

For the year ahead, my greatest wish for citizens to have good physical health, mental fortitude and positive energy to work for interests of great country

The year 2015 is crucial for Myanmar's democratic transition. The government's effort to fulfil two of the most widely held wishes of the general public: peace and stability, and socio-economic development, has generated some good results in the past year. But it must be noted - there is still much work left to do.

Our government will continue to strive to the best of its ability to consolidate the democratic reform program and bring the peace process to fruition, and to stand by our pledge to hold free and fair elections in 2015.

However, our administration cannot complete this work alone; there also must be cooperation and support from other branches of the government and security forces, political parties, civil society and the general public as a whole. It is vital for us all to do everything we can openly and wisely, without bias or fear, to sustain the progress we have achieved so far in the peace and economic development process, and to ensure a smooth transition after the election.

For the year ahead, my greatest wish for you all, citizens of the country, is to have good physical health, mental fortitude and positive energy to work for the interests of our great country.

New Year message by Venerable Dr Nandamalabhivamsa

First of all, I wish Year 2015 would be the period that is not stained with terrorist attacks. May all beings see all the pleasant things, and no bad impacts will blow on all. When loving-kindness can be kept in the mind of all beings at all, no terrorist

attacks will not hit people.

Abiding by the teaching of Buddha preached in the Metta Sutta may not commit any terrorist acts. Honest and sincerity could build up a world that frees with terrorism in the world. Negotiation and discussion will help establish a peace-

ful society. When the mind and attitude are embraced with polite and flexible mindset, it could help realize a peaceful world. To see the year without extremism, mindset should be changed in line with the teaching of Buddha.

(See page 3)



We will be able to establish a Federal Union on the basis of agreements we will reach at political dialogue My Fellow Citizens



NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—*The following is the full text of the monthly radio message delivered by President U Thein Sein.*

My Fellow Citizens:

I would like to inform all of you about the changes that have taken place in our country in the month of December just as I have done previously to share the current state of affairs on this radio program. Since this is the last month of 2014, I would also like to recap and share with you this past year's political, economic and social developments, what my government has carried out during that time, and the preparations we have made for upcoming 2015.

(See page 4)

New Year Greetings of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

I would like to extend greetings by wishing you all health and prosperity in 2015.

Firstly, may you all be able to enjoy prosperity or economic development, which will bring about high living standards, will enable us to do more for education we need and will enable us to do more for rural as well as urban health care. Therefore, I wish you economic development, which will also contribute to rural development and poverty reduction. In addition, economic development will also contribute to national security, defence and the rule of law and

therefore priority has been given to economic development. Secondly, I wish you peace. I wish for success of the national reconciliation for peace in 2015. Only then, will our country be stable and prosperous. I believe that with stability and prosperity we will be able to build the desired Union where all national races live together through thick and thin. Only when peace has been restored, will businesses thrive and will investment grow. Without peace, investment will not grow. Therefore, I wish you peace. Thirdly, my wish

(See page 3)

New Year greetings of Vice President U Nyan Tun

Esteemed national people of the Union

I would like to extend greetings to you all by wishing you best of health and happiness on the New Year occasion. We have passed 2014 by overcoming difficulties, crises and challenges together with the spirit expressed in the poem "The way of the water hyacinth" written by Poet Saya Zawgyi, "without being afraid and a wince, amidst the confusion of heavy rains, storms and waves, without wavering."

There were achievements that are to be proud of as well as sorrowful incidents where success could not be achieved as

much as we wished and expected.

Learning lessons from the experience of 2014, we hope to bring about peace and prosperity for the union in 2015 together.

This is our conviction that we need the strength of the people a lot.

Trust and active cooperation of the public are the key to success.

I would like to urge you all, with our bravery, resoluteness and readiness, to build our Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a land of peace for all people where equal rights and correct policies prevail.

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 31 Dec—As part of an effort to expose more human trafficking cases nationwide, the current Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law will be rewritten in 2015, according to the Myanmar's Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBSTP).

The amendment of the law is due to its loopholes in all sections of the law, Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Hla of the Anti-Hu-

man Trafficking Police Corps told the Global New Light of Myanmar on Wednesday.

The law will be rewritten in cooperation with local and foreign experts within the set timeframe. Human trafficking working groups including the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) has pledged to offer technical assistance in reviewing the law, he added.

2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law will be rewritten next year

At the recent meeting, the central body has decided to conduct efficiency courses for community work groups next year that are believed to help promote public participation role in fighting human trafficking.

Plans are underway to increase temporary shelters for trafficked victims in border areas especially in Tachileik where victims are taking shelters at the monasteries, with the body inviting donor organizations to take part in



the project.

So far, only three shelters have been opened in (See page 3)

Members of Myanmar's Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons seen in group photo.

Pobbathiri Township gets library in rural area



NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Independence Day, a library

identified “Pyinnya Pyokhin” was put into service in Pazunseik Village, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi

Taw Council Area, on 30 December.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Htay

and Deputy Director of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Information and Public Relations Department Daw Thin Thin Zin explained purpose of constructing the library building and advantages of reading.

Officials accepted cash and publications donated by wellwishers and returned certificate of honour.

The deputy director, Township Administrator U Htet Aung Phyo and the library committee chairman formally opened the building. The government allotted K1 million and local people K1.8 million for construction of a 22 feet long and 20 feet wide one-storey building.

Shwe Yeyint

AMD conducts agricultural machinery driving course in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 31 Dec — Under the arrangement of Mandalay Region Agricultural Mechanization Department, a ceremony to kick off the agricultural machinery driving course was held at No 44 Tractor Station in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, on 30 December. Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing in his speech stressed the need for trainees to have experiences and knowledge in the training.

Head of District AMD U Myint Lwin urged the trainees to grasp the opportunity in transforming manual to mechanized farming.

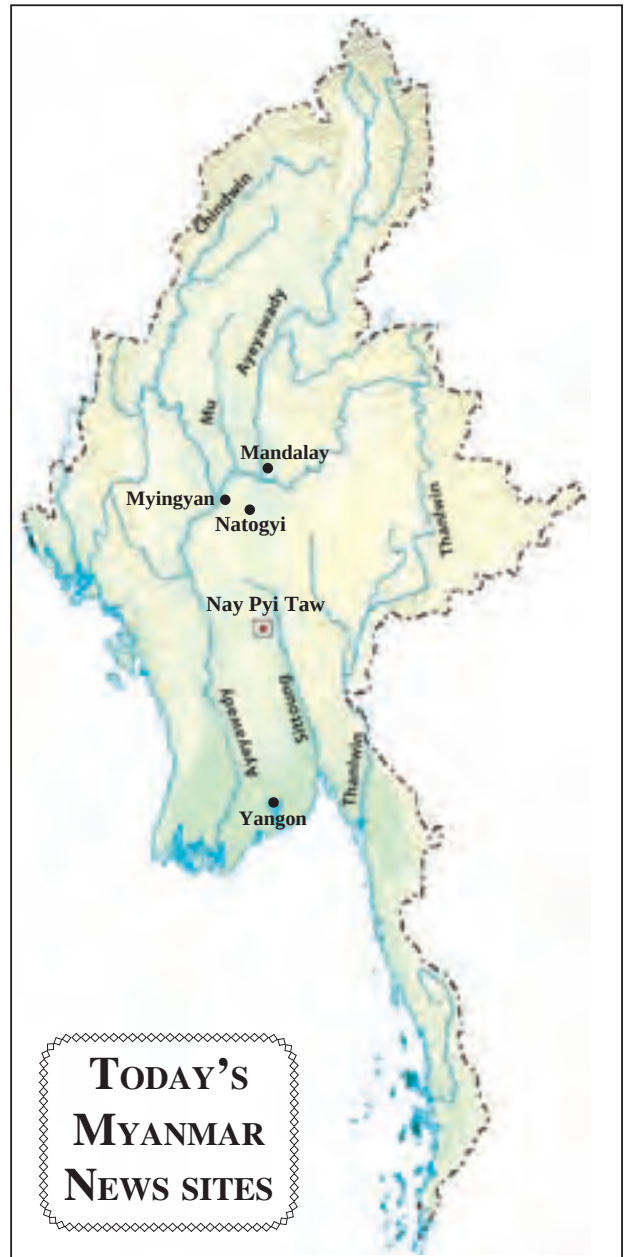
Altogether 30 trainees are attending the 12-day course. Head of Township AMD U Sein Maung Toe



and officials give training to the local youths.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

An official of Agricultural Mechanization Department gives lecture to trainees at driving course.



Well-wisher family from U.S. donates cash to social organizations

NATOGYI, 31 Dec — Dr Win Myint Aung-Dr Myint Myat Htwe and family of the U.S. donated K100,000 to Thukha Chantha social association in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, on 30 December.

Chairman of the association U Aye Lwin and Vice Chairman U Tin

Hlaing accepted cash donation. The well-wisher family also donated K100,000 each to five social organizations in the urban area.

“The donations to social organizations in the native town is annual tasks of our family,” the well-wisher family told media.

Htay Myint Maung

Pyinmana Township commissions asphalted ringroad into service

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — In commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Independence Day, a ceremony to commission a asphalt circular road into service was held at the corner of Tabau Pagoda road and circular road in Pyinmana on Wednesday.

On the occasion, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than explained development tasks in Pyinmana Township.

Director (Engineer) U Aung Moe of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee reported on efforts for playing asphalt on the ringroad.

The council member, committee member U Aung Kyaw Nyein and Township Administrator U Myoh Nang formally opened the already-asphalted road.

After the ceremony, officials strolled along a 3,500 feet long and 18 feet wide road.—Shwe Kokko



NATIONAL

New Year message by . . .

(from page 1)

When competitions are unavoidably occurred, terrorism acts must be avoided with the development of loving-kindness. Anger must be defeated by loving-kindness. Weapons can be abandoned by tolerance. Such mental development

could lead to an eternal and genuine success, and help to establish a peaceful Year 2014 of loving-kindness.

Finally I urged all the Buddhists and global people, as a New Year message, to practise the teaching of Buddha to ensure prevailing loving-kindness.

New Year Greetings of

(from page 1)

is concerned with politics. It is necessary to pass through 2015 with political stability. With political stability, the nation will be stable. With stability, businesses will thrive. Everything will lead to the path of development. So I wish you these three things. I wish you all can enjoy these three things in 2015.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement for 2015 general elections

1. The general elections will be held in late October/early November 2015.
2. A correct and accurate voter list needs to successfully hold the elections.
3. The Union Election Commission compiles the basic voter list for the 2015 general elections.
4. Every citizen has rights to cast vote for elections. Not to lose the rights, they have to be included in the voter list. Citizens should check voter lists for casting votes.
5. Citizens may request the respective sub-commission to insert their names into the voter list through form No 3 if their names are not included in the voter list. They may request to correct the wrong facts through form No 4-C. They may object participation of those who do not have rights to cast votes, through form No 4.
6. When you settled from one township to another, if you do not change household form 66/6, your name will include in voter list of previous township.

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Liberation Day of Cuba, which falls on 1 January 2015.—MNA

Schedules to confer honorary title on 2015 Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — The honorary title awarding ceremony 2015 will take place at Thabin Hall of the Presidential Palace after the 67th Anniversary Independence Day and Grand Military Review ceremonies on 4 January 2015.—MNA

2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons . . .

(from page 1)

three border townships—Muse, Kawthoung and Myawady—organized by the anti-human trafficking body with the assistance of Japanese government.

According to the statistics from January to No-

vember this year, the anti-human trafficking squad could save 162 trafficking victims out of 222, most of them women. In the previous year, 220 victims out of 256 were saved by the police.

GNLM

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Raul Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Liberation Day of Cuba, which falls on 1 January 2015.

MNA

President U Thein Sein's radio message to be broadcast on 1, 2 January

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — A radio message by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast on radio on 1 and 2 January 2015. Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.

The full text of the President's clarification on 2014 situation of the State will be reported in dailies on 1 January.—MNA

Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Yangon farmers

YANGON, 31 Dec — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met farmers from four districts of Yangon region Wednesday.

The meeting held was held at sports ground of Hmawby township, about four kilometres northeast of Yangon, where more than 5,000 farmers in the region attended.

U Htay Oo, head of the

Pyithu Hluttaw's Citizen's Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee, gave speech on behalf of Thura U Shwe Mann.

Hluttaw representative noted all the people expect stability and a secure life together with fundamental needs of life, saying that the role of farmers is important for the development of the country and their problems of land ownership must be

solved by respective bodies.

U Myint Swe, chief minister of Yangon region, urged challenges on the path of democratization process must be overcome by unity and cooperation of all the people.

A total of 1,725.96 acres have been returned to 186 farmers in 14 townships of Yangon region, said the chief minister.

Thura U Shwe Mann

then said farmers should get legal rights that could help solve more than 90 percent of problems of farmers.

The speaker also reminded the importance of rule of law, and legal affairs bodies should conduct law knowledge for the farmers.

The meeting was also attended by deputy speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, vice chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw.

MNA

Mass participation imperative for ensuring free, fair, transparent elections

YANGON, 31 Dec — Cooperation among the Union Election Commission, political parties, civil society organizations, media and the people is required to hold free, fair and transparent elections which are only about 10 months away, said U Tin Aye, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, at a meeting in Kayin State on Tuesday.

In meeting with departmental officials, members of sub-commissions at state, district, township and ward levels, political parties, social organizations and townsenders at Thauyngyinn Hall in Myawady, the UEC chairman called on those present to cooperate in the election process for 2015 general elections.

Stressing the need to check voters' lists before the day of elections, he highlighted the importance of name inclusion in the electoral roll, and affirmed the commission's commitment to organizing voter education campaigns.

Coordination is underway with the ministry con-



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye highlights cooperation among the Union Election Commission, political parties, civil society organizations, media and the people.—MNA

cerned to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to those who do not have these cards, said the chairman, adding that ethnic nationalities living in the certain areas will be included in the voters' list on the recommendation of respective development support committees.

Regarding advance-voting, the UEC chairman vowed to carry

out transparent measures for early voting.

With the aim of ensuring free, fair and credible elections, local and international observers will be invited to monitor the elections, he added.

After answering questions from political parties, the UEC Chairman pledged the commission's strenuous effort to hold the elections.

On his stay in Myawady, the UEC Chairman visited friendship bridge, Shwe Myin-Wun pagoda, Myawady border trade zone and industrial zone, and held talks on peace and regional development matters with responsible persons from KNU Brigade (7), KNU/KNLA (PC) and DKBA Kalo Htoo Baw.—MNA

We will be able to establish...*(from page 1)*

This is the time of year where each person imagines what the New Year will bring and how these changes will impact our daily lives. The upcoming 2015 marks a critical year where we will have to systematically implement the remaining measures in the political transformation process that my government had the privilege of leading. We can also look at it as an important year for the political process in terms of the changes, improvements and successes it will bring.

Just as citizens have a duty to pay taxes, the government also has a duty to systematically plan, and transparently utilize these funds in areas with the most need and of the most benefit to the people. Therefore in 2014, a strategic plan for public financing reform was drafted, and a Union Tax Law enacted. In so doing, citizens are now able to systematically pay their taxes, and the government is able to plan spending in the areas that benefit the people.

We will hold the 2015 general elections in the coming year which will serve as one of the most critical steps in our democratic transition process. If we look back at our post-independence political history, we will notice our inability to create an environment where all political stakeholders can participate freely in an electoral process to shape the country's destiny. Instead we will see elections that are either protested or boycotted by one or the other of the major political factions. Today—and because of all our combined efforts—a new political culture where we value finding solutions through dialogue is taking root in place of unconstructive confrontational tactics. Because of this new political culture, the 2015 elections will mark the first time since our independence where elections will be contested by all the political stakeholders freely and fairly. In this way 2015 will be a remarkable year in Myanmar politics as it will be shaped by the elections and by the efforts of all political stakeholders to find the right solutions through the electoral process.

As many of you know, there are political stakeholders that have formed political parties within the framework of the 2008 Constitution to contest in the upcoming elections. In addition, there are armed factions who resorted to various armed struggles to resolve their own political disagreements. You will also notice at this time that many of these armed organizations are actively engaging in the peace process to find political solutions to these disagreements and settle their past grievances politically. In this way, the political process that we see today is shaped by avenues and opportunities for all political stakeholders to take part in. In the near future, I am hopeful that even the armed political groups will have an opportunity through the political dialogue process to participate in the political process directly.

It is critical and imperative to merge the political developments arising from the 2015 elections with the national reconciliation processes originating from the peace process. The day we can do this is the day we can begin to build a new nation based on the ideals of a federal union and finally fulfill the needs of our nation and society at large. Only then can we realize the dreams and wishes of the people. It is for these reasons that a successful 2015 elections in conjunction with the initiation

of the political dialogue process based on and grounded in nationwide ceasefire agreements mark a critical juncture in Myanmar politics.

My Fellow Citizens:

I would like to discuss more about some of the critical issues that we tackled during 2014.

In terms of the peace process, I am happy to see that most of the conflict affected areas are beginning to see signs of peace and improvements in living conditions when compared to the conditions before. The people living in these areas are beginning to see the impact of peace and a possible way of life free of fear. However, I am also saddened by the continuation of conflict between armed factions in some of the areas. Amidst the joys and sadness, 2014 marks the year where the number of clashes and the loss of property and lives are at their lowest since the inception of armed conflict in our country. It is all the more important for us to work towards achieving lasting peace so that there will be no more fighting and that the people can strive towards peace and normalcy in their daily lives.

It is also this desire that will compel us to come to an agreement on the few outstanding provisions and reach a successful signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. In the near future, I am hopeful that we will be able to begin the political dialogue process with all the relevant stakeholders and together build a new nation that we all have envisioned. Together, we will be able to reach political agreements and find political solutions effectively.

My Fellow Citizens:

The year 2014 has arguably been the most important year for Myanmar's international relations since independence. We have successfully hosted the Southeast Asia games for the first time in thirty years. This event also allowed us to illustrate the capacity and skills of various Myanmar athletes. Over 2014 we chaired the Association of South East Asian Nations. As chair of ASEAN, we successfully hosted not only the annual ASEAN Summit but also the East Asia Summit, bringing together the leaders of all ten ASEAN countries as well as other partnering countries. All the important issues of the day—from Climate Change to tensions in the South China Sea—were discussed. I am proud that Myanmar played a role not only in hosting and facilitating these discussions but also where possible bridging different views, reducing tensions, and identifying mutually agreeable ways ahead.

Over the past year we have also continued our path from international isolation towards becoming true citizens of the world. We were able to weave a network of international connections that will be vital for Myanmar's future. We are also on the path of a much more dynamic and multi-aligned foreign policy. We see no reason to be friends with any single power or bloc. Unlike what we have done in the past, we should actively seek the strongest possible relations with all countries and all powers and in this way give the Myanmar people the best of all worlds.

Likewise, when rebuilding the country's economy, we must look at the country as a whole. Specifically, institutions that are important for the stability of the economy have to be fixed or constructed anew. We were able to establish an investor friendly environment, leading to an increase in foreign investment by USD 6.3 billion in 2014. More than 3 million tourists visited the country, bringing in over USD 3 billion in earnings. Important trade agreements and memoranda of understanding were also signed. Earnings from trade rose to 20 billion Kyats. More opportunities were created for employment, improvement of workforce skills and capacity.

An important driver of economic development is the telecommunications sector, and in 2014, operators with international experience began operations in the country. Since my government took office, the mobile phone penetration rate has increased from 3 percent to 23 percent in 2014. Although there are challenges with coverage and quality of service during this network build out phase, soon we will have a modern communications network. The ease with which news and information can be disseminated through these networks is not only important for the economy, education, health and research but is also an important foundation for building a democratic society.

My government has raised public sector salaries every year. Additionally, the government is working to provide more assistance in the form of educational grants, scholarships and other social welfare assistance to public sector employees so that they may have a comparable standard of living as other workers. Public sector salary increases may lead to a sudden rise in prices, and it important not to increase the burden on the public. Therefore, the government will also include consideration of necessary economic measures. The government is also striving to develop the pension system and to continue to improve the pension collection process. Over five hundred thousand E-pension cards have been issued this year.

Just as citizens have a duty to pay taxes, the government also has a duty to systematically plan, and transparently utilize these funds in areas with the most need and of the most benefit to the people. Therefore in 2014, a strategic plan for public financing reform was drafted, and a Union Tax Law enacted. In so doing, citizens are now able to systematically pay their taxes, and the government is able to plan spending in the areas that benefit the people. Establishing a modern economy is an extremely important task for our country. And, an essential component of a modern economy is a stock exchange. Therefore, we are planning to launch the Yangon stock exchange in 2015, and gradually introduce a public investment market.

To further develop a stable economy, the Central Bank will sell government bonds through tender offers in January 2015. Nine experienced foreign banks have also been granted operation licenses to develop the banking sector. Licenses have also been granted to banks operating in the areas of agriculture, livestock, small and medium enterprises, and low cost housing. Moreover, credit bureaus have been opened to improve access to loans.

Efforts are also being made to move from a cash-based economy to a system that is more accountable and transparent.

We still have to overcome difficulties and challenges to ensure that these economic reforms bring tangible benefits to the public at large. In 2015, my government will continue with its efforts to bring about economic development that is beneficial to the public so that it can effectively resolve political and social problems stemming from the widening income gap.

Since the outset, my administration has taken all necessary measures to ensure clean government and good governance. While we prepare to join the Open Government Partnership, the Anti-Corruption Committee is also undertaking measures to effectively reduce corruption in the country.

My Fellow Citizens:

With regards to the education sector, in 2014, we reduced central control of basic education schools, expanded free schooling to cover primary and middle schools, accelerated literacy programs, reopened university dormitories, and renovated Yangon University. Next year's budget will also provide more spending on education. Also in 2014, a National Education Law was enacted. I am mindful of the fact that there may be differences in opinion because the law had to include considerations for the entire country. The law should be viewed as one component of education policy, and I would like to urge continued inclusive discussions to find beneficial solutions. I invite everyone to participate in building a modern and decentralized education system.

Previously, when the healthcare budget was 100 billion Kyats, the state was only responsible for 20 percent
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We will be able to establish...*(from page 4)*

of an individual's healthcare costs while an individual was responsible for the remaining 80 percent. During the 2014-2015 financial year, the healthcare budget increased to 537 billion Kyats and as a result an individual's share of healthcare expenses decreased to below 60 percent. The government currently spends USD 12 per person on healthcare, and including foreign assistance the amount is USD 15 per person. According to WHO calculations, the average per capita cost of healthcare in developing countries is USD 30, which means the government is currently covering about 50 percent of each person's healthcare costs. We must accept that although the numbers have improved, the healthcare system continues to face many challenges. Therefore, in the coming year, the healthcare budget will be increased, and efforts will be made to improve the capacity of healthcare workers.

As of 2014, we have managed to provide electricity to 243 townships out of the 398 townships from the national power grid and the remaining 155 townships by other alternative ways. The rural electricity scheme has also made provision of electricity to more than 25,000 villages possible. Needless to say, regular supply of electric power is an essential component in developing a country's economy. Furthermore, electricity is also a crucial infrastructural need for education and healthcare sectors. As such, we have tried to the best of our ability to improve the performance of the electricity sector. I would also like to note here that the government has undertaken rural development programs in collaboration with international development partners.

One of the major achievements in 2014 is the successful undertaking of a nationwide census. Only when we have correct population data, will we be able to provide necessary public services and undertake development plans effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, accurate census data will allow us to hold elections—a measure that plays an essential role in a country's democratic consolidation process—effectively. This census exercise has generated a large set of statistical data that will benefit not just our administration but future governments as well.

The land issue is one of the major challenges facing our country. The fact of the matter is that land reforms are never easy in any country; they are particularly difficult in transitional countries like ours. The land problems we are now left to deal with were caused by unnecessarily complicated procedures practiced by the previous governments and problems relating to documentation and record of ownership. In addition, questionable allocation of land to business projects by taking advantage of the existing loopholes in archaic land laws and doing so without proper public consultation has also led to land

problems in the country. After learning lessons from the existing land problems in the country, my administration has established the Land Utilization Management Central Committee chaired by the Vice President in order to undertake land reforms effectively. The government has also established the Land Utilization Management Committee all the way down to the village level in order to ensure transparency of the land reform process. We will also need to develop better work procedures in order to remedy the delays in undertaking land reforms and resolving other land-related issues. I would like to note that the Union Government, after drawing lessons from dealing with the land issues in the past years, will do its utmost to undertake land reforms effectively and to help citizens regain ownership of the land they deserve.

Since the outset, my administration has taken all necessary measures to ensure clean government and good governance. While we prepare to join the Open Government Partnership, the Anti-Corruption Committee is also undertaking measures to effectively reduce corruption in the country. In recognition of our preparatory work to become a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Myanmar was admitted to the organization as a candidate in a short time. As a member of EITI, Myanmar will learn to undertake the extraction of natural resources and the utilization of the revenue from such business activities for the public in a transparent and accountable manner. The cooperation and coordination among the government, the public and the private sector will allow us to avoid the potential conflicts and problems that can result from the lack of transparency. Such cooperation among stakeholders will also ensure greater environmental protection and accountability.

My Fellow Citizens:

In order to create an effective democratic society that we envision, our society and the citizens within it must respect and help each other. In short, there must be harmony among all societal groups and communities. In 2014, my administration has significantly enhanced its efforts to promote social harmony and interfaith dialogue and to stop the divisive activities that would cause misunderstanding among different social groups.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that we are currently finalizing the Action Plan for Rakhine State. This plan is designed to bring social harmony between different communities and promote development in Rakhine State. The action plan will be implemented in consultation with the residents of the state and our international development partners.

Some recent surveys indicate that ordinary citizens can now enjoy more freedoms, namely in the area of freedom of expression, and that citizens in most parts of the country noted that they do not have to live in constant fear due to the political and administrative reforms undertaken

in 2014 and earlier.

That said, we understand we still have a long way to go before we can get to our destination. It is likely that we will not always be able to meet all the public expectation when we have to undertake several reforms concurrently. I would like to assure all of you that my administration will try to fulfill our promises and meet the reasonable expectations of citizens on the basis of fair criticism, feedback and suggestions we receive from the public at large. As such, I would like to urge all citizens to work with the government in the reform process.

My Fellow Citizens:

Since our country and our society has lagged far behind other countries for many years, it is natural for us to face a plethora of difficulties and challenges in the reform process that we must overcome. However, it is worth noting that if we manage to overcome all these difficulties and challenges, our nation and our society as a whole will benefit greatly from such an endeavor.

I would like say that the building of a peaceful society that we all desire is within our grasp. I am convinced that we will be able to establish a Federal Union on the basis of the agreements we will reach at the political dialogue. And owing to the tangible democratic reforms we have undertaken, the new government that will come into power in the wake of the upcoming elections will be able to do more for the socio-economic development in the country. In order to ensure smooth transition, however, all political stakeholders must try to find solutions to overcome the challenges facing this country through dialogue. The approach we choose to adopt should reflect and represent the wishes of all societal groups in the country. Given all we will need to do in the upcoming year, I would like to say that the year 2015 will not only be a historical year, it will also be a historic year as well.

It is imperative that all political stakeholders do their utmost at this historic juncture. As all of you know, a system of checks and balances among the three pillars of government is the essence of democracy. All three pillars however must ensure that they check and balance each other in ways that will strengthen the democratic reform process and not hinder it. It is also important that civil society organizations and all 51.4 million members of the public including political activists should participate in the reform process constructively. In order to ensure that we achieve our common goal of democratic transition and consolidation, I would like to urge all political stakeholders to cooperate with each other on the basis of mutual understanding, trust and patience.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm my commitment to working for the peace process, improving the social and economic welfare of the general public and helping to bring about a brighter future for future generations.

May you all have peace of mind and good health.

Information for media persons to cover 67th Anniversary Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony

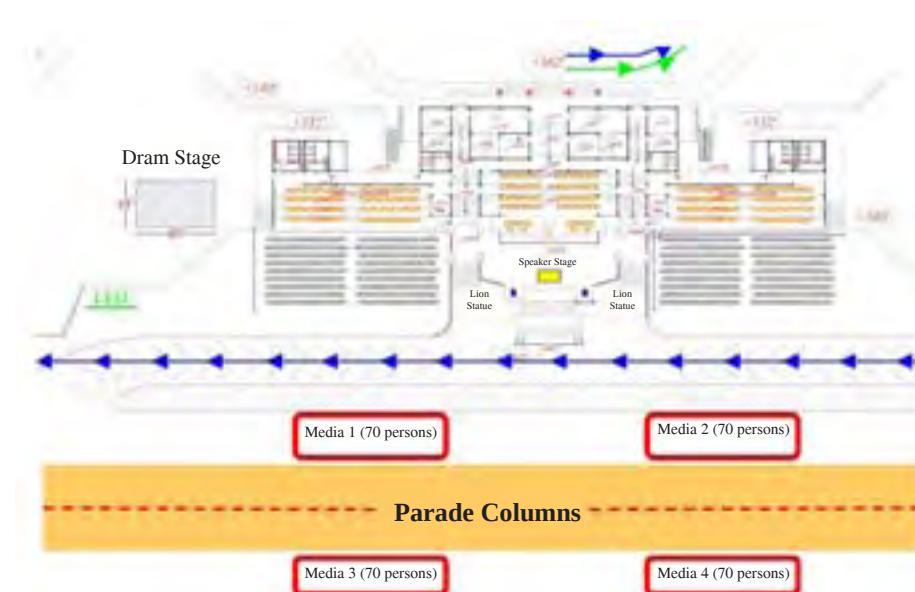
NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Left and right sides in front of the stage of Grand Military Review and two places behind the parade columns are designated for media persons to cover the news of the 67th Anniversary Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony during 2.5 hours period. Each place can admit about 70 media persons.

Media accreditation cards will be issued at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Information from 10 am to 4.30 pm daily on 2 and 3 January 2015. Media persons are to wear the accreditation cards the whole ceremony period. Media

persons must take positions at the press area, not beyond the press line. They have to choose their places in the press area to cover the ceremony and report to the officials on their chosen places at the accreditation cards issuance unit on 2 and 3 January. After taking positions, media persons are not to go anywhere with any reasons. They have to take positions up to the conclusion of ceremony. After the ceremony, they will be allowed to go outside. As the Grand Military Review ceremony is a State level occasion, media persons will not be allowed wearing of short pants, T-shirt, short skirt

and genes trousers. Media men must wear shirt, sarong or trousers (not genes) or safari suits and media women, Myanmar clothes or trousers (not genes) or safari suits. Media persons are to gather at the Ministry of Information by own arrangements at 4 am on 4 January 2015. They will be checked by personnel of the security subcommittee at the ministry's gate and they will be transported by car under the arrangement of the ministry. 30 minutes after the ceremony, they will be picked up at 8.45 am to the ministry by car.

For further information, may dial U Myint



67th Anniversary Independence Day Grand Military Review Ceremony

Kyaw, Director, Tel: 067-412002 and U Maung Pe, Director, 067-412023. Me-

dia persons are to follow the security measures and carry out their tasks under supervision of the media liaison officers assigned at the press area.—MNA

Mudslides, flash floods kill at least 53 in Philippines



Houses are submerged in floodwaters during heavy flooding brought by tropical storm Seniang in Misamis Oriental, on Mindanao island in southern Philippines on 29 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

MANILA, 31 Dec — Flash floods and mudslides have killed at least 53 people in the central and southern Philippines, the national disaster agency said on Wednesday, after days of heavy rains that have also hit neighbouring Southeast Asian countries.

Tropical storm Jangmi

prompted the evacuation of more than 86,000 people in Surigao del Sur, Bohol and Cebu provinces before weakening into a tropical depression.

A powerful typhoon killed 18 people this month and forced more than 1 million people to flee to shelters in what a UN agency

said was one of the world's biggest peacetime evacuations. Malaysia's worst flooding in a decade forced nearly a quarter of a million people from their homes, officials said on Tuesday, with the government coming under renewed fire for its perceived slow response.—Reuters

China provides Cambodia with \$145 mil in grants, loans

PHNOM PENH, 31 Dec — China has provided Cambodia with approximately \$145 million in economic and technical assistance in a signing ceremony attended by Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, a government official said on Tuesday.

The assistance comprises 700 million yuan (about \$112.7 million) in grants and 200 million yuan (\$32.2 million) in interest-free loans, according

to Koy Kuong, spokesman for the Cambodian Foreign Ministry.

Yang, China's top diplomat, is on a three-day working visit from Monday to co-chair the second meeting of a committee for strengthening bilateral relations and had a meeting with his Cambodian counterpart before the signing ceremony they presided over, the spokesman said.

The Cambodia-China Intergovernmental Coordination Committee was formed last year and met

for the first time in January in Beijing.

Hor Namhong said the meeting was to review progress in the implementation of an action plan to step up the bilateral partnership that was upgraded in 2010 to what officials call a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation.

Yang is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and King Norodom Sihamoni during his visit.—Kyodo News

Thai couple indicted for murder of Japanese man

BANGKOK, 31 Dec — Thai prosecutors have indicted a Thai woman and her common-law husband for the murder of a 79-year-old Japanese man in September, according to local media reports.

Phornchanok Chaiyapa and Somchai Kaewbangyang, both 47, were arrested in October over the

disappearance of Yoshinori Shimato, a Japanese language teacher.

According to Tuesday media reports, they are to make their first court appearance on Monday next week. According to investigations, the pair murdered Shimato at Phornchanok's house in a Bangkok suburb, chopped up his body

and then tossed the pieces into a nearby canal. Both defendants were acquainted with the victim.

The pair are also suspected of killing a 56-year-old Japanese man, Katsutoshi Tanaka, in 2003. Tanaka's death in a Bangkok suburb had previously been ruled an accident.

Kyodo News

AirAsia victim with life jacket raises questions about plane's last moments

SURABAYA, (Indonesia) /JAKARTA, 31 Dec — A body recovered on Wednesday from the crashed AirAsia plane was wearing a life jacket, an official with Indonesia's search and rescue agency said, raising questions about how the disaster unfolded.

Rescuers believe they have found the plane on the ocean floor off Borneo, after sonar detected a large, dark object beneath waters near where debris and bodies were found on the surface.

Ships and planes had been scouring the Java Sea for Flight QZ8501 since Sunday, when it lost contact during bad weather about 40 minutes into its flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore.

Seven bodies have been recovered from the sea, some fully clothed, which could indicate the Airbus A320-200 was intact when it hit the water. That would support a theory that it suffered an aerodynamic stall.

The fact that one person put on a life jacket would appear to indicate those on board had at least some time before the aircraft hit the water, or after it hit the water and before it sank.

And yet the pilots did

not issue a distress signal. The plane disappeared after it failed to get permission to fly higher to avoid bad weather because of heavy air traffic.

"This morning, we recovered a total of four bodies and one of them was wearing a life jacket," Tang Zaenudin, an official with the search and rescue agency, told Reuters.

He declined to speculate on what the find might mean.

Hernanto, head of the search and rescue agency in Surabaya, said rescuers believed they had found the plane on the sea bed with a sonar scan in water about 30 to 50 metres (100 to 165 feet) deep. The black box flight data and cockpit voice recorder has yet to be found.

Authorities in Surabaya were making preparations to receive and identify bodies, including arranging 130 ambulances to take victims to a police hospital and collecting DNA from relatives.

"We are praying it is the plane so the evacuation can be done quickly," Hernanto said.

Most of the people on board were Indonesians. No survivors have been found.

Officials said waves two to three meters (six to

nine feet) high and winds were hampering the hunt for wreckage and preventing divers from searching the crash zone.

"The fact that the debris appears fairly contained suggests the aircraft broke up when it hit the water, rather than in the air," said Neil Hansford, a former pilot and chairman of consultancy firm Strategic Aviation Solutions.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said his priority was retrieving the bodies.

Widodo, speaking in Surabaya on Tuesday after grim images of the scene in the Java Sea were broadcast on television, said AirAsia would pay an immediate advance of money to relatives, many of whom collapsed in grief when they saw the television pictures from the search.

AirAsia Chief Executive Tony Fernandes has described the crash as his "worst nightmare".

About 30 ships and 21 aircraft from Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and the United States have been involved in the search.

Singapore said it was sending two underwater beacon detectors to try to pick up pings from the black boxes, which contain cockpit voice and flight



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (C) oversees the aerial search operation for missing AirAsia Flight QZ8501, on board a Hercules over the sea south of Pangkalan Bun, central Kalimantan on 30 Dec, 2014 in this photo taken by Antara Foto. REUTERS

data recorders.

The plane was traveling at 32,000 feet (9,753 meters) and had asked to fly at 38,000 feet. When air traffic controllers granted permission for a rise to 34,000 feet a few minutes later, they received no response.

Online discussion among pilots has centered on unconfirmed secondary radar data from Malaysia that suggested the aircraft was climbing at a speed of 353 knots, about 100 knots too slow, and that it might have stalled.

Investigators are focusing initially on whether the crew took too long to request permission to climb, or could have ascended on their own initiative earlier, said a source close to the inquiry, adding

that poor weather could have played a part as well.

A Qantas pilot with 25 years of experience flying in the region said the discovery of the debris field relatively close to the last known radar plot of the plane pointed to an aerodynamic stall. One possibility is that the plane's instruments iced up, giving the pilots inaccurate readings.

The Indonesian captain, a former air force fighter pilot, had 6,100 flying hours under his belt and the plane last underwent maintenance in mid-November, said the airline, which is 49 percent owned by Malaysia-based budget carrier AirAsia.

Three airline disasters involving Malaysian-affiliated carriers in less than a year have dented confi-

dence in the country's aviation industry and spooked travellers.

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went missing in March on a trip from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 passengers and crew and has not been found. On 17 July, the same airline's Flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board. On board Flight QZ8501 were 155 Indonesians, three South Koreans, and one person each from Singapore, Malaysia and Britain. The co-pilot was French.

The AirAsia group, including affiliates in Thailand, the Philippines and India, had not suffered a crash since its Malaysian budget operations began in 2002.—Reuters

WORLD

President Xi calls for solidarity toward goals

BEIJING, 31 Dec — Chinese President Xi Jinping called for strengthened solidarity to achieve goals and listening to the voice of the people during a new year gathering on Wednesday.

Delivering the keynote speech at a new year celebration for the country's top political advisory body Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), reviewed the CPC's work in 2014.

He discussed achievements in the fight against corruption, improving Party members' work style and punishing formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance.

Eighty key tasks set by the central leading group for comprehensively deepening reform have been completed, with some difficult problems having

been tackled, he said.

Despite the achievements, Xi warned of hardships and risks ahead.

He vowed to continue deepening reforms, implementing rule of law, running the Party strictly, enhancing innovation, strengthening risk control and improving people's life.

"We must unwaveringly safeguard Hong Kong and Macao's lasting prosperity and stability and deepen exchanges across the Taiwan Strait," Xi said.

He said the "Belt and Road Initiatives" to revive the ancient Silk Road from China via Central Asia and Russia to Europe and the Silk Road Economic Belt should be actively implemented.

Arrangements concerning promoting rule of law should be put into practice one by one and comprehensively implementing rule of law is an

"extensive and profound revolution" in the field of state governance, Xi said.

He stressed the democratic consultation role of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) which marked 65th anniversary in 2014.

Xi urged to consolidate and develop the broadest possible patriotic united front, adhere to and improve the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation.

On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, State Council and CMC, Xi extended New Year greetings to non-CPC members, people's organizations, as well as people from all walks of life including "workers, farmers, intellectuals, cadres, soldiers and police officers."

His greetings were also extended to residents in Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Re-



Chinese President Xi Jinping

gions and Taiwan, as well as international friends.

The tea party, hosted by the CPPCC National Committee, was also attended by Premier Li Ke-qiang, top legislator Zhang Dejiang, top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng as well as Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli, along with some non-CPC members, leaders of central departments, members of ethnic minorities and people from all walks of life.

Xinhua

Fresh sanctions violate US "goodwill principle": Iranian spokeswoman

TEHERAN, 31 Dec — Fresh US sanctions against the Islamic republic violate "goodwill principle" of the country in its interaction with Iran, the Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marziah Afkham said here on Wednesday.

"Such a move by the United States is an obvious violation of its goodwill principle and casts doubts on its goals" in interacting with the Islamic republic, Afkham told reporters in her weekly press briefing.

The US on Tuesday slapped sanctions on nine persons and entities for their alleged role in helping the Iranian government evade sanctions and supporting its human rights abuses.

The Department of Treasury said the administration, while opposing

any new nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran during the ongoing negotiations over a comprehensive nuclear deal, remains committed to enforcing existing sanctions against the Islamic republic.

"The US sanctions are totally political and propagandistic and they result from the US domestic policies," Afkham said.

"The sanctions will have no impact on the will of the government and its commitments vis-a-vis Iranian nation, and we will continue our efforts to provide our needs," she added.

Iran is already under sanctions by the UN Security Council as well as unilateral embargoed by the US and the EU on the country's energy industry and financial system.

Xinhua

Ex-Korean Air executive detained in 'nut rage' case



Cho Hyun-ah (C), also known as Heather Cho, daughter of chairman of Korean Air Lines, Cho Yang-ho, leaves for a detention facility after a Korean court ordered her to be detained, at the Seoul Western District Prosecutor's office on 30 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

SEOUL, 31 Dec — A South Korean court on Tuesday ordered that a former Korean Air Lines executive be detained for delaying a flight following an outburst over the way she was served nuts, in a case that prompted both outrage and ridicule.

Heather Cho, the daughter of the airline's chairman and head of in-flight service before she resigned after the incident, had demanded the chief steward be removed from the flight at John F Kennedy airport in New York on 5 December for serving

macadamia nuts in a bag, not a dish.

The court's decision late on Tuesday comes after local prosecutors last week sought a detention warrant for Cho, 40, who faces charges of violating the aviation safety law.

"The necessity for detention is recognized as the case is grave and there has been an attempt to systematically cover up charges from the beginning," Lee Kwang-woo, a judge at the Seoul Western District Court who handles media affairs, said in a text message.

In what media have dubbed the "nut rage" incident, the Airbus A380 jet, which had pushed back from its gate, returned for the chief attendant to disembark. The flight arrived in Incheon, near Seoul, 11 minutes late.

On her way to a detention facility from the prosecutors' office late on Tuesday, Cho was flanked by prosecution officials and did not respond to questions from media, only saying "sorry" several times, her eyes closed and her head bowed.

A probe by South Ko-

rea's Transport Ministry concluded that Cho abused flight attendants in the incident, and that airline officials may have tried to cover up the episode.

The ministry came under fire after revelations that some of its officials leaked information to the company and committed other misconduct during the investigation. The ministry said on Monday it would penalize eight officials involved in the case, one of whom was detained on Friday.

Public outrage over the case grew when Korean Air initially issued what many people took to be a half-hearted apology that appeared to rationalize Cho's conduct in the face of what it said was inadequate performance by the cabin crew.

Cho's case has aggravated public resentment towards the country's powerful family-run conglomerates, called chaebol, stirred by their dominance of the economy and a widening wealth gap in society. Heather Cho is the eldest of Korean Air chairman Cho Yang-ho's three children. Her siblings are also executives with the airline.—Reuters

Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa loses minority support ahead of polls



Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa

COLOMBO, 31 Dec — Political parties mainly representing Sri Lanka's minority Tamils and Muslims, who account for a quarter of the total vote, have said they will back President Mahinda Rajapaksa's challenger in a 8 January presidential poll.

Tamil National Alliance (TNA), former political proxy of the defeated Tamil Tiger rebels, said in a statement on Tuesday "the values of democracy, good governance, and rule of law have suffered unprecedented assault" under Rajapaksa. The 69-year-old leader has denied opposition allegations of corruption, nepotism and intervention in the judiciary. He also promised speedy reconciliation after ending a 26-year war against Tamil Tiger separatists in 2009 — a pledge the Tamil group said he had broken.

"Instead of pursuing reconciliation, the Rajapak-

sa regime has permitted extremist groups to carry out attacks against minority peoples and their places of religious worship," it said.

Rajapaksa was expected to win easily when he announced the poll last month. But 23 of his party legislators in a 225-member parliament have defected since then to join his challenger, former Health Minister Mithripala Sirisena, who has promised good governance, democracy, and an end to corruption.

Two opposition legislators have joined Rajapaksa this month. On Sunday, the main Muslim party with eight legislators left Rajapaksa's United People's Freedom alliance to join Sirisena's campaign after Muslims faced a series of attacks by Buddhist extremist groups since early 2012. Rajapaksa won elections in 2005 and 2010 with a majority of Sinhala Buddhists backing him and minimum support from minorities.

He is still backed by two Tamil parties and some fringe Muslim parties, but his core rural Sinhala Buddhist voters are now being offered concessions and subsidies by Sirisena.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 1 January, 2015

Great expectation of brilliant success in 2015

By Aung Khin

Global people have ushered in the New Year, with high hopes for a sky free of smoke in the future. Intrinsically, human likes to feel a secure life in the future, and tries to seek a safe environment. All civilized people want to promote our society.

Myanmar had a lot of experience in the past few years—from international business exposure to political turmoil. Fledgling democracy was hit by a certain extent of turbulence on the

path of its reform process, but a majority of Myanmar people could prevent losing their temper.

Ideology conflicts and confrontation in some societies have finally posed threats, and make them insecure though their attempts are intended to develop society. Tolerance and forgiveness should bring about peace and unity, while revenge and reprisal will have negative impacts on community.

A better future needs positive attitudes such as discussion, negotiation and cooperation, while egoism, protectionism, secrecy and deception can lead to mistrust.

While attempting to possess a peaceful, just and harmonious world, all global communities should join hands, forgetting bitter and ugly disputes in the past. In fact, world peace is an idea of planetary non-violence by which nations willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that prevents warfare.

Genuine and lasting peace can only be ac-

quired from sincere attempts for reconciliation, the existence of healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationships, prosperity in matters of social or economic welfare, the establishment of equality, and a working political order that serves the true interests of all.

We, all, have great expectation of brilliant success in 2015 for the world, as people have suffered a lot of hardships for many years, leading to thirst for prosperity and unity to realize a world free of communal or racial discrimination.

Write for us

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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.

SUPERFORMANCE

Kyi Mun

To love and to work and to create are the triple capacities that mark man's innate urge to perform

- Anonymous

The task is to multiply PERFORMANCE CAPACITY of the whole by putting to use whatever strength, whatever health and whatever aspiration there is in individuals. (This is what the Bible tells us in the Parable of Talents)

- Peter F. Drucker

The Importance of Performance

"It is an immutable law in business that words are words, explanations are explanations, promises are promises—but **only performance is reality**. Performance alone is the best measure of your confidence, courage and competence, caring, character and commitment. **Only performance gives you the freedom to grow as yourself.**"

S	=	Strategy
U	=	Ultimate Values
P	=	Purpose
E	=	Entrepreneurism
R	=	Results
F	=	Focus
O	=	Objective
R	=	Resources
M	=	Managing
A	=	Accountability
N	=	Never-Giving-up
C	=	Caring
E	=	Excellence

Superformance means : Super Performance

Super means : Extremely, more or better than normal, above, over.

Performance means : How well or badly you do something; how well or badly something does; the act or process of carrying out a task; an action

So, Superformance, here, means;

- ✦ Star Performance
- ✦ Stellar Performance
- ✦ Superb Performance
- ✦ Superior Performance
- ✦ Supreme Performance
- ✦ Surprising Performance
- ✦ Sizzling Performance

STRATEGY

Here, strategy means ACTION PLAN to achieve the set objective. The strategic plan of action has got to be developed in accordance with the following Eight Principles of War/Competition:

- ✦ The Principle of Clear-Cut Objective
- ✦ The Principle of Concentration/Mass

- ✦ The Principle of Offensive
- ✦ The Principle of Cooperation
- ✦ The Principle of Economy of Force
- ✦ The Principle of Security
- ✦ The Principle of Surprise
- ✦ The Principle of Mobility

ULTIMATE VALUES

Every sort of performance should be firmly based on some solid beliefs and values. For example, in business/economic performance, the following FIVE INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES should be intelligently followed:

- ✦ Financial Viability
- ✦ Operational Efficiency
- ✦ Managerial Effectiveness
- ✦ Customer & Employee Satisfaction
- ✦ Competitive Advantage

All these principle-based economic practices must be solidly based on the following ultimate values:

- ✦ People, Planet and Profit

PURPOSE

Unwaveringly aim at your purpose by formulating RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED. In formulating definite purpose, the strategic approach should be generating a dynamic passion: that motivates and guides you; that drives you to get things done; that achieves the desired results

ENTREPRENEURISM

Entrepreneurism means to consistently

- ◆ Drive
- ◆ Strive
- ◆ Thrive
- ◆ Arrive
- ◆ Revive

It also means to resolutely traverse a LONG MARCH with a vivid definite DESTINATION.

RESULTS

The purpose of all kinds of performance is TO GET RESULTS. So, it is important to know what you want in the first place. You have got to be obsessed with your PASSIONATE DESIRE along the way.

FOCUS

In archery, the TARGET is your passion, and the BULL'S - EYE in the target is your unfaltering Aim. First have a FIXED FOCUS; then have a tremendous FAITH, and finally FIGHT with all your MIGHT.

OBJECTIVE

The three elements of your purpose are:



First, have a clear-cut objective. Then, formulate a victorious strategy, and finally, find the wherewithal (resources)

to execute your brilliant strategy.

RESOURCES

The essential resources or the means are:

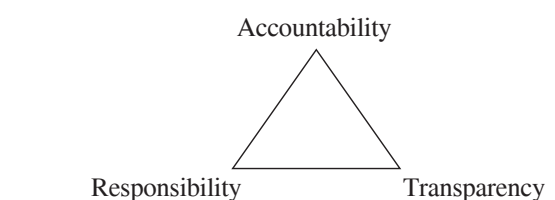
- Financial Resource
- Human Resource
- Technological Resource
- Material & Machinery Resource
- Information Resource

MANAGING

Managing is implementing the strategic plan of action. So, managing must be managing for getting results, which in turn means: Going Places & Doing Things; Making things Happen & Getting things Done in the RIGHT WAY, at the RIGHT TIME, and within the RIGHT BUDGET.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability means taking responsibility for the optimum performance that delivers the planned results. Accountability must be strongly supported by TRANSPARENCY, like —



NEVER GIVING UP

Every performance must be done with the spirit of: Never give up, never give in, Stand up to it, and fight it through to decisive victory. Every worthwhile performance must be executed with persistence, stamina and staying power, by daring nobly, by willing strongly, and by never faltering in the path of duty.

CARING

In every kind of performance CARING & SHARING is THE SOUL. The person who performs an important task should CARE about:

- ☞ The PQ/Health (Body)
- ☞ The IQ/Intelligence (Head)
- ☞ The EQ/Feeling (Heart)
- ☞ The SQ/Morale (Spirit)
- ☞ The AQ/Achievement Quality (Life) of all the stakeholders.

EXCELLENCE

All sorts of performance should be done with the strong spirit of excellence. That is to say, everything worth doing should be done well. Excelling in what you do will surely delivers success, just as the saying goes; **"Doing a common thing uncommonly well will bring you success."**

CONCLUSION

Performance should be tackled just like climbing a ladder: from the lower part to the higher place; in performance to climb from Fair to Good to Great.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

LOCAL NEWS



Myanmar-Thai (Myawady-Mae Sot) friendship bridge opened its gate from 6 am to 6 pm Myanmar standard time daily. As of 1 January 2015, the bridge will open its gate from 5 am to 8 pm MST daily.
THUZAR (MYAWADY TOWN)

Mandalay Region emphasizes decline of criminal cases



MANDALAY, 31 Dec — Mandalay Region High Court and organizations related to judicial tasks held a coordination meeting on decline of cases in the region at the hall of high court in Mandalay on 30 December afternoon. The Chief Justice of the region high court gave instructions on prevalence of law and order, hearing the cases without delay, efforts to be made for emergence of a public reliable judicial system, uplift of prestige of courts, decline of cases, handing down appropriate penalty on crimes, and deterrent action to be taken against the cases encroaching the State security and rule of law.

Mandalay Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Kyaw Moe, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and Advocate-General of the region U Ye Aung Myint participated in the discussions.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)

National University of Arts and Culture confers degrees on graduates



MANDALAY, 31 Dec — Arts and Culture (Mandalay) held the 10th convocation at the convocation hall of Mandalay University on 30 December.

Rector Daw Khin Kyi Pyar conferred certificates of degree on the graduates from music, drama, painting and sculpture subjects and delivered a convocation address.

It was also attended by members of management and education board and officials.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

yan, Mandalay Region, on 28 December. A section of wall collapsed at Hanthawady Pariyatti monastery in Ward 2 of Mying-

MMA (Mdy) holds medical conference

MANDALAY, 31 Dec —Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay) held its medical conference in conjunction with the opening of medical equipment exhibition at its office in Chanayethazan Township on 27 December.

Chairman of the association (Mandalay) Dr Than Win and executives, Rector of Mandalay University of Medicine Dr Tin Maung Han, faculty members, medical superintendents and heads of district and township Health Departments were in attendance.

Secretary of MMA (Central) Dr Saw Win read the message sent by Chairman of MMA (Central) Dr U Ye Mya. Chairman of the region association Dr Than Win delivered

an address.

Chairman of the reception committee Dr Thin Kyu Aye extended greetings. Officials presented prizes to members' offspring who are attending the final part-II of University of Medicine (Mandalay) and passed matriculation examination 2014 with flying colours.

At the ceremony, faculty members of the University of Medicine (Mandalay) and specialists from general hospitals gave talks on latest therapies for diseases at the paper-reading session at Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay from 27 to 29 December.

Local and foreign medical companies showcase medical equipment at 70 booths.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Authorities provide cash assistance to families of damaged houses



MYINGYAN, 31 Dec — A ceremony to provide cash assistance for prevention of natural disaster was held in Ward 2 of Mying-

yan, Mandalay Region, on 28 December.

A section of wall collapsed at Hanthawady Pariyatti monastery in Ward 2 of Mying-

last three days. Two houses were damaged in the incident.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint provided K800,000 to eight households to move their families to safe places from their housings near the walls.

District's deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung, Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung and officials clarified possibility of natural disaster to family members from eight households and handed over cash assistance to them.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Russia's UN envoy: Middle East peace process hits deadlock due to its monopolization by US

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Dec — The settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has reached an impasse as it has been monopolized by the United States, Russia's envoy to the UN Vitaly Churkin has said.

The UN Security Council failed on Tuesday to vote in favour of a resolution on creating a Palestinian state and ending the Israeli occupation. The document did not receive



Russia's envoy to the UN Vitaly Churkin

the majority support and was vetoed by the US that criticized it as being untimely and unconstructive.

"We cannot share the

objections of those who believe that the draft resolution undermined the prospects for the negotiation process," Churkin said, adding that this year has witnessed how the process reached a deadlock as the Middle East Quartet, which brings together the US, UN, EU and Russia, was replaced by Washington's monopoly.

The diplomat said this is a "strategic mistake" and

also criticized the failure to support Russia's proposals to holding a brainstorming session as part of the UN Security Council to give a boost to the negotiation process and sending the council's mission to the Middle East.

Churkin expressed regret at the UN Security Council's failure to adopt the draft resolution on Palestine, which he said was set to "reinforce the gener-

ally accepted international and legal basis" for the Middle East peace process.

"The UN Security Council's failure to act towards this direction dooms the situation to a dangerous status quo which one cannot tolerate. It's evident that just benevolent intentions are not enough," he said. The diplomat said the active participation of the UN Security Council and the Quartet in the Middle

East peace process, joined by the League of Arab States would give a new impetus to the effort to achieve peace.

Churkin warned that the conflict in the region is deepening as the construction of the illegal settlements on the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem, continues thus "undermining the chances for fulfilling the concept of two states."—*Itar-Tass*

US condemns Cuba's 'practice of repressing' after activists detained

HAVANA, 31 Dec — The United States on Wednesday condemned what it called Cuba's practice of repression following the detention of several activists, in the first major test of President Barack Obama's policy shift toward normalizing relations with the communist-ruled island.

The State Department said it was deeply concerned by the detention on Tuesday of several "peaceful civil society members and activists" by the Cuban authorities.

"We strongly condemn the Cuban government's continued harassment and repeated use of arbitrary detention, at times with violence, to silence critics, disrupt peaceful assembly and freedom expression, and intimidate citizens," the State Department said in a statement.

"We urge the government of Cuba to end its practice of repressing these and other internationally protected freedoms and to respect the universal human rights of Cuban citizens," it added.

The arrests marked the most significant crackdown on the opposition since Cuba and the United States agreed on 17 December to restore diplomatic ties and put behind them more than five decades of hostility.

About 12 opponents were taken away by police, including the husband of opposition blogger Yoani Sanchez, while several others were told not to leave their homes as police parked outside, said Elizardo Sanchez, leader of a dissident human rights commission that monitors such detentions.

Other dissident leaders



Cuba's best-known dissident, blogger Yoani Sanchez, walks with her husband Reinaldo Escobar outside Havana's Jose Marti International Airport on 30 May, 2013. — REUTERS

reported multiple detentions or that activists were ordered to stay at home. Yoani Sanchez's website 14ymedia.com reported she was under virtual house arrest.

The detentions stopped a planned open microphone event at Havana's Revolution Square, near the government headquarters.

Event organizer Tania Bruguera, a performance artist, was missing and her associates presumed she, too, had been detained.

Bruguera had vowed to go ahead with the event even after Cuban officials denied her a permit.

The event flopped, with only 15 participants, surrounded by a phalanx of reporters. A parallel event in Miami called by Cuban exiles drew 50 people.

Cuba had called the open microphone event a "political provocation," and it was unclear how long the dissidents would be held. Cuba typically holds dissidents for several hours and releases them.

"The United States will continue to press the

Cuban government to uphold its international obligations and to respect the rights of Cubans to peacefully assemble and express their ideas and opinions," the State Department said.

Earlier, Roberta Jacobson, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, said on Twitter: "Freedom of expression remains of US policy on Cuba; we support activists exercising those rights and condemn today's detentions."

Jacobsen is due to lead a US delegation to Havana in January to begin normalizing diplomatic relations with Cuba that had been severed since 1961.

Yoani Sanchez said on Twitter police detained her husband Reinaldo Escobar and dissident leader Eliecer Avila outside her home in Havana, taking them away in handcuffs.

Escobar is editor-in-chief of the dissident news and opinion website 14ymedio.com and Avila is the leader of the opposition group Somos Mas (We Are More).—*Reuters*

US to station 150 armoured vehicles in Europe

BRUSSELS, 31 Dec — The United States plans by the end of next year to station around 150 tanks and armoured vehicles in Europe for use by US forces training there, according to a US military commander.

Some of the tanks and vehicles — enough to equip an armoured brigade — could be placed in Poland, Romania or the Baltic states, Lieutenant-General Ben Hodges, commander of the US Army in Europe, said in a telephone interview with *Reuters* from Wiesbaden, Germany.

Hodges said a proposal to have a US brigade rotate to Europe was first made two years ago, before the crisis over Russia's annex-

ation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

That meant a US armoured unit was already in the pipeline to come to Europe earlier this year, when it was needed as part of US measures to reassure eastern European allies in response to the Ukraine crisis, he said.

Hodges said he saw a risk that pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine might launch a new offensive in the spring. Russia denies any aggressive activity. Hodges said he expected the US measures, which include an expanded exercise programme, to go on throughout 2015 and into 2016. Keeping enough equipment in Europe for

a US armoured brigade avoids the need for troops coming from the United States for exercises to bring their own kit.

It also means the equipment is there if the United States needed to reinforce eastern Europe quickly in an emergency.

"By the end of ... 2015, we will have gotten all the equipment for a heavy brigade, that means three battalions plus a reconnaissance squadron, the artillery headquarters, engineers, and it will stay in Europe," Hodges said.

"You are talking about 150-ish, maybe 160 M1 tanks, M2 Bradley fighting vehicles, 24 self-propelled howitzers."—*Reuters*

Gambia president says flying home after gunfire rocks Banjul



Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh attends the leaders meeting at the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa on 15 July, 2012. — REUTERS

BANJUL, 31 Dec — Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh said he was returning home from Chad late on Tuesday, after gunfire erupted around the presidential palace in the Gambian capital of Banjul last night.

The government denied reports of an attempted coup, but a diplomat said unknown gunmen had attacked Gambia's State House. Although shooting had died down, a senior West African diplomat told *Reuters* gunmen controlled parts of the capital on Tuesday afternoon.

Jammeh was abroad,

either in France or Dubai, when the violence broke out. Callers on opposition online radio stations urged residents to rise up and keep him from returning.

He landed in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, late on Tuesday in a plane bearing the presidential emblem, then took off at around 2205 (2105 GMT) after a refuelling stop. He told Chadian officials he was returning home, a senior Chadian official told *Reuters*.

"He is going back home," said the official, who declined to be named.

Jammeh, 49, took

power himself in a coup 20 years ago and since then has stifled dissent in his tiny, impoverished West African nation. He has come under increasing criticism from abroad over issues ranging from human rights to his claims that he can cure AIDS.

On Tuesday, state radio played traditional music and an announcer read a government statement playing down the incident.

"Contrary to rumours being circulated, peace and calm continue to prevail in The Gambia," it said. "(The) government would like to urge the public and all businesses to continue with their normal activities."

Gambia, a splinter of land wedged into Senegal, has ocean beaches that attract tourists, particularly during the northern hemisphere's winter.—*Reuters*

WORLD



A Libya Dawn fighters' military truck is deployed near Wetia airbase, Libya, on 30 Dec, 2014. Libyan government forces on Tuesday announced that the air force destroyed a helicopter that belongs to militias of Libya Dawn near the country's largest oil port of Sidra.—XINHUA

US sends five Guantanamo prisoners to Kazakhstan for resettlement



The interior of an unoccupied communal cellblock is seen at Camp VI, a prison used to house detainees at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay on 5 March, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec — Three Yemenis and two Tunisians held for more than a decade at the US military prison at Guantanamo have been flown to Kazakhstan for resettlement, the Pentagon said on Tuesday, the latest in a series of prisoner transfers aimed at closing the facility.

The transfer of the five men followed a recent pledge by President Barack Obama for a stepped-up push to shut the internationally condemned detention center at the US naval base in Cuba where most prisoners have been held without being charged or tried.

The US government has moved 28 prisoners out of Guantanamo this year — the largest number since 2009 — and a senior US official said the quickened pace would continue with further transfers expected in coming weeks.

Kazakhstan's acceptance of the five followed extensive negotiations, the official said. Though the oil-rich central Asian state is

an ally of Russia, it has cultivated areas of economic and diplomatic cooperation with the West.

The men sent to Kazakhstan, a majority-Muslim country, were identified as low-risk detainees cleared long ago for transfer. With their removal from Guantanamo just before the new year, the detainee population has been whittled down to 127.

More than half of the remaining Guantanamo detainees are from Yemen, but Washington is unable to send them home because of the chaotic security situation there.

Obama continues to face obstacles posed by Congress to the goal of emptying the prison before he leaves office, not least of which is a ban on transfer of prisoners to the US mainland.

All five men were detained on suspicion of links to al-Qaeda or allied groups, but the US official said investigations had determined they "could be described as low-level, if even that."

Reuters

Australian honours student flies to Syria to join IS

SYDNEY, 31 Dec — A top Australian honours student received prize money from the federal government shortly before leaving the country to join the Islamic State (IS) in Syria, it was revealed on Wednesday.

Sydney student Samir Atwani received the 2,000 Australian dollars (1,641 US dollars) prize in June for excellence in a vocational and educational training course.

The Australian newspaper reported he was studying electrical engineering at university but later quit.

Then sometime in the past six months he flew to Syria where

he joined IS as a video editor in its propaganda unit.

It's not known whether Atwani used the prize money to fund his trip.

Atwani had attended Canterbury Boys High School, the same one former Prime Minister John Howard went to as a schoolboy.

Meanwhile News Corp reported a Lebanese immigrant who made a home in Sydney is the latest Australian Jihadist to be killed fighting for IS. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Ghazzawi was killed by Syrian forces on or about Boxing Day, Syrian news outlet Syria 24 originally reported.

Xinhua

Fire at Libyan oil port destroys up to 1.8 million barrels of crude

BENGHAZI, (Libya) / CAIRO, 31 Dec — A fire raging for almost a week at Libya's biggest oil port of Es Sider has destroyed up to 1.8 million barrels of crude and damaged seven storage tanks, causing total damage of \$213 million, a top oil official said on Tuesday. The Es Sider terminal and nearby Ras Lanuf stopped working three weeks ago when forces loyal to a rival government in Tripoli tried seizing them from forces allied to the recognized Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni.

The terminals are still under control of Thinni's forces but the area has become a battlefield against former rebels who helped oust Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 but now fight for control of the North African country.

A huge fire at a tank farm

outside the terminal was reported on Thursday after a rocket hit, with both sides blaming the other.

Thinni's top oil official, al-Mabrook al-Buseif, told Reuters the fire had damaged seven tanks and destroyed up to 1.8 million barrels of crude — roughly four times Libya's daily production. Two tanks have collapsed and two others are still on fire, said Mohamed El Harari, a spokesman for state National Oil Corp (NOC). Two tank fires had been extinguished.

Thinni has been forced to work out of the east since a rival group called Libya Dawn seized Tripoli in August, setting up its own government and parliament that is not recognized by world powers.

Es Sider is fed from fields

run by Waha Oil Co, a joint-venture between Libya's National Oil Corp with US companies Hess (HES.N), Marathon (MRO.N) and ConocoPhillips (COP.N).

Without the two ports, which accounted for around 300,000 bpd of exports, Libya's total output was in the range of the 380,000 bpd reported on Sunday, Harari said.

The ports of Zawiya and Mellitah in the west of the country have also halted oil exports as the conflict has shut down the connecting fields of El Sharara and El Feel.

Only the ports of Hariga and Brega in the east and two offshore fields are still working but part of the output is needed to feed the 120,000 bpd Zawiya and 20,000 bpd Tobruk refineries.—Reuters



Firefighters work to put out the fire of a storage oil tank at the port of Es Sider in Ras Lanuf on 29 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Nikolic: Major change in state functioning-greatest success



BELGRADE, 31 Dec — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said on Tuesday that the major change in state functioning is the greatest achievement of the government in 2014.

For the first time in Serbia, state finances and budget are being managed in a different way, without incurring debts to preserve

social peace and stay in power, Nikolic said in an interview to *Tanjug*.

The citizens elected the government of their choice (in early parliamentary elections in March 2014) and then rationally accepted the difficult measures aimed to pull the country out of the crisis, the president said.

The government must now keep its promise to the people — provide new investments and jobs, and focus all efforts on improving the standard of living, he added.

Nikolic specifically

underlined the responsibility of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), as this party enjoys the greatest trust of citizens and the necessary support in the parliament to bring about the political and economic change.

The current SNS-run government promised to put an end to the downfall and ensure the progress of the country during the term in office that was entrusted to it, said Nikolic and expressed his belief that the government will succeed in this task.

The fiscal consolida-

tion measures of the government led by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic are very difficult and cause political conflicts between the government and the opposition, said Nikolic, stressing, however, that these conflicts do not affect the citizens but are resolved in the parliament.

"If the people are able to accept the harsh austerity measures, the government must focus all its efforts on securing them a better future," the Serbian president said.

The major change in state functioning would not

have been possible without the absolute trust and understanding of the people, and this makes the responsibility of all those in power even greater, said Nikolic, stressing that this trust must not be betrayed.

He voiced his full support for the government and added that, as the president, he is trying to help it implement the necessary political and economic measures. "I am certain that everybody feels that this is the turning point when things will start to get better in Serbia," said Nikolic.

Tanjug

Palestinian statehood resolution fails at UN council, US votes against



A general view shows a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem known to Israelis as Har Homa and to Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim on 13 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Dec — The UN Security Council on Tuesday rejected a Palestinian resolution calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state by late 2017.

The resolution called for negotiations to be based on territorial lines that existed before Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war. It also called for a peace deal within 12 months.

Even if the draft had received the minimum nine votes in favour, it would have been defeated by Washington's vote against it. The United States is one of the five veto-wielding permanent members.

There were eight votes in favor, including France, Russia and China, two against and five abstentions, among them Britain. Australia joined the United States in voting against the measure.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power defended Washington's position against the draft in a speech to the 15-nation council by saying it was not a vote against peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The United States every day searches for new ways to take constructive steps to support the parties in making progress toward achieving a negotiated settlement," she said. "The Security Council resolution put before us today is not one of those construc-

tive steps."

She said the text was "deeply imbalanced" and contained "unconstructive deadlines that take no account of Israel's legitimate security concerns." To make matters worse, Power said, it "was put to a vote without a discussion or due consideration among council members."

She did not spare Israel either. "Today's vote should not be interpreted as a victory for an unsustainable status quo," Power said, adding that Washington would oppose actions by either side that undermined peace efforts, whether "in the form of settlement activity or imbalanced draft resolutions."

Jordanian Ambassador Dina Kavar, the sole Arab representative on the

council, expressed regret that the resolution was voted down, while noting that she thought council members should have had more time to discuss the proposal.

The defeat of the resolution was not surprising. Washington, council diplomats said, had made clear it did not want such a resolution put to a vote before Israel's election in March.

The Palestinians, the diplomats said, insisted on putting the resolution to a vote despite the fact that it was clear Washington would not let it pass. Their sudden announcement last weekend that Ramallah wanted a vote before the new year surprised Western delegations on the council.—Reuters

Yamaguchi culls 37,000 chickens after bird flu confirmed

YAMAGUCHI, 31 Dec — The Yamaguchi prefectural government culled about 37,000 chickens on Tuesday at a poultry farm in the city of Nagato after confirming a bird flu outbreak there.

The move followed the western Japan prefecture's announcement earlier in the day that a genetic test confirmed the virus at the farm after a total of 21 chickens died on Sunday and Monday. The central government held a meeting of relevant ministers to handle the outbreak, including Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Koya Nishikawa and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

"It is a worrying situation where the infection could spread throughout the nation," Suga said. The bird flu outbreak occurred earlier this year, compared with peaks from January to mid-February in normal years, Nishikawa said.

The farm ministry has dispatched a team of four experts specialized in epidemics and wild birds to

check poultry houses to find the route of infection.

All the chickens are expected to be burned by early Friday in the prefecture and poultry houses will undergo disinfection.

At the prefectural government office, state farm minister Toshiko Abe conveyed to Yamaguchi Gov. Tsugumasa Muraoka the central government's plan to offer financial assistance for the poultry cull in accordance with the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control. The cull in Yamaguchi came after the prefectural government of Miyazaki, southwestern Japan, announced the detection of the avian influenza virus at a farm in the city of Miyazaki Sunday and culled all 42,000 birds raised there.

The Yamaguchi prefectural government banned 10 chicken farms located within a radius of 3 kilometres of the affected farm from moving their approximately 144,000 chickens from their farms.

Kyodo News



Local officials of the western Japan prefecture of Yamaguchi prepare to cull around 37,000 chickens before dawn on 30 Dec, 2014, at a farm where a bird flu outbreak was confirmed.—KYODO NEWS

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

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

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

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

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st January, 2015: Isolated light rain are likely in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, weather will be partly cloudy in Magway and Bago Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

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A stone bridge relic of Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) is revealed on the bed of drought-affected Poyang Lake in east China's Jiangxi Province on 30 Dec, 2014. Poyang Lake is renowned for its rich fishing resources, while in recent years, persistent drought and over-exploitation have endangered the lake's resources.

XINHUA



South China plant blasts kill 17, injure 20

GUANGZHOU, 31 Dec — Seventeen people were killed and 20 others were injured after a plant was rocked by blasts in Foshan City of south China's Guangdong Province on Wednesday morning, local authorities said.

The blasts were heard at about 9:30 am from the Fuwa Engineering Manufacturing Co Ltd at the Shunde District of indus-

trial city Foshan, confirmed the press office of the district government.

All injured people were rushed to nearby hospitals. A decorating worker who was working at least 1 km away from the site told Xinhua that he can hear loud sound of explosions.

Guangdong Province is one of China's largest manufacturing bases.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 31 Dec, 2014 shows the accident site after a gas blast rocked a plant of the Fuwa Engineering Manufacturing Co Ltd in the Shunde District of the industrial city of Foshan, south China's Guangdong Province. Seventeen people were killed and 33 others were injured in the accident which occurred on Wednesday morning.—XINHUA

Police kill Pennsylvania man as he tried to run down officers

UPPER DARBY, (Philadelphia), 31 Dec — Police in Pennsylvania shot and killed a man on Tuesday who tried to use his car to run over officers as they attempted to arrest him on charges of making online terroristic threats against law enforcement, officials said.

Police in Upper Darby Township, a suburb of Philadelphia, were trying to serve an arrest warrant on the 52-year-old man when the late afternoon shooting occurred on a well-traveled intersection, a department official said.

As officers approached, the suspect put his car in reverse, stepped on the gas, and rammed a police vehicle, a police report said.

Five officers opened fire, Upper Darby police said. No officers were wounded.

"The officers were in fear of their lives and did what they had to do," Upper Darby Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood told the Philadelphia Inquirer.

"He threatened to kill police, threatened to kill FBI agents," he told the newspaper.

The suspect, identified as Joseph Pacini, was wanted on charges of making terroristic threats on social media, including YouTube, against police and the FBI, the official said.

Court records showed Pacini had been arrested twice in Philadelphia in the past 10 years, and was previously charged in 2005 with making terroristic threats and possessing instruments of crime, among other charges, but those were withdrawn, the Inquirer reported.

It was unclear if he had family in the area.—Reuters

South Korean rappers accuse ‘The Interview’ of lifting song



A rapper duo from South Korea has said their song ‘Pay Day’ has been used without permission in the James Franco-starrer ‘The Interview’.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec — A rapper duo from South Korea has said their song ‘Pay Day’ has been used without permission in the James Franco-starrer ‘The Interview’.

Husband and wife, Tiger JK and Yoon Mi Rae, have threatened legal action, alleging that they never gave consent to the use of the song, reported Aceshowbiz.

“There were initial discussions about including the song in the film score, but negotiations stopped so we were under the impression that it wasn’t happening,”

read a statement from the duo’s company FeelGhood-Music.

“It was only after the film was released that we became aware of the song’s unauthorised use, without taking the appropriate and necessary steps to complete a contract with the artists,” the statement added.

‘The Interview’, which focuses on two TV journalists who are sent to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, was released in select theatres and digitally.

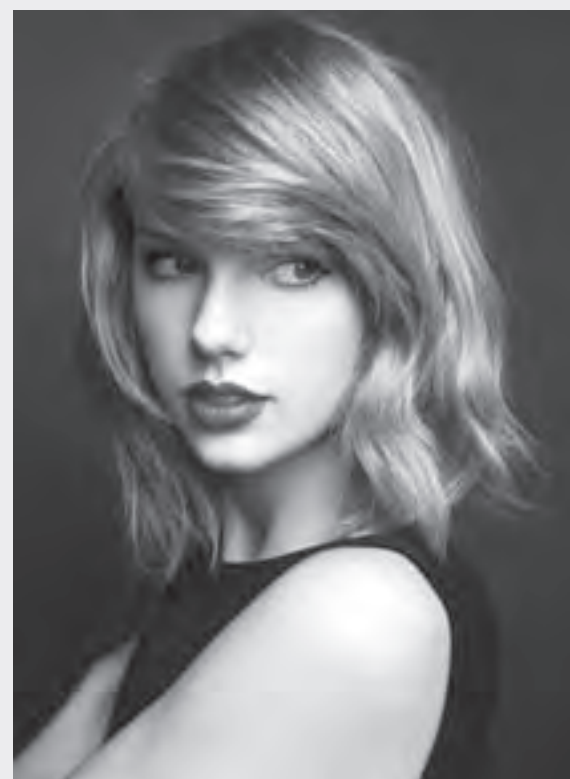
PTI

Taylor Swift approves singers’ performance on her songs

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec — Pop star Taylor Swift has given approval to a performance by two singers on songs from her latest album ‘1989’.

The 24-year-old singer gave her stamp of approval on Twitter to a performance of ‘Blank Space’ and ‘Style’ mash-up uploaded on YouTube, reported Aceshowbiz.

Swift took to Twitter to share a link of the clip showing Louisa Wendorff and Devin Dawson singing the tracks off and commented, “Obsessed.”



Pop star Taylor Swift

The video sees the Nashville-based singer and her duet partner singing in the middle of the street. Wearing all-black outfits, the two deliver their respective lines while Dawson plays the guitar.

Wendorff and Dawson were excited after learning that Swift noticed their video. “You Guys!! I’m so overwhelmed by what’s happening!! Thank you all so much for all your encouragement and support and @taylorswift13,” she tweeted.—PTI



Rumour of Niall Horan leaving One Direction fake

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec — News website Yahoo UK has clarified that the news of Niall Horan quitting boy band One Direction on their Twitter account 0was put by some hacker.

The Yahoo UK tweet that read “Niall has left One Direction!!” created uproar among the fans over the weekend and the hashtag #ReasonsNiallLeftOneDirection instantly began trending.

Yahoo UK took to Twitter to clarify the rumour. “Morning everyone. Just so you know, Niall Horan isn’t in fact leav-

ing 1D, our account was hacked last night. We repeat, Niall isn’t leaving,” they tweeted.

“And it would seem that we weren’t the only ones either. sugarscape were also hacked. Sorry for any upset this has caused,” they added.

Sugarscape, an online magazine, was also victim of hacking.

Meanwhile, Sugarscape tweeted, “So while we were fast asleep, it turns out someone hacked our account. Very sorry for any heart attacks caused.—PTI

Dolly Parton does not make New Year resolutions

LONDON, 31 Dec — Singer Dolly Parton says she has stopped making New Year resolutions as she sticks to it only for a few weeks.

The 68-year-old ‘9 to 5’ hitmaker feels every year she makes several promises but always fails to keep them, reported Contactmusic.

“It’s always the same thing, I’m gonna exercise more this year, I’m gonna eat better. And that lasts for a couple of weeks and then I’m right back where I started. So I don’t make them because I always break them,” Parton said.

Parton has no plans of retiring anytime soon and thinks the secret to staying fit and healthy is to keep yourself busy.

“I like being busy and I get energised by doing everything.

This is what I’ve always wanted to do and creativity is a great energy,” she added.—PTI



Gosling’s ‘Lost River’ set to get limited release in theatres

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec — Warner Bros will give a limited theatrical release for superstar Ryan Gosling’s directorial debut ‘Lost River’ after it failed to win over critics.

There were reports initially that there would be no theatrical release, reported Variety online. ‘Lost River’ premiered to mostly negative notices in May at the Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section.

“‘Lost’ is indeed the operative word for this violent fairy tale about a fractured family trying to survive among the ruins of a city overrun by thugs, sexual predators and other

demons...,” writes critic Justin Chang.

The film stars his partner Eva Mendes, Christina Hendricks, Matt Smith, Saoirse Ronan and Iain De Caestecker.

The script, written by Gosling, centres on a single mother swept into a dark fantasy underworld while her teenage son discovers a secret road leading to an underwater town.

Warner Bros acquired US rights in 2013 during Cannes, where Sierra/Affinity sold international rights to 20 markets. The film, which was shot in Detroit, was called ‘How to Catch a Monster’ at that point.—PTI

Rare white rhino treated for mystery illness in California

SAN DIEGO, 31 Dec — An aging northern white rhinoceros, one of just five left in the world, appeared to be responding to treatment of an unidentified bacterial infection that has veterinarians worried for a subspecies limping toward extinction, a California zoo said on Tuesday.

Nola, age 40, was showing signs of improvement after San Diego Zoo Safari Park keepers gave her antibiotics to ward off an illness whose symptoms on Monday included a runny nose, decreased appetite and lethargy, a zoo spokeswoman said.

"She seems to be feeling better today, she has been walking around and eating," said Darla Davis, a zoo spokeswoman. "The

vets think she is responding to antibiotics."

Nola, a 4,000-pound (1.8-tonne) female who came to San Diego in 1989, is considered a geriatric rhino in a subspecies whose individuals generally live 40 to 50 years in captivity, Davis said.

On 14 December, a 44-year-old northern white rhino named Angalifu died at the same Safari Park, where he was being treated for age-related conditions.

Angalifu's death brought the worldwide total of known remaining northern white rhinos down to five from six, with Nola in San Diego and four counterparts elsewhere, one at a zoo in Europe and three in preserves in Africa, Davis said.

"Nola had a thick drainage coming out of her nose," Davis said. "The vets

swabbed the mucus, and cytology tests showed bacteria, so they began treating

her with antibiotics."

The Safari Park vets also took blood for tests

from the creature's tail, Davis said.

"She's such a gentle animal, she lets the keepers work on her," she added.

Northern white rhinos were driven to near extinction by poaching in Africa, where the animals' horns are prized for their supposed medicinal value. None of those remaining in captivity has reproduced.

Semen and testicular tissue from the male northern white rhino have been stored in the hope that new reproductive technologies will allow recovery of the subspecies in the future, the zoo said.

White rhinos rank as the world's heaviest land mammals after African and Indian elephants.

Reuters



Associate veterinarian Meredith Clancy (L) collects mucus samples from Nola, a 40-year-old northern white rhino, as keepers Kim Millspaugh and Mike Veale (R) look on during a veterinary exam at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in California on 29 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

Swansea's Shelvey charged with violent conduct



Swansea City's Jonjo Shelvey (L) scores an own goal past team mate Lukasz Fabianski (C) during their English Premier League soccer match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 29 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

LONDON, 31 Dec — Swansea City midfielder Jonjo Shelvey has been charged with violent conduct following an incident in their Premier League

match with Liverpool, the Football Association (FA) said in a statement on Tuesday.

The charge, which could lead to a three-match

ban, came after the FA examined footage from Monday's match in which Shelvey caught Liverpool's Emre Can with a flailing arm.

The incident was unseen by referee Andre Marriner.

Shelvey had said on Twitter that he did not intentionally elbow the Liverpool player in the 4-1 defeat at Anfield and he was defended by his manager Garry Monk.

"I don't think it was an intentional elbow at all and the referee was perfectly placed," Monk told reporters on Tuesday. "No-one had a better view of the incident than him. He felt it didn't warrant any more action and the game went on."—Reuters

AC Milan beats Real Madrid 4-2 in Dubai Football Challenge

DUBAI, 31 Dec — AC Milan scored their way to a 4-2 victory over 2014 UEFA Champions League winner Real Madrid in the Dubai Football Challenge at The Sevens Stadium on Tuesday as spectators from the emirate, region and beyond celebrated the football giants

facing off in the city.

El Shaarawy scored twice in the 31 and 48 minutes for AC Milan. Jeremy Menez made an opening strike and Giam-paolo Pazzini scored Milan's fourth goal, a header, in the 73 minutes. Cristiano Ronaldo scored Real Madrid's opening goal while Karim Benzema added a second for the Spanish giants from the penalty spot.

The result of the friendly match did not end Real Madrid's 22-game winning streak in competitive matches. —Xinhua

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(1-1-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am

• Travelogue Programme

6:30 am

• Honour Song of Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein

6:55 am

• TV Drama Series

7:20 am

• Fashion Show

7:50 am

• TV Drama Series

8:35 am

• TV Drama Series

9:20 am

• Musical Programme

9:35 am

• ASEAN-China Cultural

9:55 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

10:15 am

• Musical Programme

10:30 am

• Myanmar Video

12:00 noon

• Close Down

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2-1-15 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Back To A Paradise (Ep-1)
* World News
* Making of Nawarat Rings
* Local News
* A Lucky Boy
* World News
* A Monk's Robe
* Local News
* Gold: King of All Metals
* World News
* Waso Charity Feast
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* Caves of Myanmar
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* Youth Filmmaker "Kaung Sint"
* World News
* Porcelain and Glass
* Local News
* 19 Hours
* World News
* Traditional Snack

India's capital sets new rules for Uber, other taxi operators

NEW DELHI, 31 Dec — Taxi firms including Uber, the online cab-hailing company banned in New Delhi, will have to install panic buttons if they are to operate in India's capital under new rules framed after allegations that a driver for the US firm raped a passenger.

The transport office of Delhi earlier this month ordered San Francisco-based Uber Technologies Inc to stop its services following the incident, which reignited the debate on women's safety in India. Uber, through its apps, plays matchmaker between passengers and drivers for a fee. But the Delhi government now wants all taxi operators, including aggregators such as Uber, to have a fleet of taxis running on clean fuels and fitted with tracking devices

and emergency buttons.

"The licensee shall ensure the facility of a panic button in the radio taxi so that in case of any distress, the signal is transmitted to the control centre of the licensee and therefrom, to the nearest police station/police control room," Delhi's transport office said on its website. Uber also faces bans or legal action in several countries including Spain, Thailand and the United States. Authorities' common complaint is that Uber's service includes unchecked private vehicle owners.

The company, valued at about \$40 billion, said it does not agree with the guidelines and will continue talks with the transport office.

Reuters

Age old problems leave Asian Cup an open race

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec — The Asian Cup heads to Australia for the first time next month with the scars of a woeful 2014 World Cup for the continent and the recurring problems of match-fixing and swift sackings leaving the tournament wide open.

Holders Japan are favourites to win a record extending fifth continental title but dark clouds hang over their coach Javier Aguirre after he became embroiled in a Spanish match-fixing case dating back to his time as Real Zaragoza boss.

The Mexican has long denied any wrongdoing but the negative attention has not helped confidence in Japan, where a mixed start and the exclusion of form players, like Gamba Osaka forward Takashi Usami, have raised questions about his suitability.

The pressure on Aguirre, though, is nothing like what Ange Postecoglou is



Japan's coach Javier Aguirre of Mexico looks on during a training session ahead of their friendly soccer match against Brazil at the National Stadium in Singapore on 13 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

under as the hosts welcome Asia's biggest tournament for the first time since joining the confederation in 2006.

Australia, runners up to Japan in 2011, won only one match in 2014, a friendly triumph over

Saudi Arabia in September, with defensive lapses in the young side a glaring issue as the coach struggles to replace a golden generation which qualified for three consecutive World Cups.

"Things haven't been

going well prior to this tournament, we have to be brutally honest. We've probably gone a little bit backwards," former Australia goalkeeper Mark Bosnich told Reuters..

Postecoglou was in charge for the predictable

three World Cup defeats in Brazil, where the Socceroos, Japan, Iran and South Korea all finished bottom of their groups as Asia failed to earn a single victory for the first time since 1990.

He kept his job with the Asian showpiece in mind but a failure on home soil is sure to spell the end of his tenure. His task is not helped by a tough Group A including a showdown against South Korea, who are now under the guidance of German Uli Stielike, one of 11 coaches appointed by the 16 finalists last year as flagging teams eyed a fresh start.

Bahrain and Jordan have gone through a combined six managers since last year, while Saudi Arabia and Iraq have loaned coaches from club sides for the 9-3 January tournament in a glaring example of the short-sightedness in the region's administrations.

"The coach doesn't

have time to impose his style on the team and quite often he will have very little input into selecting the squad," former Australia boss Pim Verbeek said of the constant chopping and changing.

Carlos Queiroz is the longest serving boss in the tournament but a lack of adequate warm-up matches leave his defensive Iran side short of quality action as they seek an attacking dimension in order to lift a fourth Asian Cup.

While they look forward to a 13th Asian Cup, Palestine are taking part in their first after overcoming a raft of player access issues to qualify by winning the Challenge Cup for emerging nations.

The West Asians will do well to get anything from two former winners Iraq and Japan in Group D, with Uzbekistan, UAE and Qatar more likely to be tournament dark horses.

Reuters

United's Herrera, Januzaj return to training

LONDON, 31 Dec — Manchester United midfielders Ander Herrera and Adnan Januzaj have returned to training ahead of the Premier League trip to Stoke City, manager Louis van Gaal said on Tuesday.

United have climbed to third in the table after winning seven of their last nine games going into the match against Stoke on Thursday.

"Herrera has trained today for the first time with us and Januzaj has also trained two training sessions with us," Van Gaal told a news conference.

"They don't have match rhythm. Januzaj was ill and you have to recover from your illness, not from your tiredness. Maybe it's worse to recover from illness."

Defenders Rafael, Chris Smalling and Luke Shaw have returned to the squad after recovering from injuries but Daley Blind, Marouane Fellaini and Marcos Rojo are still sidelined.

"It's a problem for me to come through this two weeks around Christmas and New Year, all these matches," Van Gaal said. "That is difficult now."

The Dutchman sent out an unchanged team for the 0-0 draw at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, the first time United have named the same starting line-up in 85 league matches going back to November, 2012.



Adnan Januzaj attends a training session in Mogi das Cruzes on 27 June, 2014.—REUTERS

That was surprising since they had played Newcastle United less than 48 hours earlier and Van Gaal has been a fierce critic of English soccer's heavy Christmas fixture schedule.—Reuters

Arsenal boss Wenger calls on FA to ban divers

LONDON, 31 Dec — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has called on the Football Association (FA) to ban players who dive in order to rid the game of play acting to win free kicks or penalties.

Diving is once again a hot topic in the Premier League after three Chelsea players, Cesc Fabregas, Diego Costa and Willian, were all booked for simulation this month.

Chelsea defenders Gary Cahill and Branislav

Ivanovic have also recently been accused of diving by opposition managers with Blues boss Jose Mourinho countering that there was an agenda against players at his club.

Wenger said the only way to solve the problem would be for the FA to take retrospective action against players who have clearly dived.

"I'm against diving," Wenger told reporters. "We should punish it after the game. The problem

will be to decide when it was obvious diving or not. That's a big issue and sometimes it's not obvious," the Frenchman added.

"Punish only obvious cases but not mixed ones. "You have to suspend the players, I don't know how long. It depends. I am not a specialist in this kind of thing.

"But the only way that the players will stop doing it, is if they feel they can get punished. Whether it

is Arsenal, or Manchester United, or Liverpool or Chelsea, it is for everybody the same."

The Arsenal manager was also quick to dismiss speculation linking forward Lukas Podolski with a move to Inter Milan.

The German has found himself largely out of favour this season, having started only two matches, but Wenger was adamant that any move to Italy was not imminent.

Reuters

Inoue wins 8th career fight by KO, earns 2nd world title

TOKYO, 31 Dec — Japan's Naoya Inoue captured the WBO super flyweight championship on Tuesday, when he knocked out defending champion Omar Narvaez in the second round.

The 21-year-old Inoue used his reach to control the fight against his 39-year-old Argentine opponent, who was repeatedly knocked down before a body blow finally sent Narvaez to his knees at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. "I'm so happy I was able to show off my typical form," said Inoue, who is also the WBC light flyweight champ and set a Japan record by needing just eight career fights to win two world championships.

"I felt some pressure, but was determined to do whatever it took to win. I had practiced my body blows and felt if I landed them I could beat him."

Seven of Inoue's eight wins have come by knockout.

On the same card, Japan's Akira Yaegashi lost his bid for the WBC flyweight championship, losing to top-ranked contender Pedro Guevara of Mexico in a seventh-round knockout. Yaegashi, third-ranked in the division by the WBC, moved well but was repeatedly stung by his opponent without landing any effective punches in return.

As the fight wore on, Yaegashi began to slow down and paid the price. Guevara staggered Yaegashi with a powerful left to the body and then finished off his defenceless opponent with a right to the head.—Kyodo News



Naoya Inoue of Japan (L) fights with Omar Narvaez of Argentina during their WBO boxing super flyweight championship title fight in Tokyo on 30 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS