

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office
Announcement No. (7/2014)**

8th Waxing Day of Pyatho, 1376 ME
(28 December, 2014)

**12th regular session of
first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw summoned**

It is here announced that in accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Sub-rule (b) of Rule 3 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, 12th regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been summoned to hold in Nay Pyi Taw at 13 hours on 15th Waning Day of Pyatho, 1376 ME, Monday (19 January, 2014).

Sd/ Thura Shwe Mann
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw
Announcement No. (3/2014)**

8th Waxing Day of Pyatho, 1376 ME
(28 December, 2014)

**12th regular session of
first Pyithu Hluttaw summoned**

It is here announced that in accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Sub-rule (b) of Rule 3 of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, 12th regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw has been summoned to hold in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 15th Waning Day of Pyatho, 1376 ME, Monday (19 January, 2014).

Sd/ Thura Shwe Mann
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw
Announcement No. (3/2014)**

8th Waxing Day of Pyatho, 1376 ME
(28 December, 2014)

**12th regular session of
first Amyotha Hluttaw summoned**

It is here announced that in accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Law, 12th regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw has been summoned to hold in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 15th Waning Day of Pyatho, 1376 ME, Monday (19 January, 2014).

Sd/ Khin Aung Myint
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

Thura U Shwe Mann delivers speech at farmers' rally

MAGWAY, 28 Dec — About 90 percent of problems faced by farmers will be solved when the law for protection and promotion of farmers' interests enacted in October 2013 takes effect, Thura U Shwe Mann, the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, said in his concluding remarks at a

rally of over 6,000 farmers in Magway Region held at the Kyaungtawya Grounds in Pwintbyu, Magway Region, on Sunday.

It can be seen from

today's discussions that farmers are still having a hard time and are facing challenges, he added, urging that the motion calling for the participation of the

public including farmers in efforts for development based on the rule of law and stability in the region and settlement of land disputes should be implemented as

a push for the democratic reform.

He said that motions calling for promotion of socioeconomic life of (See page 3)

Myanmar decides to push future timber demand to limit



A family-run furniture store in Tamway Township, Yangon, displays wooden furniture on sale.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 Dec — Despite an annual increase in both local and foreign consumption, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise has announced it will push the future timber demand to the limit set at 1.16 million tons a year.

The growing number of construction projects in the country is a major rea-

son for the increasing demand for timber, which is now used only for purposes of decoration and furniture production, Deputy General Manager U Win Naing told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

He said logging in the

previous financial year totaled 925,050 tons, adding the ministry has earmarked its annual production for this year at 730,000 tons, of which nearly 130,000 tons of teak and hard wood were extracted up to October.

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Myanmar to expand its soft-shell crab breeding with advanced tech in future

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 Dec — Myanmar's soft-shell crab breeding farms will be expanded with advanced technology in the future so as to fulfill higher levels of both local and foreign consumption, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development said on Sunday.

According to Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Aye, the ministry is currently holding several meetings with both local and foreign experts to develop an aqua-culture production system for soft-shell crab.

In 2013 alone, total export of soft-shell crab was valued at over US\$50 million, with the Myanmar

Fisheries Federation (MFF) expecting the export value is likely to go up this year as well as coming years. This year's local consumption is also higher than the previous year.

Currently, local farmers are operating their breeding farms in Yangon, Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions as well as Rakhine State on a commercial scale.

The developing of crab breeding can help locals earn more money and create more job opportunities. Some investors show their interest in soft-shell crab breeding as Myanmar uses its natural resources.

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Union I&P Minister meets local people in rural areas

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec — People are to appreciate efforts of staff from Department of Immigration and National Registration for issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible people across the nation, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi told locals in Ywathagyi Village, Myaungmya Township on 26 December.

He said that people will cost least amount of fee for issuance of the cards. The union minister urged them to systematically keep the CSC as the cards are an evidence for enjoying fundamental rights of citizens.

The union minister presented prizes to the winners who could answer the questions in the CSC quiz.



In meeting with village elders and teachers, he

explained reform processes of the government and regional development.

The union minister attended to the needs of locals in education, health, transport, water and power supply sectors.—MNA

Union Minister U Khin Yi explains fundamental rights of citizen with evidence of citizenship scrutiny card to local people.

MNA

Trade and Businesses Promotion Special Task Force meets businessmen

YANGON, 28 Dec — The Trade and Businesses Promotion Special Task Force held talks with the Private Sector Manufacturing, Trade and Investment Working Group at the hall of the Ministry of Commerce, here, on 28 December.

At the talks, the working group submitted a paper on land utilization, export and import and custom clearance, difficulties in combating the illegal trade, in matters related to investment and taxation.

Chairmen of delivery units and members discussed solving the problems for respective departments and future tasks.

It was attended by Vice Chairman of the special task force Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein and member deputy ministers, members of trade sector development subcommittee and officials of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Construction inspects maintenance, construction of roads, bridges in Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions

YANGON, 28 Dec — Officials at different levels are to supervise maintenance of roads and bridges, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 26 December told engineers on his inspection tours of Yangon-Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon road

and Dedaye-Pyapon-Bogale road.

The deputy minister viewed progress of preparations for opening of Bogale Bridge. He also inspected construction of Kywegyan Yaygyaw Bridge on Bogale-Mawla y i n e g y u n - K y o n -

mange-Wakema road.

The deputy superintending engineer of the construction project reported on allotment of a fund for the bridge and a plan to send iron frame to the bridge construction site.

The deputy minister and officials looked

into maintenance of road sections and bridges on Bogale-Kyeinchaug-Kadonkani road.—MNA

Union Minister U Tint Hsan presents championship trophy to winning team in Mya Ayeya Sports Festival in Myaungmya.—MNA

MNA



Myanmar decides to . . .

(from page 1)

Since the government took office, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has reduced timber production annually with the aim of ensuring a sustainable eco-system.

For the development of local wood-based industries,

Myanmar imposed a ban on log export in April this year. Currently, timber logs are sold in the country through an open tender system.

Myanmar exports timber to neighbouring countries as well as to South Korea and Japan. Myanmar has entered a one-year contract on timber trade with the United States, with the

US government allowing members of the International Wood Products Association (IWPA), a US-based organization, to buy timber from Myanmar.

According to the statistics provided by the ministry, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise earned US\$236.273 million and K48,832 million from timber sales till October.

GNLM

Myanmar to expand its soft-shell crab . . .

(from page 1)

A local farmer said he wants the government to encourage local entrepreneurs rather than foreign investors in resources-based businesses, with the ministry saying that it will allow foreign direct investment in line with the law.

Soft-shell crab has a high market demand and high price, especially in Asia. It will be a successful breeding industry in the country, U Win Kyaing, secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation, said.

GNLM



Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye clarifies prospects of developing market for soft-shell crabs.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Information for Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives

The 12th regular sessions of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) will be held at respective meeting halls of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 a.m. on 19 January 2015 (Monday). Invitation letters have been sent to both Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives are requested to report at Hluttaw Office, Office No 20, Nay Pyi Taw and the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives at Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Hall (1-19) in Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 18 January 2015 (Sunday) and not earlier than 17 January 2015 (Saturday) whether or not they received the invitation letters and bring their representative registration cards and representative scrutiny cards.

Mya Ayeya Sports festival wraps up in Myaungmya

MYAUNGMYA, 28 Dec — Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan watched final matches of sports events of the Mya Ayeya Sports festival in

Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, on 28 December.

Region Minister for Finance U Win Ko Ko and officials presented prizes to the winners.

Volleyball, Sepak Takraw, table tennis and badminton events took place at Naung Yoe gymnasiums while, tennis contest was held at the Myaungmya Tennis Court.

Moreover, track & field events were held at the people's sports ground in Myaungmya where as Chinlone, boxing, Judo, Karatedo, Wushu, weightlifting, basketball, golf and Kampo, events were organized at respective gymnasiums.

The union minister presented championship trophies to women's and men's teams in the basketball tournament at Myaungmya BEHS No 6. He also awarded winners in the golf event at Mya Ayeya golf club.

NATIONAL

Thura U Shwe Mann delivers . . .

(from page 1)

farmers, agricultural development and settlement of land disputes are sound ones, promising that efforts would be exerted to successfully solve the issues in accordance with the discussions that pointed out that the current Hluttaw and the government would be able to do so.

The government and the Hluttaws formed in accordance with the 2008 State Constitution in co-operation with state and region governments have been working for democratic rights of citizens and human rights, he said, adding that despite the increase in agricultural loan during the term of the government, the loans are not sufficient enough to promote the life of farmers.

According to the speaker, farmers will be able to enjoy not only more agricultural loans on longer repayment terms issued for individual farmers instead of group loans but also aids in the event of natural disasters, farming technologies and guarantee for price stability of crops under the enacted law.

In conclusion, he thanked the farmers participated in the rally and said that the decisions of the rally will contribute to the interests of the nation and the people.

At the rally, opening speech had been delivered on behalf of the speaker by U Htay Oo, the chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee for Fundamental Rights of Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights. In his speech, he said that land disputes faced by farmers are being solved by the Investigation Commission on Confiscation of Farmland and Other Land of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, promising that they will cooperate with Hluttaws, the government, political parties and civil society organizations for the promotion of farmers' interests.

After the rally, the speaker cordially greeted the participant farmers.

Also present at the rally were Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, Speaker U Ye Myint of Region Hluttaw, chairs of Hluttaw Committees, officials and peasant farmers.

MNA

230 KV GIS power station under construction in Dagon Myothit (East) Tsp



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe visits yard of 230 KV GIS power station in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec — The 230 KV GIS power station which is first facility of its kind in Myanmar is being built with the assistance of foreign experts in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe told officials at the power station on Sunday.

He stressed the need

for engineers and technicians to study technology of foreign experts to be able to apply their experiences obtained from the worksites in their respective fields.

The union minister viewed round installation of GIS switch gear and transformers in the power station.

Upon completion, the

power station will supply electricity to Dagon Myothit (East, North and South) townships, Shwepaukkan, Webagi and North Okkalapa townships through 66 KV power lines.

The power station is being constructed with the assistance of Hyundai Co. of the Republic of Korea with the use of SF6 gas as insulator.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing says armed forces endowed with significant characteristics throughout history



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts patients at military hospital in Myeik Station.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec — The armed forces are an organization with significant characteristics and all defence services personnel are willing to take pain and risk their lives on their own volition in defence of the country, the commander-in-chief of the defence

services on Sunday told officers, other ranks and their families at Bokpyin Station of Myeik, Taninthayi Region.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the armed forces and the country have been inseparable throughout history, calling for the continuous preservation of the course of history and prestige of the armed forces.

Three powers of military, organization and administration are of great

importance to the defence services that defend the country, with the senior general stressing that a stronger defence force depends on the combination of individual capabilities of defence services personnel.

Speaking of border security, he emphasized the need of effective protection and safeguarding.

Efforts are to be made from the nationalistic point of view to deter possible threats of religious extremism and illegal immigrants

and prevent the trafficking of land and water resources, he said. Measures are being taken to help defence services personnel meet the health, education and social needs of their families.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented a computer and its accessories for a high school at Myeik Station. He also visited a military hospital, where he comforted patients of different military rankings and asked after them.—Myawady

Former students pay respects to retired faculty members

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec — Graduates of University of Agriculture held a ceremony to pay respects to 108 retired faculty members at the Dhammayon of the university in Zeyathiri Township, here, on Sun-

day, attended by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than and retired deputy minister for Cooperatives Dr Chit.

Former students paid respects to retired faculty members and gave gifts.

Professor Dr Salai Tun Than, retired rector Dr Kyaw Than, professor Daw Khin Lay Swe, Gonhtoo U Thein Naing and professor U Han Myint gave words of advice to the former students.—MNA



Former students of University of Agriculture pay respects to retired faculty members.—MNA

Mandalarians join December mass walk activity

MANDALAY, 28 Dec — The December mass walk activity continued in Mandalay on Saturday, the fourth and last week of the month.

The people led by Speaker of Region Hluttaw speaker U Win Maung gathered at Mingala Bridge at the corner of 26th and 73rd streets in Mandalay.

Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin launched the mass walk activity. The people walked along 26th street, 66th street and 30th street and finished at Bahtoo stadium where they took physical exercises.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



Dwellers of Mandalay participate in December mass walk activity.

Physicians share knowledge about danger of HIV/AIDS, narcotic drugs to students



A speaker gives talks on control of HIV/AIDS and elimination of narcotic drugs.

MANDALAY, 28 Dec — Red Cross Society of Yadanabon University, Mandalay and Marie Stopes International (Myanmar) jointly conducted an educational talk in commemoration of the World AIDS Day at the hall of the university on 26 December.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing delivered a

speech. Leader of Mandalay STD/AIDS control project Dr Nyein Chan gave talks on danger of narcotic drugs related to the AIDS and Dr Nway Wut Hmon, facts about HIV/AIDS disease.

Volunteers from Myanmar Tom Boy Group, Marie Stopes, MBCA, UNICEF, MANA and Care presented songs and

one act play.

Rector Dr Khin Maung Oo and faculty members, Joint Secretary of Mandalay Region Red Cross Brigade U Phone Kyaw, Chairperson of Yadanabon University Red Cross Society Dr Nwe Nwe San and students totalling over 1,000 were in attendance.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Kyaw Myint and Region Hluttaw representative Dr Kyaw Hla inspect progress of development tasks in Chanayethazan Township.

Gov't, private sectors create job opportunities for youths

NATOGYI, 28 Dec — Not only private companies but government departments recruit local youth under 25 years in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, as part of creating job opportunities.

Township General Ad-

ministration Department invites applications from the youths for posts of lower division clerks, drivers and others, not later than 15 January 2015.

Myanmar Economic Bank branch and Department of Settlement and

Land Records also recruit the youths under 25 years old to LD clerk posts.

Kanbawza Bank invited applications for the staff for its new branch in Natogyi. The applicants must be under 25 years old.

Htay Myint Maung

Mandalay District organizes sports meet to mark December sports month

MANDALAY, 28 Dec — In commemoration of the December sports activities, a prize presentation for the winners in the sports contests 2014 conducted by Mandalay District General Administration Department took place at the sports ground in Mahaaungmye Township on 27 December.

Departmental officials awarded winners in the essay, poem and poster

contests to mark the sports month of December.

Township administrators of the district presented prizes to the winners in the traditional sports events.

District's deputy commissioner U Win Zaw Naing and officials gave awards to winners in the Sepak Takraw, volleyball and Htoke-see-toe events.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



AirAsia flight carrying 162 people goes missing in Southeast Asia



A sign informing the next-of-kins of passengers of AirAsia flight QZ 8501 from Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore is seen next to an information counter at Changi Airport in Singapore on 28 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

JAKARTA, 28 Dec — Indonesia's air force was searching for an AirAsia plane carrying 162 people that went missing on Sunday after the pilots asked to change course to avoid bad weather during a flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore.

Indonesia AirAsia

Flight QZ8501, an Airbus 320-200, lost contact with Jakarta air traffic control at 6:17 am (2317 GMT), officials said.

"The aircraft was on the submitted flight plan route and was requesting deviation due to enroute weather before communication with the aircraft was



A flight information signboard shows the status of AirAsia flight QZ 8501 from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore at Changi Airport in Singapore on 28 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

lost," the airline said in a statement.

No distress signal had been sent, said Joko Muryo Atmodjo, air transportation director at Indonesia's transport ministry.

Indonesia AirAsia said there were 155 passengers and seven crew on board. It said 156 were Indone-

sian, with three from South Korea and one each from Singapore, Malaysia and France.

Both neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia had offered to help in the search, officials said.

Indonesia AirAsia is 49 percent owned by Malaysia-based budget carrier

AirAsia, with local investors holding the rest. The AirAsia group, including affiliates in Thailand, the Philippines and India, has not had a crash since its Malaysian budget operations began in 2002.

Flight QZ8501 was between the Indonesian port of Tanjung Pandan and the town of Pontianak, in West Kalimantan Province on Borneo island, when it went missing, Atmodjo told a news conference in Jakarta.

The aircraft had been flying at 32,000 feet and had asked to fly at 38,000 feet to avoid clouds, he added.

Tanjung Pandan is the main town on Belitung island, roughly half way between Surabaya and Singapore. There was bad weather over the island at the time. The plane had been due in Singapore at 8:30 am Singapore Time (0030 GMT).

An Indonesian woman at Singapore's Changi Airport said her sister and other family members, including two children, were on board.

"No one has told us anything. We heard the news and came to the airport," the woman said before entering

a cordoned-off area.

The airline said the captain and first officer were both experienced.

Tony Fernandes, chief of Malaysia's AirAsia, said on Twitter: "Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers. We must stay strong."

The incident comes at the end of a disastrous year for the region's airlines.

Malaysia's national flag carrier, Malaysia Airlines, lost two aircraft this year. Flight MH370 went missing on 8 March on a trip from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 passengers and crew on board and has still not been found.

On 17 July, Flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

Indonesia AirAsia has a fleet of 30 Airbus A320s. The missing plane has been in service for just over six years, according to airfleets.net. All AirAsia-branded airlines operate aircraft made by Airbus, which has orders for several hundred planes from the group. AirAsia is considered one of the European planemaker's most important customers.

Reuters

Floods in Malaysia and Thailand kill at least 24



An aerial view of flooded streets of the National Park in Kuala Tahan, Pahang on 24 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Dec — The worst flooding in Malaysia in more than a decade has killed 10 people and forced nearly 160,000 from their homes and more rain is expected, authorities

said on Sunday.

Among the casualties, five were in the worst-hit state of Kelantan, in northeastern peninsular Malaysia. Over the border in southern Thailand, 14

people have been killed in the floods that began in mid-December.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak toured some of the worst-hit areas this weekend, following his

return from a vacation in Hawaii on Friday.

Najib was criticized for his absence during the calamity, after being photographed playing golf with President Barack Obama.

Northeastern Malaysia and southern Thailand are regularly hit by flooding during the annual northeast monsoon but this year the rain has been particularly heavy.

The Malaysian government said rain in Kelantan and southern Thailand would last for at least another week. An official in the southern Thai border town of Sungai Kolok said it would take up to two days for water levels to drop and for the border to be reopened. — Reuters



Two women in the central Japan village of Otaki pray on 27 Dec, 2014, for the victims of the Mt Ontake eruption three months earlier that left 57 people dead and six missing. —KYODO NEWS

South Korea nuclear operator says cyberattacks continue, reactors safe

SEOUL, 28 Dec — South Korea's nuclear power operator said on Sunday that cyberattacks on non-critical operations at the company's headquarters are continuing but the country's nuclear power plants are operating safely and are secure from attack.

Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co Ltd has been intensifying its cyber security, President and CEO Cho Seok said. He gave no

details of the continued cyberattacks or the company's response, citing security reasons.

"We cannot let cyberattacks stop nuclear power operation," Cho told a news briefing. He added that a closed network used for reactor operations was inaccessible from external communication lines and impervious to cyberattacks.

"We will continue operating nuclear plants safely

against any attempted foul play, including cyberattacks," Cho said.

"Cyberattacks on KHNP's (headquarters) operations and administration are still continuing now," he added.

KHNP, part of state-run utility Korea Electric Power Corp, said last Monday that its computer systems had been hacked but only non-critical data had been stolen and reactor opera-

tions were not at risk.

Cho apologized for concerns that had been raised by the cyberattack and data leaks but said the nuclear plants themselves had not been affected. South Korea has 23 nuclear reactors which supply one-third of its electricity. Three are currently offline for routine maintenance or awaiting a license extension.

The operator and the government since last

Wednesday have been running emergency teams on stand-by until the end of the year as a precaution in case of any attempted cyberattacks on nuclear plants, after a hacker demanded the shutdown of three reactors by last Thursday and in Twitter messages threatened "destruction" if the demand was not met.

South Korean prosecutors are also seeking the cooperation of Chinese author-

ities in an investigation into the cyberattack, after tracing multiple Internet addresses to a Chinese city near North Korea. They have not ruled out possible involvement of North Korea in the attack.

Pyongyang denied any role in the cyberattacks, calling such suggestions part of a "smear campaign" by unpopular South Korean leaders. North Korea remains technically at war with the South. —Reuters

Angry police shun NYC mayor at funeral for slain officer

NEW YORK, 28 Dec — Tens of thousands of police from cities across the United States filled a New York City church and nearby streets on Saturday for the funeral of one of two policemen shot by a man who said he was avenging the killing of unarmed black men by police.

The service for Rafael Ramos was one of the largest police funerals in the city's history, with US Vice President Joe Biden among the dignitaries. But the tradition-bound ceremony was marked by an unusual protest against Mayor Bill de Blasio.

As he rose to deliver the customary mayoral eulogy, thousands of uniformed officers outside silently turned their backs on him in a pointed display of disrespect as his image filled the large screens broadcasting the service.



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and wife Chirlane McCray walk past a sea of policemen while arriving for the funeral services of New York Police Department (NYPD) officer Rafael Ramos in the Queens borough of New York on 27 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Angered by the mayor's qualified sympathy for nationwide demonstrations calling for police

reform, some New York police officers had similarly shunned de Blasio as he arrived a week ago at

the hospital where Ramos and his police partner, Wenjian Liu, were declared dead.

"He believed in protecting others," de Blasio said as he stood behind Ramos' coffin, which was draped in the police department's flag and bathed in blue light, "and those who are called to protect others are a special breed."

Singled out for their uniforms, the slaying of Ramos, 40, and Liu, 32, as they sat in their patrol car has become a rallying point for police and their supporters around the country, beleaguered by months of street protests accusing police of racist practices.

Offering a counter-narrative to the anti-police chants at many protests, Vice President Biden made the first of several speeches that touched on the marked increase in the racial diversity of the city's

police force, which only a few decades ago was almost entirely white.

"I believe that this great police force of this incredibly diverse city can and will show the nation how to bridge any divide," Biden said during the service at Christ Tabernacle Church in the suburban Queens neighbourhood in which Ramos lived with his wife, Maritza, and their two teenage sons.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said the department had officers hailing from more than 50 different nations and included speakers of 64 languages. He went on to criticize some of the protesters who have held rallies in the city on a nearly daily basis.

"The NYPD protected the right of free speech even though they themselves were the targets of false and abusive tirades by some," he said.—Reuters

Gov't, LDP to draw up permanent law on Japan's SDF dispatch overseas

TOKYO, 28 Dec — The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party plan to draw up a permanent law governing the dispatch of Japanese Self-Defence Forces overseas as needed and to boost logistical support for the US military, a government source said on Saturday.

The law, which would expedite the dispatch overseas of Japanese SDF personnel and provide logistical support to the troops of other allied countries, is part of moves to prepare a legal framework for changes to Japanese security policy under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

But the LDP still needs to convince its junior coalition partner Komeito party to support the plan as Komeito remains reluctant to enact such a law, according to the source.

The LDP hopes, by spring, to submit the law to parliament, together with other relevant security legislation, including legalization of the exercise of the

right to collective self-defence, or coming to the aid of allies under armed attack, the source said.

Expanding the scope of SDF activities and areas where they can operate has raised fears the SDF could become integrated in the use of force by other countries, which runs counter to the pacifist Constitution of Japan, critics of the security changes pushed by the Abe government say.

To counter those concerns, ruling coalition lawmakers are expected to discuss measures to apply restraints on SDF operations, the source said.

Abe, who wants to create the permanent law on the SDF dispatch abroad, on Wednesday instructed newly appointed Defence Minister Gen Nakatani to create a legal framework to enable a "seamless" response to security threats around the nation.

During a meeting on Saturday with Komeito deputy chief Kazuo Kitagawa, LDP Vice

President Masahiko Komura is believed to have also stressed the need to push for such a law, the source said.

It has been necessary for the Diet to pass special laws to authorize the dispatch of SDF personnel whenever sent abroad. Separate legislation was passed to allow refueling missions to support US-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan, and participation in humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in "noncombat areas" in Iraq.

But many LDP lawmakers said dispatching SDF through special legislation is time-consuming. Time-limited, case-specific special laws need to go to the Diet for approval.

However, Komeito is wary about enacting a permanent law out of fear SDF personnel may be dispatched abroad even in cases which have nothing to do with defending Japan.

In October, Shigeki Sato, who heads the party's panel on



People dressed as Santa Claus gather at a park in Thrissur, India's southern state of Kerala, on 27 Dec, 2014. A total of 18,112 people joined in the event to break the Guinness world record.—XINHUA

diplomacy and security, said establishing a permanent law is not "the highest priority."

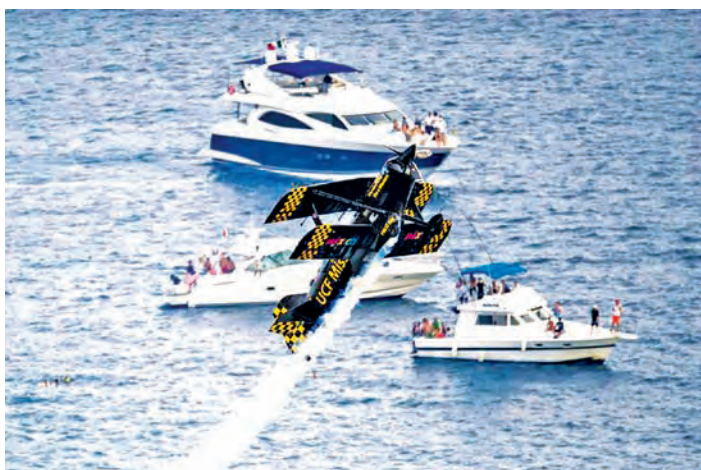
Japan's new security policy, adopted on 1 July by the Cabinet to enable to exercise of the right to collective self-defence, expands the SDF's logistical support for foreign troops.

Under the policy, dispatching the SDF to areas where combat is not taking place, for missions such as refueling, would not constitute integration into the use of force by other countries.

In preparing the new permanent law to expand the SDF's operations abroad, attention will be focused on such issues as providing weapons and ammunition to US and other allied troops, the source said.

Discussions will also include how the new law would work in relation to a separate law on UN peacekeeping operations, which currently serves as the legal basis for Japan's dispatch of its troops.

Kyodo News



An airplane performs during the Acapulco Air Show 2014 in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, on 27 Dec, 2014. During the Acapulco Air Show 2014, eight airplanes performed different stunts in 15 minutes.—XINHUA

DPRK Internet, 3G mobile network suffer 2nd outage

PYONGYANG, 28 Dec — Internet and 3G mobile network of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) were paralyzed again on Saturday evening amid bickering between the United States and the Asian country over an earlier cyber attack on Sony Pictures.

At Pyongyang Time 7:30 pm (1030 GMT) on Saturday, DPRK's Internet and 3G mobile network came to a standstill, and had not returned to normal at press time as of 9:30 pm (1230 GMT)

Saturday, according to Xinhua reporters and Chinese facilities based in the country.

Earlier in the day, the Policy Department of the National Defence Commission blamed the United States for enduring instability in the country's Internet and denied any cyber attack on Sony Pictures.

The United States groundlessly linked the unheard-of hacking at the Sony Pictures Entertainment to the DPRK, a spokesman for the department said in a state-

ment. The spokesman urged the United States to conduct a joint investigation with the DPRK.

The United States accused the DPRK of attacking Sony Pictures in late November to deter it from showing a comedy movie entitled "Interview" which features an assassination attempt on DPRK leader Kim Jong Un.

DPRK's Internet has been unstable since last weekend, including a complete outage of about nine hours on Tuesday.

Xinhua

WORLD

Syria ready to discuss Russia peace plan talks, opposition dismissive

BEIRUT/CAIRO, 28 Dec — Syria said on Saturday it was willing to participate in “preliminary consultations” in Moscow aimed at restarting talks next year to end its civil war but the Western-backed opposition dismissed the initiative.

Two rounds of peace talks this year in Geneva failed to halt the conflict which has killed 200,000 people during more than three years of violence and there was little sign of the latest move gaining traction.

Syrian state television quoted a source at the foreign ministry saying: “Syria is ready to participate in preliminary consultations in Moscow in order to meet the aspirations of Syrians to find a way out of crisis.”

But there are many ob-



Hadi al-Bahra (L), head of the Syrian National Coalition, talks with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri during their meeting in Cairo on 27 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

stacles to peace. The most powerful insurgent group, the hardline Islamic State, controls a third of Syria but has not been part of any in-

itiative to end the fighting.

Other rebel factions are not unified.

The opposition is also suspicious of Russian-led

plans as Moscow has long backed President Bashar al-Assad with weapons.

Hadi al-Bahra, head of the Turkey-based oppo-

sition National Coalition, met with Arab League Chief Nabil Elaraby in Cairo on Saturday and told a news conference “there is no initiative as rumoured”.

“Russia does not have a clear initiative, and what is called for by Russia is just a meeting and dialogue in Moscow, with no specific paper or initiative,” he was quoted by Egyptian state news agency MENA as saying.

The opposition said after the failed “Geneva 2” talks in February that Damascus was not serious about peace.

Syrian state news agency SANA said on Saturday the Moscow talks should emphasise a continued fight against “terrorism”, a term it uses for the armed opposition.

Members of Assad's government say the opposition in exile is not representative of Syrians and instead says a small group of opposition figures who live in Damascus, and are less vocal against the president, should represent the opposition.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said this month that he wanted Syrian opposition groups to agree among themselves on a common approach before setting up direct talks with the Damascus government.

But Lavrov did not specify which opposition groups should take part.

Syria's civil war started when Assad's forces cracked down on peaceful pro-democracy protests in 2011.

Reuters

In US-Cuba prisoner swap, mystery surrounds the unnamed 53



A man walks past near an image of revolutionary hero Ernesto “Che” Guevara in Havana on 27 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

HAVANA, 28 Dec — Cuba's most prominent dissidents say they have been kept in the dark by US officials over a list of 53 political prisoners who will be released from jail

as part of a deal to end decades of hostility between the United States and Cuba. For years, dissident leaders have told the United States which opponents of Cuba's communist government

were being jailed or harassed, but they say they were not consulted when the list of prisoners to be freed was drawn up or even told who is on it.

The lack of information has stoked concern and frustration among the dissidents, who worry that the secret list is flawed and that genuine political prisoners who should be on it will be left to languish.

“We're concerned because we don't agree with the silence, because we have a right to know who they are. Who are they?” said Berta Soler, leader of the Ladies in White dissident group, which marches in Havana on Sundays to demand the release of prisoners. “There are not

just 53 political prisoners, there are more, and we are concerned that the US list might have common criminals on it,” she told Reuters in Havana.

US officials have so far been tight-lipped about how the list of 53 was assembled and who was consulted inside Cuba. It also is not clear if some prisoners were kept off the list because the Cuban government refused to release them.

A US official said on Saturday that Washington had asked Cuba to release a specific group of people jailed on charges related to their political activities, but declined to answer further questions.

Neither the US nor the

Cuban governments have said when the prisoners would be released. Cuba declined to comment on why more details have not been publicly released.

The dissident Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation, which keeps track of activists in the different opposition groups, counted in June a total of 114 political prisoners, although it includes 12 who are on parole after being released from jail plus several others who have since been released.

The group's veteran leader Elizondo Sanchez, who also spoke with Reuters, says at least 80 peaceful dissidents are on that list, including some whose

only crime was to demonstrate or scribble anti-government graffiti.

Others include soldiers who deserted with their weapons, former government officials, people who tried to hijack an airplane to the United States and eight militants jailed for entering Cuba from the United States and trying to start insurrections.

US President Barack Obama announced a new era in US-Cuba relations on 17 December, saying they would restore diplomatic ties broken more than five decades ago and he would begin to unravel economic sanctions that were aimed at forcing the communists from power.

Reuters

Swedish centre-left do eight-year deal with opposition to avert snap election

STOCKHOLM, 28 Dec — Sweden's three-month-old minority centre-left government announced a deal with the opposition on Saturday to sideline the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, who hold the balance of power in parliament, and avert a fresh election.

Sweden's normally stable politics were thrown into turmoil in December when Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said he planned to return to the polls after his budget was voted down by the centre-right opposition and the Sweden Democrats.

The Sweden Democrats had threatened to bring down any govern-

ment that did not curb rising immigration, and to turn a snap election — which would have been the first since 1958 — into a referendum on Sweden's liberal refugee policies.

The deal with the centre-right Alliance bloc extends right through the next parliament of 2018-22, setting aside differences with the aim of making sure that centrist parties hold a lock on power and shut out the far right.

“The agreement is a way to show that we take responsibility for making sure Sweden can be governed; that we put the country's future first,” Social Democrat Lofven said.



Prime Minister Stefan Lofven (3rd L) gestures next to (L to R) Green Party spokespersons Gustav Fridolin and Asa Romson, Moderate Party leader-elect Anna Kinberg Batra, Centre Party leader Annie Loof, Liberal People's Party leader Jan Bjorklund and Christian Democrat leader Goran Hagglund during a news conference at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm, on 27 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

Far-right parties across Europe have been gaining ground in recent years, focusing voters' economic fears and frustration on immigration policy.

While right-wing, populist parties have found a voice in mainstream politics in Sweden's neighbours Denmark and Norway, Stockholm's established politicians have refused to have anything to do with the Sweden Democrats, who want to cut asylum seeker numbers by 90 percent. Finland and Denmark hold elections next year and the populist right are expected to do well.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 29 December, 2014

We need people who can build unity

By Myint Win Thein

People in Myanmar have been using Facebook for some time but they are still naive users. We have seen some unscrupulous account owners spread hatred among religions, political groups, communities and so on, based on their biased personal point of view. They are not wise enough to make most out of it, resorting only to spread hate speech at least from between

two people, within the a working environment to the society as a whole. Hate speech should not be spread even between two people.

Some gentlemen even use Facebook to distort fellow colleagues at a workplace by slandering behind his or her back. In fact, they are the only annoying people in their work environment, too. They make a lot of noise when they have to work more than others. First, they talk loudly they are more important than other coworkers because they work a lot more than the latter. Then, they complain that other coworkers do not work as hard as them, accusing the latter of shirking duty. They spread biased gossips among co-workers on Facebook and try to persuade some colleagues to isolate a particular worker. For example, they tend to post things like someone is sitting clumsily in the office because that person is jealous of them and invite others to comment on his post.

Let alone those who spread hate speech among wider communities, such people who work just for their family do such nuisance will never be a man because he does not possess the ability to unite divided people. What our country really needs is leaders who can unite a divided society not a naive man who just to work of personal interests and divide a peaceful working environment.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Avoid Becoming Victims of ATM Scammers

By Khin Maung Myint

The news of the arrests of five foreigners, who stole cash from six banks for 58 times, using 35 fake automatic teller machine (ATM) cards, which appeared in the 23 December issue of GNLM, prompted me to write this article. For me this is the first time I had ever heard of such crimes being committed in Myanmar. There may be, but I may have missed them. However, these sorts of crimes, involving large amounts of money had been going on in other countries, since very long time ago. I had noticed, they were committed by foreigners in most cases. The scammers were almost always from countries that are advanced in electronic and computer technologies. They traveled to different destinations, mostly in developing countries, in search of easy preys. Their simplest technique is to pose as tourists and hangout around shopping malls, entertainment complexes, banks and other busy public places on the lookout for their targets. When someone approached an ATM machine to draw money they will observe, from close range, what numbers that person entered as pass code. They may be able to see distinctly or sometimes they had to guess by the movements of the hand and make fake ATM cards with those numbers. They have two chances to try out the uncertain pass codes, that had to be guessed from the hand movements, before the ATM card is held back by the machine on the third wrong entry. Which, the issuing bank will only return it after thorough identification of the claimant. However, the scammers won't dare to reclaim as they are fakes. I had seen some cautious persons, in other countries, when drawing money from the ATM machines would survey the surrounding before approaching it and while entering the pass code they blocked the view of the keyboard by their bodies so that it would not be visible to others. It's best not to trust anyone who approached you while you are drawing cash from the ATM. This is not paranoia, but to safeguard your life's savings, from being stolen. Luckily in Myanmar, ATM cards are not linked with the saving accounts, but have to apply for a separate account that does not give interest on the cash deposited in them, so not many people are interested in using ATMs. In other words, the ATM culture had not caught up with the Myanmar public yet. Also as the ATM accounts are separate, and separate deposits had to be made, nobody will put all his money into that account. So the Myanmar ATM cards are unattractive to the scammers, thus sparing them from being hacked and scammed. Who would risk being arrested by scamming the ATMs that won't yield much cash. Naturally they went after the foreign ATMs.

For the benefit the readers, who are not familiar with the use of ATMs, I will briefly explain the procedures used in our country and in most other countries, so that they will understand my statement about the losses that are incurred due to scamming. In Thailand for instance, if you open a

saving account and deposit some cash, notwithstanding the amount, you will be provided with a bank pass book to draw money direct from the teller at the bank, and also an ATM card with which you can draw cash from any ATM machine belonging to any bank. Whereas in our country ATM is not linked to the saving account and had to make a separate deposit, thus they cannot be of much amount because the ATM deposits do not get bank interests. Thus they are not attractive to the scammers and that fact must have spared the people using the local ATM cards from being scammed, because the scammers must have done their homework thoroughly and found that they could not produce much cash. Whereas the foreign banks' ATMs served dual purposes, they can be used as credit cards too, so they must be more attractive to the scammers. That was a blessing in disguise for not being an advanced country.

The spying on the ATM users to get their pass codes for making fake ATM cards, using computer is the simplest method of scamming. Some foreign scamming gangs are using more and more sophisticated means based on electronic and computer technologies. One of them is to place an electronic gadget inside the ATM secretly and that gadget will read or sense the numbers entered and transmits them to the control computer, thus enabling them to make fake cards. This method affords them to obtain the information they need without exposing themselves, as in loitering around and spying. They had to take the risk only once, that is while placing the spying devices in position. By the term information, I meant every data on the card, including the amount of balance in the account and the pass codes. In some cases, tiny spy cameras are placed concealed from views of even the sharp-eyed individuals, let alone a casual observer, in the vicinity of the ATM machines to record the numbers punched into the machines by the users. There can be many more ways and means but I am sure, by now, the readers will have gained some ideas as to how the ATM scamming is done.

Myanmar is the latest target of the scammers and we should be wary of more scamming, because these crooks target the countries that are not well advanced and not yet familiar with such acts of stealing, so people are not aware that they are vulnerable to scamming. That made them easy preys. The news of the arrests of the five scammers may somewhat deter other would-be scammers, but I doubt they will shy away entirely. I had witnessed the continuing acts of scamming recurrently in the neighboring countries though there were frequent arrests.

To avoid being scammed, the followings are some precautions to be taken, which I had observed and learned from my frequent visits abroad:-

1. If possible don't use ATMs, as there are many bank branches today.
2. If you must use it, unavoidably, take precautions so as not to be spied upon.
3. Never trust anyone who approached you while you are drawing money from the ATM.

4. Make close observations of the ATM machines for any telltale signs of foreign objects, not usually found on such machines.
5. Watch out for tiny spy camera in the vicinity of the ATMs.
6. Change your pass code as often as possible to make it safe from scammers, especially when you suspect that the machine you just used, had been rigged with spying devices.
7. Be acquainted with the latest methods of scamming by keeping yourself informed through reading and watching foreign media.

I hope by now, the readers who had no idea of the ATM scamming before, know how to avoid from being scammed. My sole intention of writing this article is to share my experiences in such matter, so that people can take precautions against scamming.

Looking forward to a scam free ATM system.

The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dept; Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to convey my sincere thanks, via your prestigious newspaper to U Khin Maung, for his very interesting, informative and useful article, titled "A glimpse of International Law". Though he humbly called it a glimpse, it opened a wide perspective for a lay person like me, to be enlightened to the principles of International Law proclaimed by the UNGA Declaration, which I haven't had the opportunity to come across. Though a gist, as he says, his article is of real value to me.

And in reply to U Khin Maung's question, I must say, "I couldn't agree more with you on this subject, thank you again and hoping to learn more about such diplomatic matters in the future."

Regards,
Khin Maung Myint.



Students perform dances with song "Mann Taung Yeik Kho" at diamond jubilee celebration of No 1 Basic Education High School in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, on 28 December.—ZARNI AUNG

LOCAL NEWS

Thingangyun Township installs five new transformers for electrification



THINGANGYUN, 28 Dec — Township Electrical Engineer and officials in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, supervise supply of electricity to the people at full capacity.

Electricians and engineers recently installed five 200-KVA transformers in Laydauntkan Ward, Bo Kan Nyunt Ward, Yangon Thit Ward and B Ward.

*Hmwe Hmwe
(Thingangyun)*

Natogyi Township's cooperative societies need to pay back over K700 million loans

MYINGYAN, 28 Dec — Mandalay Region Economic Minister U Aung Zan and officials held a meeting with executives of cooperative societies in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, on 27 December.

They discussed repayment of loans K610.76 million to Exim Bank of China, K56.745 million to Cooperative Bank, K41.265 million to Mandalay Region Cooperative Syndicate and K10.26 million to Township Cooperative Syndicate on time.

Officials of Township Cooperative Societies submitted reports on their difficulties and extension of repayment period.

Htay Myint Maung



WAO urges people to cooperate with health staff in controlling TB disease

MYANAUNG, 28 Dec — Myanaung Township Women's Affairs Organization of Ayeyawady Region held the workshop on national TB control project at the hall of Township Administrator on 26 December.

Chairperson of the WAO Dr Nweli Lwin discussed cooperation of local people with health staff for searching TB patients and providing health care services to them and giving

health knowledge to the people.

Health Assistant U Aung Phyo Hein from TB Control Unit of Township Health Department explained nature of TB disease.

Officials of the organization reported on search of TB patients in the community and dissemination of health knowledge to the people.

*Win Bo
(Myanaung IPRD)*

Express buses save time for passengers

NATOGYI, 28 Dec — Express buses carrying passengers take nine hours along a 340-mile-long Natogyi-Yangon route.

Express buses from Sein Gabar and Ngwe Gabar bus line depart Myingyan at 8 p.m. The buses arrive in Natogyi at 9 p.m. After that, the buses drive the Natogyi-Yangon route along the

Yangon-Mandalay expressway and arrive in Yangon at 6 a.m. taking nine hours only.

Shwe Sekkyar express bus line starts its trip from Natogyi at 5 p.m. and arrives in Yangon at 3 a.m. passing Myingyan, Taungtha and Mahlaing during

10 hours period. Thanks to express buses, not only globetrotters but also local passengers can save time in travels from Natogyi to Yangon, Mandalay, Muse, Pauk, Myaing, Mogok, NyaungU, PyinOoLwin and other major cities.

*Khin Zar Mon Myint
(Law)*



Cyclists join uphill and downhill contest on road to Mdy Hill



MANDALAY, 28 Dec — Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing launched the 3rd Mandalay Hill Invitation Mountain Bike Contest and Downhill Contest in front of Yadanabon Diamond Plaza in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on Sunday.

Motorbikes started their competitions on 78th street and finished near the lift of Mandalay Hill, passing 26th, 80th and 12th streets,

Mandalay-Madaya Road and Mandalay Hill downhill road.

A total of 120 bikers participated in the contest.

Head of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin and officials presented K150,000 to first prize winner, K100,000 to second and K50,000 to third prize winner.

*Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)*



Russia says to supply coal, electricity to Ukraine

MOSCOW / KIEV, 28 Dec — Russia has agreed on a new deal to supply coal and electricity to Ukraine, which is struggling with a lack of raw fuel for power plants due to a separatist conflict in the industrial east, Russian officials said on Saturday.

The move comes a day after Kiev said it would suspend train and bus services to Crimea, effectively creating a transportation blockade to and from the region annexed by Moscow in March this year. Kiev has briefly cut off electricity to Crimea before.

Russia will supply coal and electricity to Kiev without advance payment as a goodwill gesture from President Vladimir Putin, his spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS news agency. "Putin made a decision to start these supplies due to the critical situation with



A man gestures as he stands near wagons loaded with coal at the Zlobino railway station in Russia's Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 26 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

energy supplies and despite a lack of prepayment," Peskov said. Russia plans to supply 500,000 tonnes of coal to Ukraine per month, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak told Rossiya 24 television. It is ready to supply another 500,000 tonnes per month if an additional agreement is reached, he added. Ukraine's coal

reserves stand at 1.5 million tonnes compared with normal winter stocks of 4-5 million tonnes, according to energy ministry data.

The country used to be self-sufficient in electricity, but months of fighting a pro-Russian uprising has disrupted coal supplies to thermal power plants, which had generat-

ed around 40 percent of its power. Last week Ukraine's energy minister, Voldymir Demchyshyn, said he was holding talks with Russia's energy ministry on coal and power supplies. Earlier attempts to import Russian coal have been hampered by supplies being held up at the border.

Supplies will come at Russian domestic prices, Kozak said, adding that he hoped the move would help ensure reliable energy supplies to Crimea.

He did not say whether the transportation hold-ups at the border had been resolved. Russia will also supply electricity to Ukraine, Kozak said, without giving supply volumes.

Kiev's pro-Western government has accused Russia of orchestrating the rebellion in Ukraine's east, a charge Moscow denies.

Reuters

Man who tried to kill Pope John Paul II puts roses on his tomb



A tapestry featuring Pope John Paul II is seen in St Peter's square at the Vatican on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

VATICAN CITY, 28 Dec — The man who tried to kill former Pope John Paul II 33 years ago showed up at the Vatican on Saturday to put white roses on his tomb and said he wanted to meet Pope Francis.

Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, left John Paul critically injured after firing several shots in the failed assassination attempt in St Peter's Square on 13 May, 1981. The former pope forgave Agca, once a member of a Turkish far right group known as the Grey Wolves, and went to meet him in 1983 in the Rome prison where he had been sentenced to life imprisonment for the attack.

Agca called the Italian daily *la Repubblica* on Saturday to announce he had arrived in the Vatican, his first visit since the assassination attempt and exactly 31 years after John Paul met him in prison.

The visit was confirmed to Reuters by Father Ciro Benedettini, the Vatican's deputy spokesman,

who said Agca stood for a few moments in silent meditation over the tomb in St Peter's Basilica before leaving two bunches of white roses.

Agca, 56, was pardoned by Italy in 2000 and extradited to Turkey where he was imprisoned for the 1979 murder of a journalist and other crimes. He was released from jail in 2010.

The attack against John Paul, who died in 2005, has remained clouded by unanswered questions over who may have been behind it. An Italian investigative parliamentary commission said in 2006 it was "beyond reasonable doubt" that it was masterminded by leaders of the former Soviet Union.

The Vatican on Saturday gave a cool response to Agca's request to meet with Pope Francis. "He has put his flowers on John Paul's tomb; I think that is enough," Vatican spokesman father Federico Lombardi told *la Repubblica*.

Reuters

Rocket attack, blasts kill three Afghans, wounds nine

KABUL, 28 Dec — The ongoing Afghan militancy in the shape of rocket attack and bomb blasts have left three people dead and injured nine others since Saturday evening, sources confirmed on Sunday.

In the latest violent incident which happened in Afghan capital city Kabul, three people sustained injuries as a bomb struck a vehicle on Sunday morning. "A bomb planted on the vehicle of Mawlawi Aziz Rahman Sediqi, the head of religious council of Wardak Province, went off Sunday morning injuring three people including Sediqi, his son and driver," local television channel Tolo reported in its news bulletin.

Citing the police, the media outlet added that the device was a sticky bomb attached on the vehicle of Sediqi which exploded at 09:00 am local time and wounded him badly. In a similar violent attack, a motorbike bomb was exploded next to a police van in Hairatan district of the northern Balkh Province on Sunday morning injuring one

civilian, local media reported.

However, officials have yet to make comment.

Meanwhile, a rocket fired by anti-government militants presumably by Taliban outfit on a volleyball ground in Wardak province with Maidan Shahr as its capital 35 km west of Kabul claimed three lives and injured five others on Saturday evening, spokesman for provincial government Attaullah Khogiani said on Sunday. "Two groups of youths were playing volleyball in Omarkhil village of Nurkh district on Saturday evening when a rocket fired by militants slammed onto the ground killing three players and injuring five others including three players and two onlookers," Khogiani told reporters.

Two of those killed in the attack are students, according to the local people. Although no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, locals blamed Taliban insurgents for the offensive.

Xinhua

US, allies conduct 12 air strikes against Islamic State



An explosion following an air strike is seen in western Kobani neighbourhood on 23 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec — The United States and its allies carried out 12 air strikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria on Saturday, the Combined Joint Task Force said.

Six strikes near the Syrian town of Kobani on the Turkish border destroyed Islamic State buildings, fighting positions and vehicles, a task force statement said.

In Iraq, targets including buildings, vehicles and an Islamic State refinery were hit in six strikes near Al Asad, Mosul, Falluja, Al-Qaim and Baiji, it said.

Reuters

Indonesian police detain seven people over link to Islamic State

JAKARTA, 28 Dec — Indonesian police have detained seven people for suspected links to the Islamic State extremist group fighting in Syria and Iraq, a senior police officer said late Saturday. Six of the seven were detained early on Saturday when they were about to board a Qatar Airways flight to Syria via Doha, Herry Heriawan, subdirector for crimes and violence at the Jakarta Police Headquarters, told reporters in a text message. Among the six, three were from one family — mother, father and their

10-year-old child — who told the police they planned to stay in Syria.

"After questioning, they admitted they planned to go to Istanbul via Doha and then continue to Syria to perform Islamic sharia," Herry said.

They were travelling to Syria using fake passports made by the seventh person, a nongovernmental activist who was detained separately in East Jakarta, according to Herry. The person was quoted as confessing that he had sent 10 people to Syria to fight.—Kyodo News

Sony works for third day to restore PlayStation after attack



The logo of Sony Corp and a Christmas tree are reflected on the company's 4K television set at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 18 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

BOSTON, 28 Dec — Sony Corp worked for a third day on Saturday to restore services to its PlayStation network as the FBI said it was looking into the

disruption, which began on Christmas Day.

"We are aware of the reports and are investigating the Sony PlayStation matter," Federal Bureau of

Investigation spokeswoman Jenny Shearer said via email. She did not elaborate.

Meanwhile Sony said on Saturday that the attack had prevented some people who received consoles for Christmas from using their new machines on the PlayStation network, which lets gamers compete with people around the world via the Internet.

"If you received a PlayStation console over the holidays and have been unable to log onto the network, know that this problem is temporary and is not caused by your game console," Sony executive Catherine Jensen said on the company's US PlaySta-

tion blog.

Some customers posted complaints about the outage on the blog. "Three days without PSN. That's absurd," said one of them.

"We understand your frustration," Jensen responded early on Saturday afternoon. "Our engineers are working to restore service as quickly as possible!"

Later in the day she said the company had restored access for some users and would keep bringing more back online.

Sony declined to say how many of PSN's 56 millions users had been affected by the attack.

The blog said the problems were the result

of "high levels of traffic designed to disrupt connectivity and online game play," which is widely known as a distributed denial-of-service attack.

It was Sony's second recent high-profile encounter with hackers after an unprecedented attack on its Hollywood studio, which the US government attributed to North Korea and linked to the release of the low-brow comedy "The Interview."

A hacker activist group known as Lizard Squad said it was responsible for the PSN outage as well as delays on Microsoft's Corp's Xbox network; Microsoft quickly fixed the problem.

The group has claimed responsibility for previous attacks, including ones on PSN in early December and August.

The August attack coincided with a bomb scare in which Lizard Squad tweeted to American Airlines that it heard explosives were on board a Dallas-to-San Diego flight carrying an executive with Sony Online Entertainment. Sony has been the victim of some of the most notorious cyberattacks in history.

Besides the breach at its Hollywood studio, hackers stole data belonging to 77 million PlayStation Network users in 2011.

Reuters

Suspected state hacking campaign used commercial software

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Dec — A previously undisclosed hacking campaign against military targets in Israel and Europe is probably backed by a country that misused security-testing software to cover its tracks and enhance its capability, researchers said.

The attack programme relied on software usually sold by Boston-based Core Security to companies and other customers that want to test their own defences, said researchers coordinated by Israel's independent Computer Emergency Response Team, or CERT.

The researchers from CrowdStrike and startup Cymmetria will present their unusual findings at the annual Chaos Communication Congress security

conference in Hamburg on Saturday.

Criminal hackers have made use of penetration-testing tools such as Metasploit for years, other experts said, but most major government-sponsored hacks have specially written tools supplemented by free and widely available programmes. That is in part because commercial programs could be traced back to specific customers.

Over time, however, the exposure of campaigns relying on the same tailor-made tools have made it easier for investigators to attribute those attacks to a specific government.

Using the Core Security programme, which typically costs \$10,000 or \$20,000, could help

muddy the waters, and CrowdStrike analyst Tillmann Werner said it could also help a second-tier cyber-power skip some of the work frequently undertaken by China, Russia and the United States.

"The most likely answer is they didn't have the capability to do it on their own," Werner said of the hackers, adding that "there is no risk of leaving tool-marks." Werner and Cymmetria Chief Executive Gadi Evron, who also chairs the Israeli CERT, said they did not know who was behind the campaign.

But Evron said that one suspect would be Iran, judging by the victims and other evidence. The researchers dubbed the new campaign Rocket Kitten,

following CrowdStrike's convention for naming all suspected Iranian hacking groups as Kittens.

Iran has beefed up its Internet operations in the years since its nuclear programme was attacked by Stuxnet, an unusually destructive virus developed by the United States and Israel.

Evron said the team had uncovered seven connected attacks so far since April, including attempts to steal information from an Israeli company "adjacent to the defence and aerospace industry," an Israeli academic institution, a German-speaking defence agency, and an Eastern European defence ministry. At least the Israeli attempts failed, he said.—Reuters

Chinese scientists study sulfide samples collected by Jiaolong submersible



A member of a Chinese scientific research team studies a sulfide sample collected by Jiaolong, China's first manned deep-sea submersible, in the southwest Indian Ocean on 26 Dec, 2014. —XINHUA

Next year crucial for fight against climate change, but hurdles remain

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec — The clock is ticking toward next year when world leaders will converge on Paris in a bid to hammer out a deal on climate change, but there are a number of hurdles that, if not overcome, could result in a flimsy agreement, US experts said.

At issue is whether the world can agree on a robust plan to cut carbon emissions and take measures to tackle climate change at a time when scientists fret the problem is getting worse amid rising world temperatures and an increase in sea levels and super storms.

Many governments appeared to put the issue on the backburner until recent months, which saw major summits in New York and Lima, Peru, as well as a November breakthrough deal between China and the United States — the world's two biggest economies and carbon emitters — to significantly cut harmful emissions. Although the deal sparked new optimism that a worldwide agreement on climate change could be reached, obstacles remain.

Indeed, attempts to tackle climate change are dogged by the same prob-

lem year after year — the split between developed and developing countries. While developed countries are historically responsible for decades of CO2 buildup that has heated up the planet, they argue that virtually all nations must cut emissions, and there are ongoing disagreements over how much each country should cut. However, many developing countries contend there is no way to lift millions of their people out of poverty other than the heavy use of fossil fuels to boost industry, grow the economy and create jobs.—Xinhua

Climate change threat to mussels: Study

LONDON, 28 Dec — The population of mussels could be threatened by climate change, as it has made oceans increasingly acidic, a team of British researchers revealed on Wednesday.

In a new paper published in the Royal Society's journal *Interface*, researchers from the University of Glasgow in Scotland found mussels' shells have become more brittle when they are formed in more acidic water.

According to Susan Fitzer, the leading researcher, this could mean mussels growing in the wild in the future could

be more vulnerable to attack from predators, as well as from the effect of ocean forces. The change in the oceanic water could also have an effect on the yields of mussels available for the fishing industry.

The research team housed common blue mussels in laboratory tanks, and altered the temperature and pH levels of the water to simulate four different types of ocean waters.

Those waters, which contained different levels of acidity, are expected to appear in the oceans in the coming decades.

"What we found was that the calcite outer shells

of the mussels past a certain threshold of acidity was stiffer and harder, making it more brittle and prone to fracture under pressure, and the aragonite inner shell became softer," Fitzer noted.

The world's oceans are becoming increasingly acidic as they absorb some of the atmospheric carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change.

The water reacts with the carbon dioxide to form carbonic acid. Scientists expect the pH of the world's oceans to drop from 8 today to 7.7 by the end of the 21st century.

Xinhua

Acknowledgement

Donor of pagodas, ordination ceremonies, ordination halls, prayer halls, Dhammayons (community centres), transportation facilities, Sangha Hospital, meditation centres, homes for the aged, roads, bridges, vehicles, wells and lakes, and also donor of four prerequisites for 5th Sangha Meeting of All Orders

U Thein Win (a) Lin Kam Sein

Patron of Shwe Than Lwin Co., Ltd.

Yogi of Aung Thukha Dhamma Yeiktha (Bago)

Aged (76) years

Family of Shwe Than Lwin Co., are deeply grateful to members of the Sangha, nuns, Yogis, friends, departmental heads, foreign diplomats, officials from associations, organizations and companies, colleagues, relatives and friends home and abroad for paying tribute at the funeral; those who comforted the bereaved family in person and through telephone, e-mail and newspapers; those who donated offertories and wreaths at the funeral; and those who attended the donation ceremony on 27 December of meals, robes and offertories to 118 members of the Sangha and 47 nuns in dedication to the demise of U Thein Win (a) Lin Kam Sein, (Excellent Performance in Social Field-First Class Award winner), Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Patron of Shwe Than Lwin Co., Ltd, Yogi of Aung Thukha Dhamma Yeiktha (Bago), donor of pagodas, ordination ceremonies, ordination halls, prayer halls, dhammayons (community centres), transportation facilities, Sangha Hospital, meditation centres, homes for the aged, roads, bridges, vehicles, wells and lakes, and also donor of four prerequisites for the 5th Sangha Meeting of All Orders, who passed away on 21 December, 2014 (Sunday), at No. 2/3/4 on Lower Pazundaung Road in Botataung Township.

Family of Shwe Than Lwin Company

ADVERTISEMENT

"Congratulations"

We would like to congratulate KBZ Bank Ltd. with immense pleasure for winning of the following International Awards during the year 2014 and wish you continuous success for the coming years.



- From "Financial Times" (The Banker) based in London, United Kingdom.

(1) Bank of the Year in Myanmar



- From "Euromoney" Institution based in London, United Kingdom.

(2) Best Bank in Myanmar

- From "World Finance" Institution based in London, United Kingdom.

(3) Banker of the Year in Asia

"Aung Ko Win, Chairman, Kanbawza Bank"



(4) Best Commercial Bank in Myanmar

(5) Best Banking Group in Myanmar

- From "Asian Banking and Finance" Institution based in Singapore.

(6) Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Myanmar



(7) Best Core Banking System Initiative of the Year in Myanmar

- From the "ASEAN Business Advisory Council".

(8) National Winner Award for Corporate Excellence

Most ASEAN Admired Enterprises in Myanmar

(9) 2nd Runner-up in ASEAN for Corporate Excellence

Most ASEAN Admired Enterprises in ASEAN



- From "Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business" (MCRB).

(10) Most Transparent Company in Myanmar 2014



Chairman and Central Working Committee/Working Committee
The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of
Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

Ministry of Construction Public Works (Invitation of Proposal for Yangon-Mandalay Expressway under BOT Scheme)

1. Proposal for operating and upgrading the relevant sections of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway (366 miles 3 furlongs long) to the international and local Companies either individually or joint venture in line with the Master plan as well as under current Build -Operate - Transfer (B.O.T) Scheme is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sr	Name of Work	Type of Work
1.	Yangon-Mandalay Expressway (366 miles 3 furlongs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (8) lane asphalt concrete pavement • Installation of road furniture and CCTVs to meet the safety and security standard of expressway, • Installation of fencing and service roads on both side of the expressway.
2.	Distribution period of Proposal Documents	- (5.1.2015) to (16.1.2015)
3.	Last Submission Date of Proposal Documents	- 12:00 noon on 31.1.2015
4.	Opening date of Proposal	- 13:00 hours on 16.2.2015
5.	Proposal Documents can be purchased with fifty thousand kyats (50000 ks.) at the following address and for the detailed Information, please contact the office within office hours.	

Proposal Selection Committee, Public Works,
Road Department, Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw
Contact number: 067-407468, 407578, 407603, 407583, 407380

I was bullied in high school: Brittany Snow

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec — Actress Brittany Snow has revealed she was bullied by some girls in high school. Snow, 28, said her own experience has encouraged her to help children, who are victims of bullying, reported *People* magazine. “AOL Instant Messenger was a big thing back in the day, where girls would get on it and make fun of me. There was a certain girl, and she wanted to make me feel bad,” she said. Snow channelled her personal experiences into the formation of Love is Louder, an organization she started with The Jed Foundation in October 2010 to encourage the use of social



media to promote love and support for anyone who is in need of it.

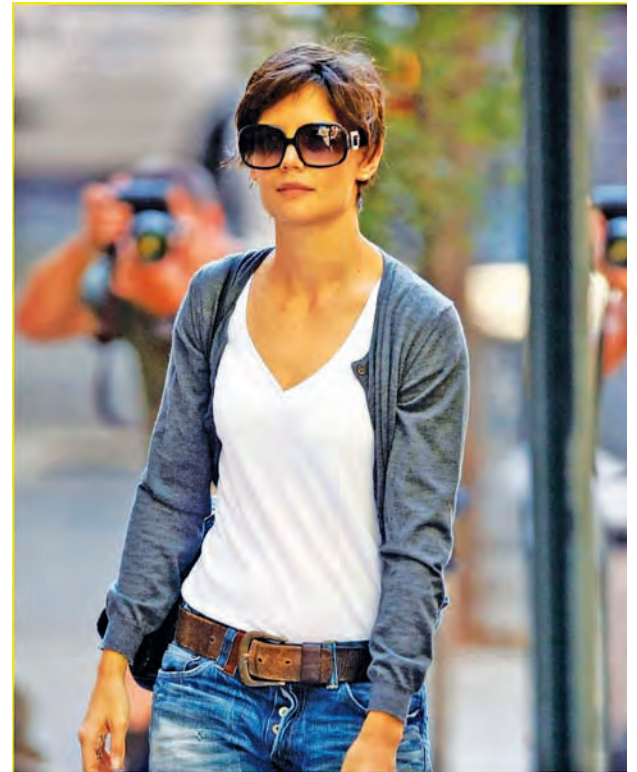
“When the suicides were starting to happen and kids were being bullied in schools, I felt really compelled to do something because I was bullied in school, and I didn’t really

fit into a category that a lot of programs that were being started had. “Now we have a really great opportunity with social media to use that communication for good, where people can go online and actually feel like they’re part of a community,” Snow said.—PTI

Don’t know if I’ve moved on from ‘Dawson’s Creek’: Katie Holmes

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec — Actress Katie Holmes says although TV series ‘Dawson’s Creek’ ended more than 10 years, the show is so close to her heart that she is not sure she has moved on from it.

Holmes, 36, played the character of Joey Potter on the teen drama and she still carries a part of it wherever she goes, reported *Us* magazine. “I don’t know if I have moved past it, but I don’t really care. I had a ball doing it, and it’s really nice to be a part of something that did affect people,” she said. Holmes said the show created a lot of opportunities for all the actors, who were a part of it. “You can’t really ask for much more than that,” she added.—PTI



Kim Kardashian having hard time getting pregnant again?

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is reportedly having a hard time getting pregnant again with her second child.

The 34-year-old ‘Keeping Up with the Kardashians’ star and her rapper husband Kanye West are attempting to have another baby for the past nine months but nothing has worked yet, reported TMZ. “Kim has visited fertility doctors, who have told her that having another child was a long shot,” a source said.

The couple were photographed visiting the same Beverly Hills medical building which she visited weekly when expecting North West on 22 December. Kardashian gave birth to her first child, daughter North, in June last year.—PTI



Jackie Chan starring ‘Dragon Blade’ trailer released

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec —The first trailer of the upcoming historical action film ‘Dragon Blade’ starring John Cusack and Jackie Chan has been revealed.

In the trailer, Chan is seen proposing an alliance with Cusack’s character, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

Chan, 60, is playing the character named Huo An, who is a Commander of the Protectorate of the Western Regions.

Cusack, 48, plays Lucius, a Roman general who meets Chan in the Western part of China.

Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody, who is also a part of the film, plays a character named Tiberius.

‘Dragon Blade’ is set during the time of Han Dynasty and the film hits the theatres on February 19 next year on the first day of Chinese New Year holiday.—PTI

Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett perform together

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec — Pop star Lady Gaga and her her collaborator Tony Bennett made a surprise appearance on a TV show to perform their new song ‘Winter Wonderland’.

The duo was backed by a band while showcasing their vocals during their appearance on ‘Good Morning America’, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

The 28-year-old ‘Born This Way’ hitmaker donned a silver floor-length gown paired with a white fur scarf while Bennett, 88, wore a navy blue

The duo was backed by a band while showcasing their vocals during their appearance on ‘Good Morning America’.
REUTERS



suit teamed with a red tie. Gaga and Bennett’s version of ‘Winter Wonderland’ is

featured on their joint jazz album, *Cheek to Cheek*, which peaked at No 1 on

Billboard 200 following its release earlier this year.

PTI

GENERAL

Japan coach Aguirre denies involvement in match-fixing

Tokyo, 28 Dec — Embattled Japan coach Javier Aguirre on Saturday vehemently protested his innocence over match-fixing charges that have been leveled at him in Spain.

Speaking to the media for the first time since Spanish prosecutors named him among 41 individuals on 15 December in a report into the alleged rigging of a La Liga game in 2011, the 56-year-old said, “I worked in Spain for 12 years and have never done anything unethical or unprofessional.”

“I believe Spanish soccer is fair and clean. The only way to win matches is through effort. I have never been given gifts by anybody and never expected them. I will cooperate with prosecutors and defend myself until the end.”

Aguirre was manager of Real Zaragoza when the team beat Levante 2-1 away at the end of the 2011 season and as a result avoided relegation to the second tier. He could be asked to appear in Spain if the complaint is accepted by a Valencia court and a full-scale investigation is opened.

“I have coached over 450 matches in Spain and this is just one match and I happened to be there. I hope this becomes clearer over time and the situation will be calm. I am as surprised about this as everyone.” Asked what he would do if the case is accepted by the court and preliminary hearings start in January, he said, “My lawyer has told me that I would



Embattled Japan coach Javier Aguirre attends a press conference in Tokyo on 27 Dec, 2014. He denied the allegation over match-fixing that has been leveled at him in Spain. — KYODO NEWS

be called at a time when it would not affect my job.”

“While the Asian Cup is going on I will be thinking about nothing except winning the championship. I will not waste a minute thinking about anything else.”

The Japan Football Association decided last week that Aguirre will remain in charge for the 9-31 January Asian Cup despite his alleged involvement in the scandal. He had already denied any wrongdoing in emergency talks with association officials.

Spanish prosecutors alleged that the Levante players were reportedly paid a total of 965,000 euros to deliberately lose the game. Zaragoza first made bank transfers to Aguirre and its players and officials, who then took the money from their accounts and passed it on to the Levante players, reports said citing the prosecutors.

Former Zaragoza president Agapito Iglesias and players from both teams are cited as defendants in

the complaint.

Aguirre, who refused to be drawn on details under lawyers’ advice, said he had no intention of stepping down as Japan coach.

“The players involved in the (Zaragoza-Levante) match are still continuing playing every weekend and the Zaragoza directors are still doing their jobs. The referee that officiated that match is still blowing his whistle.”

“Why can’t I carry on my job just as they are? Until I am proven guilty, I am innocent and have the right to work.”

“If my wallet, for example, disappeared in this room you would not stop everyone from leaving until it was found. Everyone has to do their own jobs. You would have to investigate where the wallet went but you have to carry on working.”

“There are players from that match that are playing in the Champions League now and I think that is good. I have done nothing that I regret and

want to keep working.”

He added, “In all my career in Mexico and the United States and Spain I have never quit while I am under contract. I am a professional. If you speak to the players and staff at the places that I have worked they would tell you that.”

Aguirre said he remembered the Zaragoza-Levante match like it was yesterday but did not recall anything untoward about the game.

“I prepared for that game the same way I have in the other matches, to try and win it. It was a tight match. The (Levante) goalkeeper could not have saved the two goals we scored. They pulled one back and there were some dangerous moments toward the end of the match and I remember it like it was yesterday.”

Aguirre, who has also coached the Mexican national team and had spells as manager at Atletico Madrid and Espanyol in Spain, was appointed Japan coach in late August. He replaced Italian Alberto Zaccheroni, who stepped down after Japan was eliminated in the first round of this year’s World Cup finals in Brazil.

Japan begin a training camp in Chiba Prefecture on Monday and leave for Australia on 2 January. The Blue Samurai begin their defense of the Asian Cup against Palestine in Newcastle on 12 January. They have also been drawn against 2007 champions Iraq as well as Jordan in first-round Group D.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(29-12-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:20 am**
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:40 am**
- * Teleplay
- 8:35 am**
- * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:00 am**
- * News / International News
- 10:20 am**
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 11:20 am**
- * Tasty Trip
- 12:00 noon**
- * News/ International News / Weather Report
- 2:45 pm**
- * Solo Favourites
- 3:15 pm**
- * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 4:40 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Maths)
- 5:20 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 6:20 pm**
- * Traditional Boxing
- 7:20 pm**
- * Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 8:00 pm**
- * News International News / Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
- * People Talks
- 9:00 pm**
- * News International News / Weather Report
- * Socio Economic Scenes
- * Take On Old Film
- * TV Drama Series

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-12-14 07:00 am~ 30-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Art Teacher
- * Local News
- * The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * Glass Noodle Soup
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Local News
- * Youth of the Future “Hair Designer”
- * World News
- * Entrepreneur “U Than Myint”
- * Local News
- * Today Myanmar “Fast-food Franchise: Lotteria”
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady “Kyin Po”
- * Local News
- * Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder
- * World News
- * Paper Flower
- * Local News
- * Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: “Yan Moe Aung”
- * Local News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * In the Studio “Khin Su Shin”

Torres will make loan move to Milan permanent next month

LONDON, 28 Dec — Fernando Torres’ loan move from Chelsea to AC Milan will become a permanent transfer next month, the Premier League club said on Saturday.

The news came as a complete surprise because Atletico Madrid assistant coach German Burgos said earlier in the day that Torres was all set to rejoin his boyhood club.

“It is on the verge of completion and we are waiting for things to firm up,” Burgos said of the deal.

“He will be a very

important reinforcement for the second half of the season,” Diego Simeone’s number two told Spanish media.

Chelsea made the announcement about Torres’ permanent switch to Milan on their website.

“The striker moved to the San Siro on a two-year loan deal in August and on 5 January he will complete a permanent transfer to the Serie A side,” said the Stamford Bridge club.

“Chelsea Football Club thanks Fernando for his service during the past four seasons and wishes him the very best for the

future.”

Torres, who joined the Londoners for a British record fee of 50 million pounds (\$77.75 million) in January 2011, had a chequered spell at the club but helped Chelsea win the Champions League and the FA Cup in 2012 and the Europa League a year later.—Reuters

AC Milan’s Fernando Torres heads the ball during their Serie A soccer match against Palermo at San Siro stadium in Milan, on 2 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS



Terry's all gold for Chelsea and Mourinho



Chelsea's John Terry reacts as he leaves the pitch after a 2-0 victory over Stoke City during their English Premier League soccer match at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, northern England on 22 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 28 Dec — Former England captain John Terry is performing as well in central defence as he was a decade ago, according to Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

Terry scored for the second time in five days when his first-half goal, the 61st of his club career, paved the way for Premier League leaders Chelsea to beat London rivals West Ham United 2-0 on Friday.

Just as pleasingly for Mourinho, the 34-year-old gave a masterclass in the art of defending as he subdued West Ham's in-form striker Andy Carroll.

"He is full of confi-

dence," Mourinho told reporters after Chelsea kept up their 100 percent home record in the league this season to stay three points clear at the top.

"I see my John of 2004, 2005 and 2006, I don't see any difference. The only difference is seeing his twins when they go to the training ground, they had only just been born in that period but now they are running around and kicking balls.

"John is playing so good but I always say the same, when the team is playing so well it's easy for individuals," the Portuguese added.

Mourinho, who led Chelsea to the league title in 2005 and 2006 and returned for a second stint in charge 18 months ago, said the upbeat mood at Stamford Bridge was in stark contrast to the atmosphere that characterised the end of his time with previous club Real Madrid.

"Our results are good and the players are happy," he explained. "I'm happy as a coach because the team is playing well".

"I'm happy as a guy because I love my players. It's important to feel happy with the people that surround me, it's something I missed for a while."

Chelsea, who are also through to the Champions League last 16 and League Cup semi-finals, narrowly missed out on the Premier League title last season but Mourinho believes there is a big difference in his side now.

"We are a much better team when we have the ball," he added. "Last year we were very strong defensively and very well organized but we lacked a bit of creativity when we had the ball.

"The challenge this year was to bring that creativity and dynamic without losing the defensive qualities of the team."—Reuters

United bandwagon gathering pace under Van Gaal

LONDON, 28 Dec — While Chelsea and Manchester City slug it out at the top of the Premier League, Louis van Gaal's Old Trafford revolution gathers ever more momentum in the red half of Manchester.

The Dutchman endured a tricky start to his reign but seven wins in eight league games have put United hot on the heels of the pacesetters.

If the current United side can emulate the teams of Alex Ferguson who were renowned for a strong second half of the season, Van Gaal's men could yet have their say in the destiny of the title.

United visit Tottenham Hotspur in a lunchtime kickoff on Sunday as the games continue to flow thick and fast over the festive period. "The signs have been good in recent weeks," midfielder Michael Carrick told the club website (ManUtd.com).

"We were bitterly disappointed not to win last week (at Aston Villa) but we beat Newcastle and now have two big away games. They will be a good test for us to see where we are at."

After the trip to Spurs, United — seven points behind City and 10 adrift of Chelsea — are away at Stoke on New Year's Day.

"We're continuing to look up and will continue to try to catch them (City and Chelsea)," Carrick said. "We're not satisfied with third — it's obviously an improvement and we're getting better, but we want to keep looking up."

Seventh-placed Spurs have won three on the bounce with striker Harry Kane emerging as one of the stars of the season, his first-minute strike in the 2-1 victory over Leicester on Friday taking his tally to 15 in all competitions.

"We've built up some momentum now with some wins," he said.

"United have picked

up form. It's going to be a tough game but we are confident at the minute. We're ready for it."

Chelsea make the trip south to face a fourth-placed Southampton side who appear to have got over their blip following a flying start to the campaign.

"We have found the belief again," said Southampton manager Ronald Koeman after Saints followed up a 3-0 drubbing of Everton with a 3-1 success at Crystal Palace on Friday. "We know Chelsea are strong. It will be a challenge."

Manuel Pellegrini's City will set a club record of 10 wins in succession in all competitions if they can take three points at home to Burnley.—Reuters



Manchester United's manager Louis van Gaal

Rampant Ronaldo looking to improve on outstanding 2014

MADRID, 28 Dec — Not content with four titles in 2014, including his second Champions League, prolific Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo is determined to make next year an even bigger success.

Ronaldo netted 51 goals in 47 appearances last season, setting a record of 17 goals for one edition of Europe's elite club competition, as Real secured a record-extending 10th continental crown and the King's Cup.

The Portugal captain continued where he left off in 2014-15 as the world's richest club by income claimed the European Super Cup and Club World Cup and he has amassed an incredible 32 goals in 25 games in all competitions.

His haul of 25 in 14 La Liga matches is a Spanish record and



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his second goal against Celta Vigo during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

he looks set to smash the biggest total for a season in Spain's top flight of 50 scored by Lionel Messi in 2011-12.

"It would be a dream if 2015 was like 2014 or even better," Ronaldo said in an interview published in sports daily As on Saturday.

"It is possible to do it because Madrid is always a candidate to win the competitions it is playing in," added the 29-year-old.

"We have a team spirit that can help us win the most titles possible and we will fight to the death to get them." Ronaldo attributed much of Real's recent success to the arrival of coach Carlo Ancelotti, who replaced the divisive

Jose Mourinho at the end of the 2012-13 season.

Italian Ancelotti immediately ended Real's 12-year wait for their 10th European title and using the club's millions has built a formidable side that is top of La Liga and one of the favourites to repeat their Champions League success this term. "The coach has a lot of importance," Ronaldo told As.

"He is a great trainer and a great person and we are all delighted with him. "Together we are a united family which will try to improve on the successes of 2014."

Ronaldo will find out whether he has won a third FIFA World Player of the Year award, and his second in a row, on 12 January when he is up against Argentina captain Messi and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.—Reuters