process with momentum; namely political reforms, economic reforms, public administration reforms and private sector development reforms. Due to the first phase of political reform measures, favorable conditions for national reconciliation have been created and mutual understanding with the ethnic minority groups has been built in our country.

The second phase of economic and social reforms has been implemented with the people-centered approach. Due to these reform processes, we have achieved good socio-economic development outcome for our country. We have also achieved 7.3% GDP growth rate in 2012-2013 which exceeded more than projected growth rate of 6.7%. This is one of the tangible results of economic development achieved through successful cooperation and collaborations among the State, our People and our development partners.

We have also undertaken public administrative and management reforms at the third stage of our reform processes. It is being conducted in order to reduce central control, to improve administrative capacities of local governments and to encourage participation of local populace in public administration systems, management practices and decision making processes.

As the fourth phase of reform, measures for private sector development are already under implementation now. In this respect, greater importance is attached to improving rules, regulations and laws governing economy, trade, and investment, and logistical and institutional infrastructure. All reform measures in these four areas are being pursued with an inclusive and participatory approach, with greater transparency and sense of accountability.

Currently, Myanmar has started attaining its development though much more remains to be done to keep abreast of other countries and reach international standard. In the remaining 26 months of our Government's term, we will focus on the seven priority areas and implement projects and programmes that will directly benefit our people, namely electricity, water supply, agriculture sector development, employment creation, tourism development, financial development, and trade and investment development.

In the past, we have relied only on the state budget for the development of our country. Now, we can also count on other sources of finance such as foreign aid, loans, and domestic and foreign investments, and by mobilizing these resources, we have been trying to implement sectoral and regional development programs and projects effectively. Therefore, we would like to welcome and invite all development partners to closely cooperate with us in accordance with the commitments made under Nay Pyi Taw Accord for the socio-economic development of Myanmar.

Year 2013 is a very encouraging year in the history of Myanmar's state building and development endeavors. All the significant outcomes are in fact achieved with our collective efforts, and through cooperation among the State, our People and our development partners.

Especially at this period of re-engaging with the international community while the country has been taking comprehensive reforms measures, Myanmar successfully hosted many international events including 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in 2013, 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia, 1st EU-Myanmar Task Force Meeting and Myanmar Global Investment Forum.

The progress and development of cooperation in political front include building of national reconciliations, release of all political prisoners, ending conflicts with restoration of lasting peace to ensure political stability and greater unity among nationals. These results are the fruits of people-centered-development approach and collaboration with international community. In promotion of socio-cultural cooperation in the region, 27th Southeast Asian Sea Game was successfully held again in Myanmar after 40 years. We acknowledge that technical assistance and support from development partners play an important role to make this event a success.

Besides, encouraging development in the context of cooperation with international community include lifting of



President U Thein Sein cordially greets participants of Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum.—MNA

sanctions imposed by EU, Europe and Australia in 2013, and becoming beneficiary of the Generalized Systems of Preference (GSP) from these countries. Myanmar also became a member of the New York Convention last year which paves the way for closer cooperation with the countries of the world.

To maintain and accelerate the momentum of these development processes, the theme of this year's Forum is chosen as "Accelerating Actions for Progress through Enhancing Inclusive Coordination". I firmly believe that we will accelerate our progress with actions; we will achieve tangible results and outcomes through enhancing coordination between the government and development partners, and making our development cooperation to become more inclusive process. Myanmar has projected 9.1% GDP growth rate for the fiscal year 2014-2015. In order to achieve this targeted growth rate, we will systematically manage and utilize development aids and concessional loans, technical assistance, attract local and foreign investment which will support the development of our country. The Government has formulated first five-year national development plan as well as Myanmar Comprehensive Development Plan. I believe that this will help our Development Partners to better align their aids, supports and assistance with the country's development priorities and plans, to continue cooperating with the Government in our reform processes and make their development aids more effective.

We, as the government in the driver's seat, have been making efforts to effectively utilize international support and assistance and ensure them focus on our priority sectors and areas, and to fulfill international commitments such as achieving Millennium Development Goals. In addition, we will give priorities to activities that will contribute towards the progress and development of the country, and attach greater importance to effective utilization of development partners' support and assistance. Therefore, development partners also need to share the information related to their priority programs and projects on a regular basis, and to make regular consultations with the government on the country's development priorities. This will ensure the development assistance more effective and adhere to the commitments made in Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation. We would like to encourage our development partners to work hand in hand with the government, with your continued spirit of cooperation, to support our country's reform process and help to achieve development effectiveness in Myanmar.

Starting from 1st January 2014, Myanmar took the responsibility of ASEAN Chairmanship for one year term. During this year, as the Chair of ASEAN and as a responsible member of international community, Myanmar will seriously play its role with comprehensive approach in dealing with all the matters related to ASEAN, East Asia, and Asian and Global affairs.

In conclusion, I would like to express, on behalf of the Government of Myanmar and our 60 million people, my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciations to all the development partner countries and organizations, UN agencies and

local and international non-governmental organizations for their continued support and assistance to respective priorities and targeted groups in our country's state building efforts and development processes and goals. I would like to invite all stakeholders including our development partners to work hand in hand with the Government, and further cooperate and collaborate with us for the future development of our country.

Next, World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim delivered a speech. He said:

The World Bank Group is now and will be in the future a strong partner with the government of Myanmar as its bold steps towards achieving a democracy dividend for all.

We will substantially increase the World Bank Group support for Myanmar in the coming years, through a multi-year public and private sector investment program of around US\$ 2 billion. At the same time, we will work with the government and communities as partners, and help build more effective transparent and accountable national institutions.

The funding will help us ramp up work in three areas that are closely aligned with Myanmar's priorities: energy, health and agriculture.

That's why, over the next five years, we are seeking to invest US\$ 1 billion in Myanmar's power sector as seventy percent of Myanmar's people lack access to electricity. Investing in Myanmar's electricity potential will not only improve the lives of its citizens but it will also create a better business environment and that in turn will create jobs.

My second point is that investments in infrastructure and in people need to go hand-in-hand. Investing in people's health can bring strong economic returns not just for families, but for country. One dollar invested in health could return anywhere from 9 dollars to 20 dollars. This is good news for Myanmar because of the country's ambitious target of achieving universal health coverage by 2030. We strongly endorsed this target, as do many development partners. Donors have committed to a combined US\$ 800 million for the next three to four years. The World Bank Group plans to invest US\$ 200 million to support the government's efforts to achieve universal health coverage.

My third point is about agriculture that accounts for 43 percent of GDP, generates about 54 percent of employment, and provides livelihoods to more than 70 percent of the population. Despite natural advantages of abundant land and water, productivity is low, and that is a problem, the government, with help from its partners, can fix. Rural electrification should be a great boost to the country's millions of farmers. And improvements in access to quality health care also should increase the production of farms because it will improve the health of so many.

Then, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane extended greetings. A video presentation featuring the ongoing political, economic and social reforms in Myanmar was presented to those present. Afterwards, the President posed for documentary photos together with those present. The Forum continues tomorrow.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets WB President, UN Under-Secretary-General



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with President of the World Bank Dr Jim Yong Kim.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received President of the World Bank Dr Jim Yong Kim and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Both sides discussed World Bank's assistance for the development of Myanmar, the aid of WB to the people of Myanmar, plans of WB to provide US \$ 2,000 million for Myanmar within coming three years and more assistance in future, and cooperation in energy, health and agriculture sectors.

President U Thein Sein met Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at the same venue at 4 pm today.

They had cordial discussions on provision of technical assistance for de-

velopment of agricultural sector of Myanmar by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, further assistance for development of Myanmar, effective implementation of reform processes and ensuring trust of international community for successful implementation of reforms among challenges.

Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Khin Maung Soe, Dr Pe Thet Khin, U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials also attended the meetings. The President of the World Bank was accompanied by Vice President Mr Axel Frans Boudewijn Van Trotsenburg, Vice President of International Finance Corporation (IFC) Ms Karin Margaret Finkelston and officials.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 28 January, 2014

Change our mindset

Our country sees a series of reforms in all sectors since the current government took office. As we know, any change or reform or transition has to face the difficulties and challenges more or less. It doesn't matter whether or not the reform is either the top-down or bottom-up.

The key point is to see any changes and development in every part of the organizations. The country has suffered the evil consequences of decades-long conflicts. And it had lacked transparency, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly for many years. We all must try to become reform-minded ones. Without it, our reform would not meet with success. To change our mindset depends on inner minds of each and every citizen. Individuals must have desires to change their mindset.

In practice, it is an uphill battle because it is directly related with individual minds. And the old practices are deeply rooted in the societies. Changing our mindset is a long way to go. Bribery and corruption is one of the country's problems. In an effort to combat it, the heads of the organizations should be the role models for their followers. And there should be incentives, favorable worksite and fairly-good salary etc. Another point is that severe actions should be taken against those who commit the corruption and bribery cases. Corrupt persons should think that bribery and corruption is a shameful act for him or her as well as for their families.

Being a resource-rich country, Myanmar is likely to become a next Asian tiger. All our people should keep in mind that the country's development would far away unless there is mindset change. Let's change our mindset.

Public announcement for remonstrance

1. The Rakhine Nationalities Party headquartered at No. 393 on the main street of Lanmadawtaung Ward, Sittway Township, Rakhine State, on 27-1-2014 submitted application to register as political party under the Article 5 of Political Parties Registration Law. In its application, it is mentioned that the parties will use its name, flag and seal described hereunder.
2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

Union Election Commission

Flag of the Rakhine Nationalities Party



Seal of the Rakhine Nationalities Party



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Myanmar Investment Commission Notification No.2/2014 9th Waning of Pyatho, 1375 ME (24 January, 2014)

Under Section 56 (b) of the Foreign Investment Law, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has issued the following announcement for application processes by foreign investors after exercising the rights vested.

1. Investors and applicants need to clearly know MIC's permit processes as there is widespread news that getting the greenlight from the MIC has cost those applicants a lot of money.
2. The MIC's application processes are as follows:
 - (i) Investor or founder is to fill in designated proposal form.
 - (ii) The proposal form is to be submitted by the applicants to MIC Office (Nay Pyi Taw) or Yangon (Branch). And MIC's staffs scrutinize the documents applied.
 - (iii) The proposals are discussed at Proposal Assess-

ment Team (PAT)'s meeting which is monthly held in Nay Pyi Taw.

- (iv) After PAT's meeting, the MIC replies to the applicants whether they accept or reject it.
 - (v) Regarding the approved proposal, the MIC seeks the views from respective Region/State governments and respective ministry.
 - (vi) Then, these proposals are discussed at the MIC's meeting in which the investors and founders are allowed to attend.
 - (vii) The go-ahead is given to the investors or founders after the meeting has reached an agreement.
3. All applicants are requested not to pay services charges and other charges in processing the documents described in paragraph 2.
 4. For more information, contact the following persons: Director-General (067-406121), Deputy Director-General (067-406342), Director (Foreign Investment Department) (067 -406334) and Director (Myanmar Citizen Investment Department) (067-406139).

(Win Shein)
Chairman

Senior Level Officials Management Course launched

YANGON, 27 Jan— Management Course No. 2 was successfully introduced today at the Central Institute of Civil Service



Chairman of UCSB U Kyaw Thu delivers address at Senior Level Officials

Management Course No. (2).—MNA

(Phaunggyi).

U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board delivered an inaugural speech. Present on the occasion were officials from UNDP, World Bank and Hanns Seidel Foundation.

A total of 49 trainees are attending the eight-week course to learn Politics, Economics, Sociology, Management, Law, National Defence and Security subjects.—MNA

Human resource development is vital for Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— Along with Myanmar's open-door economic policy and promulgation of investment laws, foreign investors were attracted to make investment in Myanmar. Edu-

discuss matters on materialization of valuable education system from various points of views.

"Most participants mainly discuss capacity enhancement programme. Pro-

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw...

(from page 16) parties, scholars, organizations and people, he added. He also pledged to formulate democracy and reform processes joining hands with the people.

Members of township development supportive committee reported on regional development tasks

and Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye made supplementary report.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw

Speaker Thura

U Shwe Mann speaking at the meeting

with locals in Shwebo.—MNA



Conference on Improving the Capacity of Myanmar's Human Resource in progress at MICC.—MNA

cation and work proficiency need to promote to attract investment in value-added and services sectors in Myanmar. So, promotion of human resource in Myanmar is not only economic growth but also sustainable development of the country.

Departmental officials and officials from Development Partners Agency discussed gap between basic education and technology and vocational education at Conference on Improving the Capacity of Myanmar's Human Resource at MICC today.

Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay expressed her opinion that human resource is vital for development of a country. The participants

motion of education system needs to enhance capacity of the staff. Human resource development concerns with freedom," said U Tin Maung Than, member of Myanmar Development Resource Institute.

Co-Chair Michael Hassett, Counsellor (Development Assistance) of Australian Embassy in Myanmar

Q: Normally conceptual approach of capacity building focuses on understanding the obstacles that deter people, governments, international organizations and NGOs from realizing their goals. So, what kind of obstacles we should find out and address as the first priority in Myanmar?

It's a good question.

The encouraging thing is that the Myanmar government is carrying out comprehensive education review. Essentially, it is taking a very structural approach to all parts of the education sector. To do so, we must analysis where the major barriers are for dissipation in education at all levels. And we will be able to come up with some sort of priority approach to address those barriers. So it's very difficult to say what the barriers are. What we are doing is working with the government to do comprehensive analysis of human resources development in this country. Through our analysis we must establish priorities. Some of the priorities will include improving access to

promised school. I mean ensuing people to have access to go to school and trying to improve the quality of the curriculum. Really, it's about access and the quality that are the major barriers at the moment to human resources development in Myanmar.

Q: You mean our education system should be change.

It should be improved. All education systems can be improved and Myanmar is not different to any other country. But really improving the quality of education is improving access for everyone in Myanmar. Not just the people who have resources to get to the school. But everyone should have the opportunity to go to school.—Myat Mon Htwe

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— A goodwill delegation led by Chief of Air Staff of Bangladeshi Air Force, Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, ndu, psc and wife arrived here by air this morning. Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint welcomed the Bangladeshi Chief of Air Staff at Zeyathiri Beikman. They took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it.

At Zeyathiri Beikman, they exchanged views on friendly relations between two air forces, holding bilateral talks and cooperation between the two air forces.

Myawady

World Bank President meets media persons

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— Asked what kind of measures the World Bank taken to monitor the success of the projects and how its funding were used for the projects by Ms Mary Wong of the Channel News Asia,

Dr Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, replied that the World Bank has highly safeguard in terms of following rules for impacts on environment, on local citizens and in terms of removing residents from one place to another.

"We also have very very strict rules for corruptions and we've done many things in the past to ensure battling corruptions effectively," Dr Kim said.

The most important was that the World Bank was highly confident to share these goals with the government and private sector as well.

Regarding the kind of electric power projects asked by Kyaw Thu of the Bloomberg, Axel Van Trotsenburg, Vice-President, East Asia Pacific Region, the World Bank, replied that regarding the National Electrification Plan, the World Bank was working together with the government to identify the different projects.

The World Bank Group had already approved one project yesterday to replace the existing gas turbine and the World Bank Group would also provide technical assistance to the government

to lay out programmes, he added.

The World Bank Group would like the government to make sure that the entire population of Myanmar to have access electricity next 15 or 17 years.

Asked by Nann Khin Htway of the Myanmar Times how the World Bank Group to settle the issue of displaced people in the areas due to projects, Dr Kim answered that there is no immediate plans for hydropower electric plants with the government.

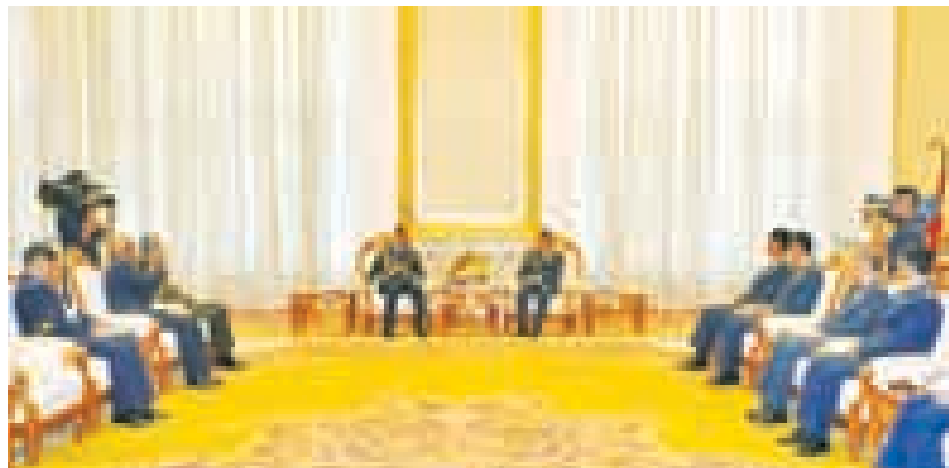
However, the World Bank Group believed that such abundant potentials to hydro electric power was in Myanmar and hydroelectric power had to be available for potentially options for Myanmar, he added.

The World Bank has a lot of experiences and has very strong safeguard system to ensure that hydroelectric power plants has minimal environmental impacts and also on people who are displaced in careful, compensated in a fair and good way, Dr Kim said.

Generally speaking, hydroelectric power has bright future in Myanmar, he added.

Aung Naing & Aye Min Soe

C-in-C (Air) welcomes Bangladeshi Chief of Air Staff



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Chief of Air Staff of Bangladeshi Air Force, Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, ndu, psc.—MYAWADY

Keeping momentum...

(from page 16) would be practical for those present, saying that only co-operation and collaboration of the government, civil society organizations and political forces could allow Myanmar to address all challenges.

"An outstanding success in 2013 was bringing all stakeholders to the ne-

gotiating table for achieving nationwide ceasefire. Building trust is key to moving towards peace. We saw remarkable progress in peace process. More trust in each other is needed for more progress," said Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, director of Myanmar Peace Centre.

Myat Thanda Maung

Landslide novitiation, ordination on grand scale in Pathein



PATHEIN, 27 Jan—Under the patronage of Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung and wife Daw Khin Htay Myint, the ordination and novitiation ceremony took place at Koethein Sports Ground in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 19 January.

A total of 100 monk-to-be and 1100 novice-to-be were in procession with the use of seven elephants, 20 horses, 20 carts and vehicles small and large flanked by over 2000 women and parents.

The procession ceremony was held on a

grander scale in Pathein on 18 January.

Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka

Landslide of Seikkyikyun prevented

SEIKKYI-KHANAUNGTO, 27 Jan—Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and party on 25 January inspected progress in prevention against landslides at the Seikkyi Cape at Shwe Yangon ferry jetty in Seikkyi-khanaungto Township of Yangon Region Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System under the Ministry of Transport.

The 160 feet long and 8 feet high gravel-filled retaining walls are being built along the river to Twantay canal.

More retaining walls will be built on both sides of Khanaungto Creek for prevention against bank erosion.—Kyemon-Than Htay (Dala)

Development of Dala Township discussed

DALA, 27 Jan—Chairman of Dala Township Development Committee Implementation Committee Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Hla Tun and party held a meeting at the hall of township on 24

January. Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vilasa and Zeyawuntha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nannobhasa initiated the men and boys to monkhood and novicehood respectively at Khanda ordination hall of Zeyawuntha Monastery in Myoyedwingon of Pathein on 19 January.

Wellwishers served the guests with meals at the pandal.

Kyemon-Pathein Hla Kyi



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

HRD

24 outstanding students honoured in NyaungU Township

NYAUNGU, 27 Jan—Local authorities, Headmistress U Hla Myint, teachers and members of Parent-Teacher Association of Basic Education Post-Primary School honoured 24 outstanding students who passed the examination, on 24 January.

Village administrator U Aung Kyaw Lin urged the students to try hard in their learning in competitiveness among them so as to uplift their education standard.

Officials presented prizes to the outstanding students. "We presented first, second and third prizes to each standards from KG to eighth grade after six monthly examinations had been held in 2013. Altogether 24 students from all grades of the school won the prizes. The winners were scrutinized by Headmaster U Hla Myint," said Daw Su Su Myint, an official of the school.—Kyemon-Kyaw Htay (NyaungU)

Crime

Illegal cattle traffickers arrested

SHWEDO, 27 Jan—Police of Shwedo Township arrested the suspects who trafficked cattle illegally on Mubaung Road in Taungtin Village of Shwedo Township, Sagaing Region, on 25 January.

The police from Shwedo Township Police Station and Shwedo District Special Crime Combating Squad together with witnesses arrested four suspects who illegally trafficked 11 cows worth K 2.1 million and

two carts.

The suspects were Htay Win Oo of Seiktha Village of Indaw Township, Kyaw Maung Lwin of Nakha Village of Indaw Township, Thein Htay of Taunggya Village in Sagaing and Po Thaung of Hse Village in Indaw Township.

Shwedo Township Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the suspects under the law.

Kyemon-Aung Phone Nyo (Shwedo)



allotted K 100 million for development tasks. So, the fund will be spent on two water supply tasks, 33 rural roads, two bridges, two education tasks, one health tasks and three fire prevention in the township, he added. He stressed the need to carry out the tasks

in line with the rules and regulations for achieving good results.

Present were Region Hluttaw MPs U Than Hlaing and U Htay Shein, township level departmental officials, local authorities and local people.

Kyemon-Than Htay (Dala)

REGIONAL

Advance voting cancelled in 89 Thai constituencies

BANGKOK, 27 Jan — Thailand's anti-government protesters on Sunday prevented 89 constituencies out of the total 375 nationwide from going through with the advance voting for the 2 February election. As a result, 440,000 people, or 22 percent of the 2 million who had registered to vote in advance, failed to cast their votes, Election Commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakorn was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying. Of the 89 constituencies, 33 were in the capital Bangkok and 56 in southern provinces, according to Somchai. Somchai said members of the Election Commission (EC) were worried that 2 February would see violence and chaos that might cause injury and death, just as what happened on Sunday.

Clashes occurred between protesters and pro-government supporters, resulting in the death of Suthin Tharathin, a core protest leader, and nine other injuries. It remains to be seen whether or not the government headed by caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will agree to defer the 2 February election as suggested by the EC and already endorsed by the Constitutional Court. The EC and Yingluck are expected to negotiate on the postponement later on Tuesday. The caretaker government will not postpone the election, deputy prime minister and foreign minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul said on Sunday.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 7 Jan, 2014 shows a green dragon sculpture in Osaka's Chuo Ward above a ramen shop in the Dotombori district, the first so-called "3-D" ad created by Masahide Nakamura, president of Popu Kougei Co. — KYODO NEWS

Vice Premier urges reforms in progressing modern agriculture

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang on Sunday urged authorities in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province to steadily construct an environment fit for modern agriculture.

Efforts should be coordinated and targeted at areas including standardization in allocating agriculture-related funds, development of big-scale farming, mechanism improvement for the pricing of farm produce, as well as innovations to agricultural businesses, he said.

Meanwhile, breakthroughs must be made in

rural finance and agricultural insurance, Wang said during his inspection tour Friday to Sunday to the province.

During his stay, the vice premier also urged local logistics companies to step up work in ensuring market supplies of fresh vegetables and other farm produce in the province ahead of the Spring Festival, which falls on 31 January.

Northeast China's Heilongjiang produces the most grain of any province, with its annual yield accounting for almost 10 percent of the national total.—Xinhua

US company to supply New Zealand air force pilot training system

WELLINGTON, 27 Jan — The New Zealand government announced on Monday it has awarded a contract for a new military pilot training system that will bring the New Zealand Defence Force into line with systems used in Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said the contract valued at 154 million NZ dollars (126.59 million US dollars) had gone to the US-based Beechcraft Defense Company. The package would include ground simulators, classroom and

computer based training packages to complement practical flying experience in 11 turbo-prop Beechcraft T-6C aircraft, which would be assembled in Wichita, Kansas.

"The new system is expected to be operational for the first trainee intake in early 2016. It is estimated it will produce up to 15 graduate pilots and 12 qualifying flying instructors per year over the next 30 years," Coleman said in a statement. Pilot training was currently conducted using single engine CT-4E Airtrainers and twin-engined turbo-prop King Air B200s,

but the service life of the CT-4Es was due to end in 2018, and the King Air B200s lease would expire in 2018.

The government was investing more than 2 billion NZ dollars (1.644 billion US dollars) into new and upgraded aircraft and helicopters for the New Zealand air force. This included upgrades of its C-130 Hercules and P-3 Orion aircraft, plus the purchase of five AgustaWestland A109 training/light utility helicopters and eight NH90 medium utility helicopters.

Xinhua

A young man, dresses as Monkey King, is seen at Beijing Railway Station on 25 Jan, 2014. The man, a student of Beijing Film Academy, is here to buy a train ticket to return his hometown in Henan Province. XINHUA



S Korea proposes inter-Korean family reunions be held on 17- 22 February

SEOUL, 27 Jan — South Korea on Monday responded to North Korea's offer to host another round of reunions of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War by proposing they be held on 17-22 February at the North's Mt Kumgang.

Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Eui Do said South Korea also

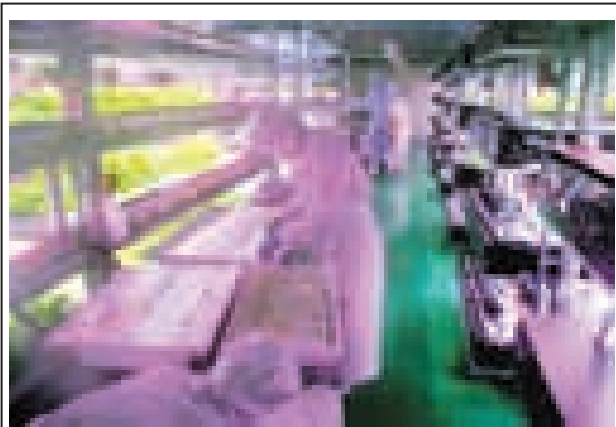
proposed that Red Cross officials of the two sides hold working-level talks on the matter on Wednesday at the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjeom. "We are looking forward to a positive response from the North," he told reporters.

North Korea on Friday offered to resume the family reunions, which were last held in late 2010, at Mt

Kumgang, a resort on its east coast near the border with the South, "at a convenient time" after the Lunar New Year.

Earlier this month, South Korean President Park Geun Hye had proposed the two Koreas hold the reunions around the Lunar New Year, which falls on 31 January.

Kyodo News



Workers go about their business in cultivating vegetables at a TJCreate plant factory in Itami, Hyogo Prefecture, on 23 Jan, 2014. The factory utilizes a new technology developed by Kobe Steel Ltd. to minimize pathogenic bacteria by coating its walls and floors with nickel-based alloy.

KYODO NEWS

Japan, Russia arranging to hold Abe-Putin talks in Sochi on 8 February

TOKYO, 27 Jan — Tokyo and Moscow are making final arrangements for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet for talks on 8 February in Sochi, a Japanese government official said on Sunday.

Moscow is also considering holding a luncheon especially for Abe after the meeting during the Japanese leader's trip to Russia to attend the 7

February opening ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics, the official said.

Abe is going to Sochi to demonstrate the importance that Japan places on its relations with Russia.

His presence at the Sochi Winter Olympics will be particularly significant as US and European leaders have decided not to attend the opening ceremony to protest anti-gay legislation enacted by

Russia last year.

Abe and Putin are expected to reaffirm their desire to expand economic ties between Japan and Russia and make progress toward resolving a long-stalled territorial dispute over Russian-administered islands off Hokkaido, the official said.

Tokyo and Moscow remain at odds over the sovereignty of islands called the Northern Territories in Japan and the

Southern Kurils in Russia.

The islands were seized by the Soviet Union in 1945 following Japan's surrender in World War II, and the row has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty.

Abe also intends to discuss with Putin Tokyo's hosting of the 2020 Olympics and to lay the groundwork for Putin's possible visit to Japan this year, the official said.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (159)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (159) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (034)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1010) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (837)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (837) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (125)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (125) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (359)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (359) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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NOTICE is hereby given that Taka-Q Co., Ltd. of 9-7, Itabashi 3-chome, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks: -

TAKA:Q
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The above four trademarks are in respect of: -

"leather and imitations of leather; goods made of these materials and not included in other classes, animal skin, hides; trunks and travelling bags; umbrellas and parasols; walking sticks; whips, harness and saddlery" - Class: 18

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Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U THAN WIN
for Taka-Q Co., Ltd.
by its Attorneys
ACTIP IP Limited
53-55, Maha Bandoola
Garden Street, Yangon
Dated: 28th January '2014

Ancient Chinese city bans fireworks

TAIYUAN, 27 Jan — Pingyao County in north China's Shanxi Province has banned fireworks in its ancient city conservation area to protect the wood and brick buildings, local authorities said on Monday.

The Chinese government is tightening fire controls at cultural heritage sites after a blaze at an ancient town in southwest China earlier this month. On 10 January, Dukezong in Shangri-la County of Yunnan Province, known for well-preserved Tibetan homes, lost nearly 300 houses, or two-thirds of the entire town, in the worst fire in its 1,300-year history.

The 2,700-year-old Pingyao, located 616 km southwest of Beijing, was listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1997. Pingyao is renowned for its 6.4-km-long well-preserved ancient city wall. The fireworks ban was issued ahead of the Chinese Lunar New Year, the nation's biggest holiday and a time when setting off fireworks is very popular.

Xinhua



Chen Shuxiang, a paper cutting folk artist, displays a greeting paper-cut about a horse fight in the picture taken on Sunday, on 26 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA

Paper-cut horse fighting artwork almost lost

BEIJING, 27 Jan — A paper-cut depicting a horse fight has recently been unveiled in the county-level city of Laizhou in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province, local news portal "shm.com.cn" reported on Sunday.

The paper horse's head, body and tail are connected by a messenger wire; upon pulling the wire, the horse will gallop.

According to Chen Shuxiang, the paper-cut artwork owner and himself a paper cutting folk artist, reveals that his collection of paper-cut art relating to fights between chickens, horses and monkeys, which used to be popular in the Ji-aodong area in Shandong, nearly get lost today.

The horse fight paper-cut Chen recently showcased had been collected from a local folk household by her friend Li Qiang, who is also a local folk paper-cut art master.—Xinhua

Fightings reported in S Philippine towns

COTABATO, (Philippines), 27 Jan — Sporadic fightings have happened in southern Philippines since the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed a document on normalization in Kuala Lumpur last Saturday. Hundreds of civilians in the southern province of Maguindanao evacuated to safer grounds, when government troops and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway sector of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), fought anew before dawn Monday.

BIFF spokesman Abu Misry Mama said the skirmishes started after government soldiers fired rounds of mortars toward their position at the Ganta village. Another fighting occurred in Sultan sa Barongis town, also in Maguindanao, on Sunday afternoon where a member of the BIFF group was wounded. In Pikit town, North Cotabato, a military operation on Sunday night against BIFF militants forced civilians to flee their homes in the village of Kabasalan.

The Philippines government and the MILF completed last Saturday all the four annexes of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, which will pave the way for the signing of a comprehensive agreement on the Bangsamoro. The government and MILF agreed to deactivate the MILF insurgent forces and end the conflict in Mindanao, which was however slashed by another political organization from which MILF separated.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



Lindsay has been linked with actor Liam Neeson's son Michael.

Lindsay Lohan says she is single

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — Actress Lindsay Lohan has denied dating rumours and insists that she is single at the moment.

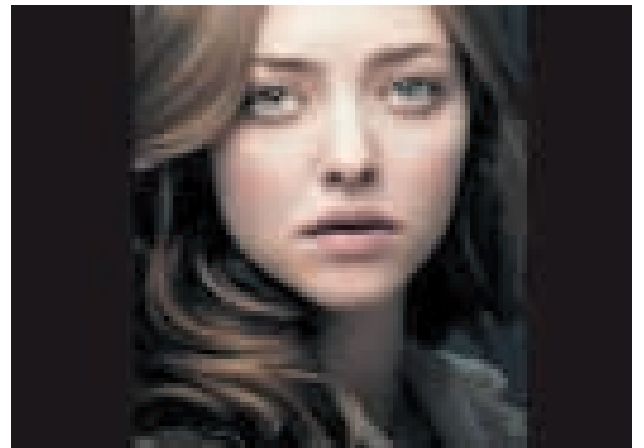
The actress, who was recently linked to model Christian Arno Williams, confirmed that she does not have a boyfriend, reports contactmusic.com

"I do not have a boy-

friend, that can be confirmed," Australian radio station KIIS 1065 quoted Lindsay Lohan as saying.

The actress, who has been seen in films like Mean Girls, Freaky Friday and Herbie: Fully Loaded, has also previously been linked with actor Liam Neeson's son Michael.

PTI



Amanda is currently dating actor Justin Long.

Amanda Seyfried wouldn't ditch dog for love

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — Actress Amanda Seyfried has said that she would be prepared to change her entire life for the right man, but she would never ditch her pet dog Finn.

The Lovelace actress, who is currently dating actor Justin Long, believes in true love and would be prepared to make many sacrifices for a man, reports contactmusic.com.

When asked if she'd

move her life for love, she said, "I would go anywhere to follow the man of my dreams. As long as I could bring Finn along! I would even exile myself to the countryside and become a housewife. "If I had to, I would give up my whole life, my job, everything, to be with him. At the same time, I hope I would never have to make that choice because I love my life the way it is."—PTI

Hugh Jackman: Between Australia and New York, get the best of both worlds

NEW YORK, 27 Jan — Actor Hugh Jackman believes he has got the "best of both worlds", splitting his time with his family between New York and Australia.

The Wolverine star lit New York's Empire State Building in green and gold for Australia Day, and says he's very happy that he, his wife, Deborra-Lee Furness and their children Eva, eight and Maximilian, 13, get to live there.

"Australia is our home. We've been there, but New

York has been our base for a while. We love living here, the opportunities are incredible, particularly for my job," contactmusic.com quoted him as saying.

"It means I can work internationally and still be at home a lot more. You know, we miss Australia a lot, but New York is a great city and it's a great place to bring your kids up. (And) we go back to Australia a lot. I shot three movies here (in the US) in the last five years, so we've been back there two-and-a-half

years in the last five years. Deb and I feel we get the



Hugh is happy that he can spilt his time equally between work and home.

best of both worlds," he added.—PTI

Lady Gaga asks her fans to support Justin Bieber

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — Singer Justin Bieber has been facing criticism from celebrities following his latest arrest. But Lady Gaga is an exception as she is asking her fans to support the controversial star and his fan base.

While Seth Rogen was very vocal in bashing Justin Bieber, the Born This Way singer has asked her 'little monsters' to support the Baby hitmaker, reports mirror.co.uk.

"Hey monsters. I know everyone today is taking about Justin's arrest

and all sorts of words and judgements are happening on the Internet. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and to stand up for themselves, but I think we should be supportive of Beliebers," Lady Gaga posted on a social networking site.

"They deserve, just like any other fan, to feel strong for each other and Justin so they can continue to share the bond they have through music. We may not understand everything celebrities do because there's only so much we see, but

Justin and Beliebers were 'born this way' too," she posted further.

Lady Gaga added, "Let's spread love and compassion to Beliebers today. That is what we are all about. Can you trend #MonstersSupportBeliebers?"

Justin Bieber was arrested on 23 January at a beach in Miami for drunk driving and drag racing, but he later walked out of jail on bail.

The legal drinking age in the state of Florida is 21. PTI



Lorde accepts the award for Best Pop Solo Performance for 'Royals' at the 56th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California January 26, 2014.

REUTERS

Lorde's 'Royals' wins song of the year Grammy Award

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — New Zealand teenager Lorde's "Royals" won the song of the year Grammy Award on Sunday, one of the annual award show's top prizes.

"Thank you to everyone who has let this song explode because it has been mental," Lorde said when accepting the award.

The prize handed out by the Recording Academy

in a televised ceremony from Los Angeles honors the writers of the song - Lorde, whose real name is Ella Yelich O'Connor, and Joel Little.

Reuters

Vidya Balan dedicates Padma Shri to family

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan — Named for the Padma Shri on Saturday, Bollywood actress Vidya Balan found herself "running out of words" to describe her "gratitude". The National award winning talent, who is "overwhelmed", has dedicated the fourth highest civilian award to her family.

"I'm thrilled. I'm overjoyed. I'm overwhelmed. I'm honoured. I'm humbled! I'm running out of words to express my feelings and



Vidya Balan says she is overjoyed by the honour

gratitude," Vidya said in a SMS to IANS.

"To be receiving this

honour from the government of my country is a matter of great pride for me and I dedicate this award to my family who make me, me," she added.

Vidya featured on the small screen entertainer Hum Paanch before taking baby steps into the big Bollywood world. She made her cinematic debut in 2005 with Parineeta, an adaptation of a 1914 eponymous Bengali novel. She then proved her versatility film after film.

Her strong presence and performance in films like Paa, Ishqiya, No One Killed Jessica and Kahaani have made her a sought after name in the Hindi film industry. Her most power-packed performance came in the form of The Dirty Picture, where her portrayal of southern sex siren Silk Smitha won her a best actress National award.

In 2012, she married Siddharth Roy Kapur, managing director of Studios, Disney UTV.—PTI



Lady Gaga has asked her fans to trend Monsters SupportBeliebers.

SPORTS

Chelsea give Mourinho perfect birthday gift

LONDON, 27 Jan — Jose Mourinho got the perfect birthday present when his Chelsea side beat Stoke City 1-0 in the FA Cup fourth round at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, Brazilian midfielder Oscar scoring the goal from a stunning free kick.

Chelsea, who have won the FA Cup four times in the last seven seasons, were made to fight for their place in the last 16, and should have won by a bigger margin after spurning a host of chances. Oscar and Andre Schurrle both hit the

post.

The winner came after 28 minutes when Oscar whipped in a brilliant free kick from 30 metres out which flew over the wall and high and wide of diving Stoke keeper Asmir Begovic.

In the day's early match, Sheffield United put their League One relegation worries aside and gave a battling performance to draw 1-1 with Premier League strugglers Fulham at Bramall Lane.

United, who played most of the second half



Chelsea's Nemanja Matic (R) challenges Stoke City's Marko Arnautovic during their FA Cup soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 26 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

with 10 men after skipper Michael Doyle was sent off, went ahead after 31 minutes when Chris Porter scored. Fulham equalised through Colombian Hugo

Rodriguez 15 minutes from the end.

The sides will replay will at Craven Cottage on February 4 for a place in the fifth round.—Reuters

Chelsea complete Salah signing

LONDON, 27 Jan — Chelsea have completed the signing of Basel's Egyptian winger Mohamed Salah, the Premier League club said on their website on Sunday. Salah has signed a five-and-a-half year contract with Chelsea and will wear the number 15 shirt.

"I'm very happy to sign for Chelsea, such a big club in the world. I hope I can make the Chelsea supporters happy and have a good career at the club for many years to come," Salah said in a statement.

Liverpool were also

keen to sign the 21-year-old who came to attention in England during last season's Europa League and Salah was a key figure in Basel's two Champions League group-stage wins over Chelsea in the current campaign.

Salah became Chelsea's second major signing of the January transfer window following the arrival of midfielder Nemanja Matic from Benfica. Spain midfielder Juan Mata has left Stamford Bridge to join Manchester United.—Reuters



FC Basel's Mohamed Salah

Bright gets cross spot for triple challenge



Australia's Torah Bright competes during the women's Snowboard Slopestyle Finals at the FIS Snowboard World Championships in Stoneham, Quebec, on 18 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan — Torah Bright will realize her ambition of becoming the first snowboarder to compete in all three events at a Winter Olympics next month after being awarded a spot in the snowboard cross race, the Australian Olympic Committee said on Sunday. The 27-year-old Australian had already qualified to defend the half-pipe title she won in Vancouver and compete in the slopestyle, a new event in Sochi where competitors perform tricks through a course of jumps and rails.

Her place in the cross event, where boarders go head-to-head in a race, was

dependent on other countries giving up quota places, though, and it was not until the weekend that her spot in the 24-strong field was confirmed. "I am thrilled and cannot wait to seize my moments in Sochi," Bright said in a news release.

"A year ago I started the journey where I dared myself to qualify for three snowboard events in the Olympics. This is an Olympic journey done my way."

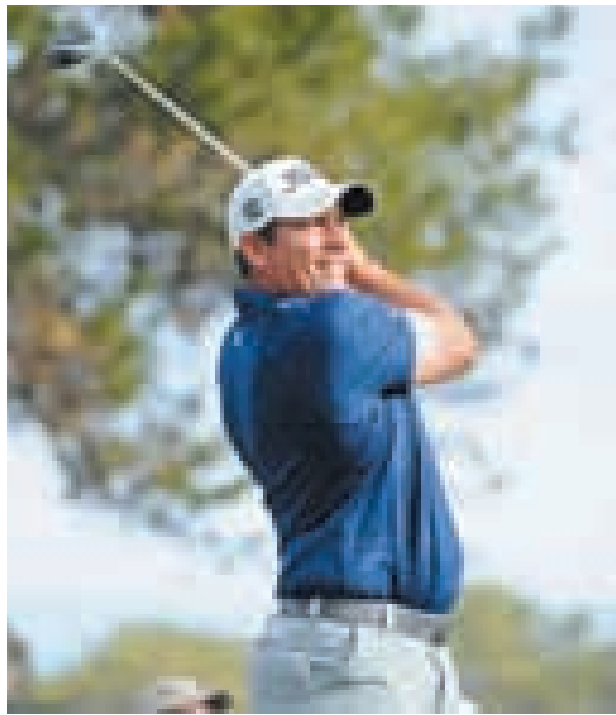
"More than anything it's about sharing the sport I love with the world. This has been a journey of exploring what is possible for me on my snowboard and challenging myself like never before. Today I can say that I realized that goal."

Bright, who comes from Cooma in the foothills of Australia's Snowy Mountains, was already an X-Games star before winning gold in her second Olympics four years ago.

She initially resisted the idea of competing in all three events when it was suggested by her coach and brother Ben, but embraced it at the start of last year before embarking on an arduous qualification schedule.

Reuters

Stallings triumphs by one shot at Torrey Pines



Scott Stallings tees off on the second hole during the final round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — American Scott Stallings birdied six of the last 11 holes to break clear of a tightly bunched leaderboard and clinch his third PGA Tour title by one shot at the Farmers Insurance Open outside San Diego on Sunday.

Stallings also held his nerve with clutch putts

for par at the 15th and 17th on the challenging South Course at Torrey Pines before two-putting for birdie at the par-five last for a four-under-par 68 and a nine-under total of 279.

"It's pretty cool," Stallings, 28, told CBS Sports after mixing seven birdies with three bogeys to earn the winner's cheque for

\$1.098 million. "It hasn't quite set in yet but it's nice to kind of hold up coming down the stretch."

"I drove it very poorly today. I hit some good ones coming down the stretch but hit a really bad drive at 17 and managed to make a really good par." Stallings, who won his maiden PGA Tour title in a playoff for the 2011 Greenbrier Classic before adding a second at the 2012 True South Classic, sank par putts from 14 feet at the 15th and six feet at the 17th to remain on course for victory.

He set up his birdie at the 18th with a four-iron from 225 yards but watched as his ball landed on the front portion of the green before rolling back to the fringe, with a pond lurking below. "I hit that four-iron as hard as I possibly could, and just tried to get it over the front (of the green). It barely stayed," Stallings said.

American Gary Woodland and Australian Marc Leishman, playing in the final group, had the chance to force a playoff over the last two holes but Wood-

land's title bid ended with a double-bogey on 17 and Leishman's when he failed to eagle 18.

Leishman's wedge from 100 yards ended up four feet from the cup and he settled for a birdie and a 71 to tie for second with compatriot Jason Day (68), South Korean K.J. Choi (66), Canada's Graham DeLaet (68) and American Pat Perez (70).

The long-hitting Woodland, who like Stallings had been seeking a third victory on the PGA Tour, covered his back nine in two-over to close with a 74 and finish joint 10th at six under.

Damp overnight and early morning conditions made the tough South Course a little more receptive to low scoring and Sunday's final round ended up as a birdie slugfest with 10 players holding at least a share of the lead.

By the time overnight pacesetter Woodland had reached the turn in the final group, 17 players were bunched within two shots at the top of a wildly fluctuating leaderboard.

Reuters

Balotelli booked for provoking Cagliari fans

MILAN, 27 Jan — Mario Balotelli could be in hot water again after he was booked for provoking Cagliari supporters after scoring against the Sardinian side in AC Milan's 2-1 win on Sunday.

Balotelli scored the equaliser from a 87th minute free kick at the end of the ground packed by Cagliari

fans and the *Gazzetta dello Sport* showed a photograph of the maverick forward making what it described as a "vulgar gesture".

The forward was booked for his celebration, became involved in an angry altercation with Cagliari players shortly afterwards and had to be calmed down by team mate Kaka.

"Supermario" has already served a three-match ban this season for insulting match officials and being sent off at the end of a match at home to Napoli.

If he is banned again, he could fall foul of Italy coach Cesare Prandelli's code of ethics and find himself dropped from their next match.—Reuters



AC Milan's Mario Balotelli

GENERAL

Barca keep Atletico at bay, Bayern back

LONDON, 27 Jan — Barcelona stayed top of La Liga on goal difference with a 3-0 win over Malaga as Atletico Madrid won 4-2 at Rayo Vallecano to stay hot on their heels.

Bayern Munich returned from the Bundesliga winter break to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach, Juventus dropped points for the first time in 13 Serie A matches and Monaco cut Paris St Germain's Ligue 1 lead to three points.

SPAIN

Real Madrid moved top when they beat Granada 2-0 on Saturday but comfortable wins for Barcelona and Atletico Madrid on Sunday restored the joint leaders' one-point advantage in La Liga after 21 matches.

Cristiano Ronaldo set Real on their way with the opening goal at the Bernabeu, the league's top scorer's 22nd of the campaign, and Karim Benzema added a second for Carlo Ancelotti's in-form side.

Barca coasted to a 3-0 home victory over Malaga thanks to goals from Gerard Pique, Pedro and Alexis Sanchez, and Turkey playmaker Arda Turan struck twice in Atletico's 4-2 success at Rayo Vallecano.

The leaders have 54 points with Barca ahead on goal difference. Real are lurking ominously on 53 and fourth-placed Athletic Bilbao have 42 after

thrashing Osasuna 5-1.

GERMANY

Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich picked up where they left off before

victory at Hamburg SV.

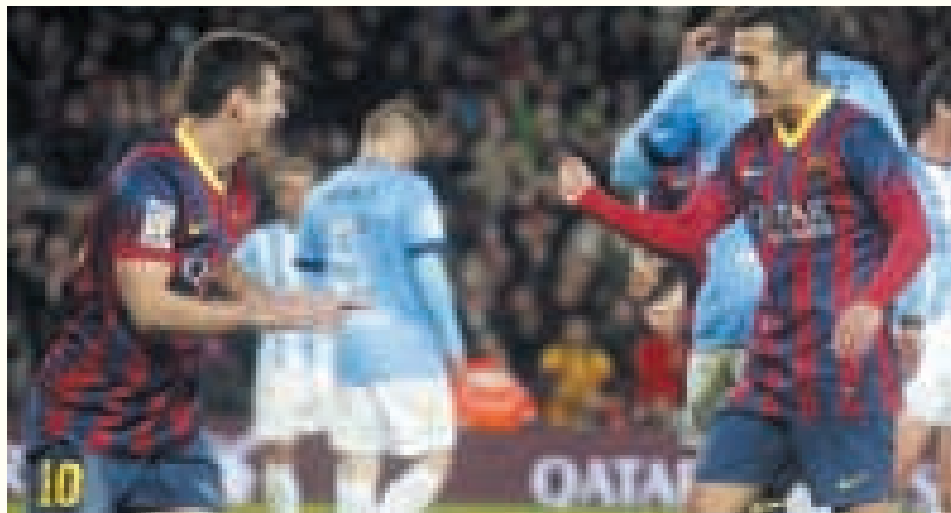
ITALY

Juventus missed out on their 13th successive Serie A win when they drew 1-1

Roma on 50 and Napoli 44 after a 1-1 draw at home to Chievo.

FRANCE

Paris St Germain's Ligue 1 lead was slashed to three points after they were



Barcelona's Pedro Rodriguez (R) and Lionel Messi celebrate a goal against Malaga during their Spanish first division soccer match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 26 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

the winter break, notching their ninth successive league win a 2-0 victory over Borussia Moenchengladbach to extend their lead to 10 points.

The Bavarians, unbeaten in their last 42 league games, are on 47 points with Bayer Leverkusen failing to keep pace and slumping to a 3-2 defeat by Freiburg to stay on 37.

Borussia Dortmund saw Augsburg twice battle back from a goal down and had to settle for a 2-2 draw at home which was enough to lift them to third on 33.

Schalke 04 moved up to fifth on 31 with Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scoring on his comeback after a five-month injury break in a 3-0

at Lazio after playing for more than an hour with 10 men.

Antonio Candreva put Lazio ahead from a 27th-minute penalty after Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was sent off for crashing into Miroslav Klose. But Juventus battled back to gain a point through Fernando Llorente's second-half header.

AS Roma cut Juventus' lead to six points with a 3-1 win at Hellas Verona, where Gervinho set up the first goal for Adem Ljajic and added the second. Roma stalwart Francesco Totti made the game safe by converting a late penalty.

Juventus have 56 points from 21 games, with

held to a 1-1 draw at En Avant Guingamp on Saturday.

Alex cancelled out Mustapha Yatabare's late opener to put PSG, who were without the injured Ezequiel Lavezzi and Thiago Silva, on 51 points from 22 matches.

Second-placed Monaco have 48 after goals by Valere Germain and Emmanuel Riviere earned them a 2-0 win at home against Olympique Marseille on Sunday, one day after their Colombia striker Radamel Falcao underwent knee surgery.

Lille drew 1-1 at home against Stade Rennes on Friday and stayed third on 41 points.

ENGLAND

Premier League high-fliers Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool reached the FA Cup fifth round where they will lock horns with each other in two mouth-watering clashes.

Arsenal crushed Coventry City 4-0, Manchester City came from 2-0 down to beat Watford 4-2 thanks to Sergio Aguero's hat-trick, Chelsea overcame Stoke City 1-0 and Liverpool won 2-0 at Bournemouth.

Manchester City host Chelsea and Liverpool travel to Arsenal in the last 16.

NETHERLANDS

A Lasse Schone goal handed Ajax Amsterdam a 1-0 win over Go Ahead Eagles allowing them to open up a two-point lead over Vitesse Arnhem.

Ajax moved to 43 points while Vitesse lost ground after a 1-1 home draw with NEC Nijmegen. Third-placed Twente Enschede stayed on 37 points after their game at Groningen was postponed because of an icy pitch.

GREECE

Olympiakos Piraeus continued their dominant form with a comfortable 2-0 win at Skoda Xanthi that leaves them unbeaten in 21 league matches this season. Having dropped only two points, they remain 11 clear of second-placed PAOK Salonica, who ran out 4-1 home winners over struggling Veria.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

28-1-14 07:00 am ~
29-1-14 07:00 am) MST

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- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
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- * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre (Hmawbi)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
- * Local News
- * Goldsmith
- * World News
- * Myanmar Street Food
- * Local News
- * A Diary of a Fisherman
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe
- * Local News
- * A Trip to Mon State
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product

US asks Japan to return plutonium exported during Cold War

TOkyo, 27 Jan — Washington has been pressing Tokyo to return over 300 kilograms of mostly weapons-grade plutonium given to Japan for research purposes during the Cold War era, Japanese and US government sources said on Sunday.

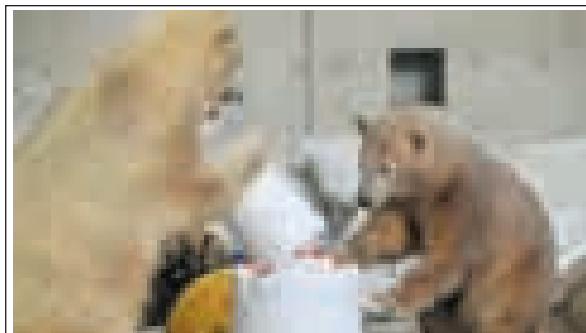
US President Barack Obama's administration, which is keen on ensuring nuclear security, wants Japan to return the plutonium supplied for use as nuclear fuel at a fast critical assembly in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, the sources told Kyodo News. The highly concentrated plutonium could be used to produce 40 to 50 nuclear weapons.

Japan has strongly resisted returning the plutonium, which it says is needed for researching fast reactors. But it has finally given in to repeated US demands, the sources said.

Since last year, Japan and the United States have been seriously discussing the matter, with Washington planning to forge an accord with Tokyo on the occasion of the third nuclear security summit in March in the Netherlands. To prevent nuclear materials from falling into the hands of terrorists, the US government has called for eliminating and minimizing the use of such materials. Since the first such summit was held in 2010 in

Washington at the initiative of Obama, the United States has been pressing Japan to return 331 kg of plutonium now kept at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's fast critical assembly, the sources said.

The facility, which attained criticality in 1967, is Japan's only critical assembly designed to study characteristics of fast reactors. Since some of the plutonium was manufactured in Britain, the United States is also asking the permission of Britain to transfer all of it to the United States, the sources said, adding the three nations are working out their policies on the matter, the sources said.—Kyodo News



Polar bear Miruku (R), 13 months old, receives a snow cake at Oga Aquarium Gao in Oga, Akita Prefecture, northeastern Japan, on 26 Jan, 2014, during a ceremony before her departure for a zoo in Hokkaido. At left is her mother Kurumi.

KYODO NEWS

Talent returns to China, but progress slow

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Returning from overseas and contributing his talent in high technology to help the country has been a long-cherished dream for Xie Meilong, but he found it has been no easy task.

"Many of our designs contain high technology that is new even in the United States," said the 48-year-old, who holds a master's degree in biotechnology. "But many companies feel reluctant to invest because of the

risk." He began studies in the US in 1992, and worked there after graduation as a researcher and then senior vice-president.

"Not only me, but many of my friends felt we needed to go back with our knowledge to start our own enterprises," he said, adding that about 20 had joined his team in 2011 to develop innovative products at a research and development center in the United States.

Of the more than 100 designs he brought back, the ones he hoped to expand first were products using 3D printing and a vegetable incubator with special lights. However, when he tried to find partners at trade fairs — whether in coastal cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou with frequent foreign trade companies or inland cities such as in Hebei province — they refused to take the risk.

Xinhua

Natural gas pipeline makes no environmental impacts

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee to re-hear Media Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo responded to the question about public safety concern over possible leaks of natural gas pipeline at the today's Pyithu Hluttaw session that supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system was installed to tackle the possible leak problems as quick as

possible, saying that there would be no environmental impacts of natural gas pipeline.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung answered the question about plans to build 100-bedded Nay Pyi Taw Traditional Medicine Hospital that works are being made to get a plot of land for construc-

tion of the hospital in 2014-2015 FY.

Two questions on energy sector and four on health sector were answered and a bill submitted at the today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw. The eight-day session will continue tomorrow.

A representative held discussion on Media Bill with amendments of Pyithu

Hluttaw at the today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw. The Speaker decided to re-hear the Bill by Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Regarding the proposal to take effective measures for youth development, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung said formation of the Ministry of Youth Development is not

necessary, pointing out that inter-ministry and inter-organization coordination and coordination between the ministries and the civil society organizations are taking place for youth development. He continued that formulation of youth policies is underway in cooperation with UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs and youth asso-

ciations. He added that formation of scout association, red cross societies, social, religious and sports associations, auxiliary fire brigades, youth network and parties, holding seminars and sports competitions, establishment of libraries and more universities and youth exchange programs have been allowed.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives World Bank President, meets locals in Shwebo

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received World Bank President Dr. Jim Yong Kim and party at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

They frankly exchanged views on progress of Myanmar's political reforms, World Bank's assistance for success of economic reform, ensuring necessary assistance for uplifting socioeconomic status and industrial sector development, further

development of electricity, communications, ICT and transportation sectors and provision of technical assistance for agriculture, education, health, banking and financial sectors.

Present at the call were Committee Chairmen U Aung Thaung, U Soe Tha, U Maung Maung Thein, U Hla Myint Oo, commission members and officials.

On 26-1-2014 the Speaker met members of township management committee, development supportive committee, po-

litical parties, townsenders and locals at Yangyiaung Hall in Shwebo.

In meeting with them, he highlighted responsibilities and undertakings of the Hluttaws, saying the Hluttaws have been striving for emergence of laws that are beneficial to the people.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is putting emphasis on constitutional amendment, national unity and national reconciliation at present. Joint Committee for Reviewing the 2008 Constitution has already been

formed in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for constitutional amendment with suggestions taking from political (See page 9)

Rakhine Nationalities Party applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the application for registration as political parties. Rakhine Nationalities Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC today.—MNA

Myanmar, Bangladeshi air forces to promote relations



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with a delegation led by Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, ndu, psc of Bangladesh Air Force.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, ndu, psc of Bangladesh Air Force at Zeyathiri

Beikman, here, this morning.

They cordially discussed bilateral relationship between two armed forces, cooperation between air forces of two countries and promotion of relations, and border affairs

between the two countries and regional issues.

After the talks, the Senior General and the Bangladeshi Chief of Air Staff exchanged commemorative medals and posed for documentary photo.

Myawady

Keeping momentum of political reform, peace and stability imperative while shaping a new political order in the country

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan—Union Ministers and representatives of development partners gathered in the second Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum, here, today to discuss development strategies for the future of Myanmar.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, who chaired the session, took part in the discussions on the development strategies for the fu-

ture together with Director-General U Tun Tun Naing of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein and Dr Zaw Oo, economic adviser to the President.

"Myanmar welcomes cooperation of development partners on the basis of mutual respect. The government will step up efforts assisting the Accord to bring more benefits to the people", Director-General U Tun Tun Naing said re-

garding the pledges made by government and development partners in Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development.

Likewise, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw said in his discussion that the government's highest priority during the recent year is to focus on all development programs with the use of international aid.

At the Strengthening Culture of Democracy and National session chaired by



Union Minister at President Office U Aung Min, Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing, director of Myanmar Peace Centre, said that formulation of the frameworks for achieving nationwide ceasefire and holding political dialogue, holding political dialogue and nationwide peace talks

and signing nationwide peace agreement are included in the roadmap for peace, development and national reconciliation.

"The main challenge for the peace process was failure to negotiate different views and to clear up misunderstandings. Today's progresses were brought about by mutual trust and understanding achieved in debates. It is high time to shape a new political order so that development under-

takings and nation-building endeavours will be able to go together. In order to present a democratic culture of our society to the world, we must maintain the momentum of political reform and peace and stability of the country while shaping a new political order", said Union Minister U Aung Min.

Presidential Adviser Dr Zaw Oo expressed his view that today's forum (See page 9)

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in progress.—MNA