

Myanmar, Australia to further promote cooperation in education, health and mining sectors



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Australian Ambassador Ms Bronte Nadine Moules.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Australian Ambassador Ms Bronte Nadine Moules who had completed her tour of

duty, at the Presidential Palace here on Tuesday morning.

They discussed promoting cooperation in education, health and mining sectors, sending

of university students to continue further learning in Australia, and cooperation in rehabilitation tasks after the government has signed ceasefire and peace agreements

with armed ethnic groups.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Ohn Myint, Dr. Daw Khin San Yi, Dr. Than Aung

and Dr. Myint Aung and officials.

MNA

Majority of ethnic armed groups, parties long for nationwide ceasefire on 12 Feb



U Khun Okkar

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The Flag-hoisting Ceremony and Grand Military Review of the 67th Anniversary of Independence Day was held on a grand scale in the capital city on 4 January, with the objectives: all the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereign-



Daw Saw Mya Yazar Lin

ty; all the national people to live together in the Union forever through weal and woe; all the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine and lasting peace; and all the national people to make great stride in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Present on the auspicious occasion together with state heads were leaders of the Karen National Union (KNU), the KNU/KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), the New Mon State Party (NMSP), the



Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win

Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA), the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO).



Union Minister U Aung Min

The Myanmar News Agency interviewed some of ethnic armed groups and parties and some government union ministers.

In an interview, Daw Saw Mya Yazar Lin, CEC member of the Arakan Liberation Party, attached importance to a nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and all ethnic armed groups, (See page 3)

Non-collateral loan, up to K10 million, available for every small business with credit guarantee insurance

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 Jan— As of January, a non-collateral loan program is open to registered small and medium-sized businesses covered by credit guarantee insurance to get loans up to K10 million from Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB), Dr Than Tun, chairman of

SMIDB which is providing loans to large enterprises as well as small and medium enterprises in Myanmar, told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday.

Following a coordination between SMIDB and the Ministry of Finance more than a month ago, the bank agreed to launch the loan program for SMEs (See page 9)



Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB), the only bank lending to SMEs in Myanmar at the moment, says it is ready to make loans to every SME who bought credit guarantee insurance from Myanma Insurance.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Civic organizations organize workshop in Myanaung



MYANAUNG, 6 Jan — Shaehsaung Philanthropic Youth civic organization held a workshop in Kyauk-taung Village, Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region on 4 January.



Patron of Ayeyawady Social Development Group U Aung Win Shwe made a speech. The secretary of

the association explained the programmes of the workshop.

The workshop focused on establishment of civic organizations by recruiting youths, enhancing capacity of youths and civic organizations thereby providing volunteer services by youths and civic organizations in the society.

Nay Win Zaw
(Myanaung)

Myanaung Township adds two fire trucks to township station

MYANAUNG, 6 Jan — Ayeyawady Region government shared fire trucks and fire extinguishers to townships in the region.

On Tuesday, two fire trucks and fire extinguishers arrived in Myanaung.

Myanaung Township fire station has three fire trucks, one water bowser and one fire extinguishing machine in addition to one water bowser donated by local people.

Now, the region government shared one Dong-feng fire truck to Myanaung station and one more truck to Kanaung station. Thanks to new fire trucks and extinguishers, the Department of Fire Services can take better fire preventive measures for the township, said an official of FSD.

Nay Win Zaw
(Myanaung)



Community forest founders meet in Mohnyin



sia and community forest founders in Mohnyin Township, their experiences in group and challenges.

A total of 25 groups of forest founders have planted over 4,000 acres of forests in Mohnyin Township.

GNLM-001

MOHNYIN, 6 Jan—The Nature Greening Development Association held a workshop on establishment of community forests at the Dhammayon of monastery in Kwingyi Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, on 4 January, attended by 100 founders of community forests.

Assistant Community Forest officer U Saw Tauk Tun gave talks about an important role of public participation in biodiversity conservation in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Sawlaw and Mohnyin townships of Kachin State, technological assistance for establishment of community forests, disbursement of small loans to the founders and production of energy-saved stoves.

Member of National Greening Development Association U Thauk Kyar recounted his experiences on study tour to Indone-

MYINGYAN, 6 Jan — Thukha Chantha health care association which is reliable medical care team for local people in health care services held first annual meeting at Theindaw monastery in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, on 5 January.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Kyi Pe, Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing and patron of the association U Bi made speeches.

Chairman of the association U Aye Lwin (Thazin Press) submitted an annual

report in providing health care services to the local people and audit of the association U Than Htaik Aung (Sibin), an audit report.

The meeting was attended by departmental officials, townselders and members, totalling about 100.—Htay Myint Maung



Health care association holds annual meeting

Mandalarians mark Mother's Day

MANDALAY, 6 Jan — A ceremony to mark the 19th Mother's Day was held at Pariyatti Sasanahita Association at the corner of 85th and 35th streets in Mandalay on 4 January.

At first, all attendees took a one-minute silence to mark the Mother's Day.

Chairman of the organizing committee U Phone Myint Aung (Mandalay) explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

The organizing committee donated cash assistance to social associations in Mandalay, and prizes to Saya Maung Kyauk Khe and Saya Yatu Thway for their prizes in international peace poem contest.

Officials presented prizes to winners in the open short story and long poem contests.

Writers Nu Nu Yi (Inwa) and Nyi Min Nyo gave talks on gratitude of mothers.

Ma Kay Thwe, a volunteer of the ceremony, expressed her feeling that he would like to pay back gratitude to mothers.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Dawei Township inaugurates two asphalted roads



MYEIK, 6 Jan — A ceremony to inaugurate Thahaya asphalted road was held in Zaydan Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 3 January.

The local people, Township Development Affairs Committee and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw funded K12.4 million for construction of a 650 feet long and 12 feet wide road.

Senior Engineer U Nay Myo of Township Development Affairs

Committee explained facts about construction of the asphalted road.

Myeik District's deputy commissioner U Aung Kyaw Tun and officials formally opened the newly-repaved road and strolled along it.

Likewise, Yuza-na asphalted road was also opened in Daweikan Ward, Myeik, on 3 January.

The new road is 630 feet long and 18 feet wide. Local people and Development Affairs Committee K16.1 million for the construction of the road.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)

Local authorities formally inaugurate asphalted Thahaya road in Myeik.

NATIONAL

Majority of ethnic armed...

(from page 1)

saying that it was critical to the future of the country as it would add new momentum to democratic reform.

"The change we need will not become a reality unless fighting stops," she said, adding all stakeholders share the view that a political issue demands a political approach.

"Peace cannot be achieved through the one-sided approach. It requires the involvement of all stakeholders as well as

public support."

U Khun Okkar, patron of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization, expressed his view that the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) and the Union Peace-making Working Committee (UPWC) are negotiating for nationwide ceasefire and that an agreement is imminently within reach.

Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, general secretary of the Karen National Union, said he hopes for signing of the nationwide ceasefire

agreement on 12 February as has been suggested by

President U Thein Sein, calling the day a second historic day. According to the history of Myanmar, the Panglong Agreement was signed on 12 February 1947.

"The peace process is moving forward, albeit gradually, said U Aung Min, Union Minister at the President's Office, adding that it is hard to set an exact date for the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

According to the union minister, the govern-

ment invited all 16 ethnic armed groups to the flag-hoisting ceremony and the grand military review, but four groups did not show up. Their reasons ranged from lack of time to long distances and their leaders already on trips.

The four groups were the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and the Chin National Front (CNF).

Nyi Nyi Tun, Min Min Zaw, Honey Win,

Photos: Than Oo

Tatmadaw columns seize illegal vehicles, arrest the other country's citizens

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan —Tatmadaw columns continued combing areas in Manwein, Mantaung and Lawkhunyang regions in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State on 5 January. They seized eight 10-wheeled vehicles, three 6-wheeled vehicles, one Dongfeng vehicle, three backhoes and two crane carriers totalling 17, 240 logs and 17 men of other country.

From 2 to 5 January, the Tatmadaw columns seized one Dozer, three backhoes, four Pajeros, four Beijing Jeeps, three trailers, two doubled cabs, 447 timber trucks, four Dongfeng vehicles, four crane carriers, totalling 472 vehicles including 14 trucks with timbers, nine motorcycles, four men and 16 women of Myanmar, 114 men and five women of other country, totalling 139, two chainsaws,



Illegal vehicles seized by Tatmadaw columns in Waingmaw Township.

MYAWADY

10 beds, one solar panel, one battery, one telephone antenna, 680 stimulant tablets, six packets of raw opium, 20 ticals of opium,

12,000 Chinese yuan and documents signed by Brig-Gen Zaw Boke Htan, economic in-charge of KIA.

The seized illegal ve-

hicles, timbers, men and equipment are handed over to departments concerned to take action against them under the law.—Myawady

Public announcement for remonstrations

Mro National Democracy Party headquartered at No. 144, Buddha Gaya Street in Myothit area, Aungtat Ward, MraukU, Rakhine State, as a political party under the Article 5 of Political Parties Registration Law, has submitted an application to register at the Union Election Commission on 6-1-2015 and applied for use of following party name, flag and seal.

It is hereby announced in accord with the Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate the name, flag and seal of the party, they may do so with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the date of the announcement.

Union Election Commission



Flag of Mro National Democracy Party



Seal of Mro National Democracy Party

Role numbers and list of candidates announced for President's scholarship award

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan —Role numbers and list of 412 candidates, who are included in the first batch of 2,773 candidates in the examination for President's scholarship award, to have an interview, have been announced at the website of the

Ministry of Education www.myanmar-education.edu.mm, the education channel of Sky Net and newspapers.

A timetable and schedules for the interview will be announced, according to the Ministry of Education.

MNA

Myanmar Catholic Archbishop named as Cardinal



Archbishop Charles Maung Bo, Myanmar's first Roman Catholic cardinal.—Ko Oo

YANGON, 6 Jan — Archbishop Charles Maung Bo has been named by Pope Francis as Myanmar's first

Roman Catholic cardinal in 500 years of the Catholic faith in Myanmar. Pope Francis announced his appointment on Monday.

Newly appointed Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, speaking to the Myanmar News Agency, said that the world should help his country with its transition to democracy. According to him, the number of Catholic followers stands at around 800,000 in Myanmar. Cardinal Bo continued that all newly elected cardinals will receive guidance on philanthropic work from the Pope after a meeting scheduled on 12 and 13 February.

Moe Thuzar Soe



Myanmar faces . . .

(from page 1)

for US\$5451.221 million, while border trade made up US\$3182.494 million.

Of the total import, normal trade accounted for US\$10,585.690 million, while border trade standing at US\$1,675.343 million.

Myanmar mostly exports agricultural produce, animal by-products, fishery products, mine and forest products while it imports consumers products, raw materials and investment goods.

GNLM

A container vessel of Singapore.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Medical team of Suksawat Hospital provides healthcare to patients

YANGON, 6 Jan — A medical team from Suk-sawat Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand gave medical care to patients recently at Leik-pyakan Monastery in the compound of Nandar Aung Myay Monastery on Shwegondine Road in Yangon.

More than 300 patients including monks and nuns received medical care during a three-day medical care programme launched on Jan. 4 2015.

The team was led by Dr Anawat Serm Swan, Cardiologist, Dr Prasit Singhaviranon, Cardiologist Consultant and Dr Disat Sripthraprang, Orthopaedic Surgeon.—GNLM



Physicians giving medical treatment to a Buddhist monk.

Myawady to vaccinate people against measles, German measles diseases



MYAWADY, 6 Jan — A clarification on vaccination of measles and German measles was held at Thaungyin Hall, Myawady, Kayin State, on 5 January.

In his speech, Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo urged the people to participate in control of measles and German measles.

Head of District Health Department Dr Aung Myint explained vaccination of measles and German measles at schools from 19 to 27 January and at the public from 19 to 28 February.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw, departmental heads and members of social organizations participated in discussions of vaccination programme.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Kayah State government hands over fire trucks, water bowzers to townships

LOIKAW, 6 Jan — A ceremony to hand over fire trucks, water bowzers and rescue equipment to townships was held at the city hall in Loikaw, Kayah State, on Monday morning.

On the occasion, Kayah state Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo urged local peoples to cooperate with a fire brigade in taking fire preventive measures.

State Minister of Se-

curity and Border Affairs Col Zaw Myo Tin handed over documents related to fire trucks to deputy commissioners of Loikaw and Bawlakhe districts. Chairman of Kayah State Fire Prevention Committee State Minister U Koe Rei made a speech.

The chief minister and party viewed drill of fire trucks and water bowzers. Kayah State government spent K753.53 million on purchase of eight fire trucks, eight water bowzers, fire extinguishers and rescue equipment, Head of Kayah State Fire Services Department U Saw Tun

told media.

Township IPRD



Pilgrims to visit Moebaw Creek waterfall near Kyaikhtiyoe Hill

KYAIKTO, 6 Jan — Moebaw Creek Waterfall near Kyaikhtiyoe Hill attracts local and foreign tourists to take a rest while making pilgrimage visits to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda.

Seven concrete bridges across ravines along the route to the waterfall are being built for smooth transport of people, said an official. One of seven bridges has been completed by cent per cent.

The route to Moe-

baw Creek waterfall was launched on 3 December 2014. Hilly transport buses are being run to the waterfall, Chairman of the bus line U Wi Tin told media.

Yoe Yoe Lay Company and Mizine Taung Company jointly build the bridges and an earthen road along the route to the waterfall, U Nay Htet Thein Naing of Yoe Yoe Lay Company told media.—U Khin Maung Myint (Zabuthiri); Photo U Sein Hlaing (IPRD)



REGIONAL



Pakistani civil society activists shout slogans against the Taliban during a peace rally in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 5 Jan, 2015. Pakistan announced a national plan of action to deal with terrorism in wake of an attack on an army-run school in Peshawar on 16 December which killed more than a hundred people and most of them were school children.—XINHUA

Thousands flee intensifying India-Pakistan clashes

SRINAGAR, 6 Jan — Thousands of Indians have fled from their homes as fighting between India and Pakistan spread along a 200-km (124 mile) stretch of the border in the disputed region of Kashmir.

Tension between the nuclear-armed rivals has risen since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called off peace talks in August and clashes along stretches of their border have been erupting intermittently since October. At least 10 Indian and Pakistani soldiers and civilians have been killed in fighting over the past week.

About 6,000 civilians in Indian-controlled Kashmir fled from their homes late on Monday as fighting moved to civilian areas, said

Shantmanu, the divisional commissioner of Jammu region. About 4,000 left after fighting began last week.

"We had a narrow escape and there is a war-like situation," Sham Kumar, 54, from Sherpur village told *Reuters*. "Pakistani troops are using long-range weapons. It is the first time we have seen such intense shelling."

The violence comes days before US Secretary of State John Kerry is due to visit India. President Barack Obama is also due to visit India later this month.

The United States has for years been trying to push the South Asian rivals to build better relations. Mistrust between India and Pakistan is a factor behind

conflict in various parts of the region including Afghanistan.

Kumar said he left his village after a shell landed in a school about 3.5 km (2 miles) from the border.

Indian and Pakistani forces again exchanged gunfire and mortar bombs across parts of their border on Tuesday, an Indian Border Security Force official said.

"The firing is going on and we are giving befitting reply to Pakistani shelling," the official said. Pakistani officials were not immediately available for comment.

The rivals, who have fought two wars over Muslim-majority Kashmir, blame each other for the upsurge in clashes since October.—*Reuters*

Tension rises in Bangladesh as polls anniversary protests turn violent

DHAKA, 6 Jan — Four protesters were killed in clashes between activists of Bangladesh's ruling party and opposition supporters on Monday and authorities cut off transport into Dhaka on the first anniversary of national polls themselves fraught by violence.

Despite police warnings, opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia refused to cancel Dhaka rallies planned to mark what her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has dubbed "democracy killing day".

Khaleda, a former prime minister herself, has demanded fresh polls under a neutral administration, calling Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government "undemocratic and illegal".

The normally clogged streets of Dhaka were nearly empty on Monday afternoon, as authorities cut off bus, rail and ferry services into the city. Thousands of riot police were deployed in anticipation of more unrest.

"Security has been ramped up across the country, including Dhaka, to

thwart any untoward incidents," Dhaka district police chief Habibur Rahman told *Reuters*.

Bangladesh has been in a state of political uncertainty since last January, when Prime Minister Hasina's Awami League came to power for a second consecutive term after a parliamentary election campaign marked by bloodshed. The polls had been boycotted by the BNP and deemed flawed by international observers.

Police said two protesters in their 20s were shot

dead in Natore district during clashes between ruling and opposition party activists. The opposition said the victims were BNP activists, though police have not confirmed their identity.

Two more protesters were killed during separate clashes involving opposition and ruling party activists and security forces in the north-western part of the country.

The opposition leader says she has been confined to her office in Dhaka's diplomatic enclave since Saturday, according to BNP party

officials, with armoured vehicles equipped with water cannon outside.

In protest, Khaleda called for an indefinite nationwide blockade of roads, railways and waterways.

"The government has turned the whole country into a prison," Khaleda told reporters.

The government denied Khaleda was being held against her will, and says it has deployed extra security at her office for her protection. "Who has confined her?" media quoted Hasina

as asking at a party meeting on Sunday. "She can go to her residence any time."

Hasina and Khaleda, both related to former national leaders, have nursed a long and bitter rivalry, and have dominated politics in Bangladesh for more than two decades.

BNP officials said hundreds of their supporters had been detained since Saturday. Scores of protesters have been injured in clashes in Dhaka, the port city of Chittagong and elsewhere.—*Reuters*

Divers join AirAsia wreck search as bad weather relents

PANGKALAN BUN / JAKARTA, (Indonesia), 6 Jan — Search teams including divers took advantage of a let-up in bad weather on Tuesday to try to reach the wreckage of an AirAsia jet that crashed nine days ago, and to recover bodies and find its black box flight recorders.

Indonesian officials believe they may have located the tail and parts of the fuselage of the Airbus (AIR.PA) A320-200 at the bottom of the Java Sea, but strong currents, high winds and big waves have hindered attempts to investigate the debris.

Flight QZ8501 plunged into the water off Borneo island on 28 December, about 40 minutes into a two-hour flight from Indonesia's second-biggest city of Surabaya to Singapore. There were

no survivors among the 162 people on board.

Jakarta has launched a crackdown on its fast-growing aviation sector since the crash, reassigning some officials and tightening rules on pre-flight procedures in a country with a patchy reputation for air safety.

"Today's weather is friendly, the team can work," the head of Indonesia's search and rescue agency, Fransiskus Bambang Soelistyo, told a news conference in Jakarta.

Soelistyo said the multinational air and sea operation had two objectives: to recover bodies and wreckage floating in an ever-widening search area in the northern Java Sea, and to find wreckage and the plane's black box on the ocean floor.

The latter effort is focused on an area about 90

nautical miles off Borneo, where ships using sonar have located five large ob-

jects believed to be parts of the plane — the largest about 18 metres (59 feet)

long — in shallow water.

The captain of an Indonesian navy patrol vessel



Mao Yanfeng (2nd R), an expert of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, talks to the media in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 6 Jan, 2015. China on Tuesday sent aviation experts and a rescue vessel to join the Indonesian search operation for the black boxes of the ill-fated AirAsia Flight QZ8501.—XINHUA

said on Monday his ship had found what was believed to be the tail — a key find since that section of the aircraft houses the cockpit voice and flight data recorders — but Soelistyo said that could not be confirmed.

Only 37 bodies of the mostly Indonesian passengers and crew have been recovered. Many more could still be trapped in the fuselage of the aircraft.

"Why are we trying to search the big parts of wreckage? Because there might be the possibility that there are still victims in the body of the plane," said Soelistyo.

Some divers were in action, and five ships were scouring the sea floor with acoustic "pinger" detectors designed to pick up signals emitted by the black box, he said.—*Reuters*

Australia battles to contain worst wildfires in 30 years



The remains of a house and car can be seen after a bushfire destroyed them at Cudlee Creek in South Australia in this picture taken on 3 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

SYDNEY, 6 Jan — Hundreds of firefighters were battling on Tuesday to contain Australia's worst wildfires in 30 years which have already swept across more than 12,000 hectares outside the southern city of Adelaide and destroyed at least 26 homes.

The fires, which are burning across a 240-km (150-mile) perimeter in the state of South Australia, come as the Australian Bureau of Meteorology

announced on Tuesday that 2014 had been the country's third warmest year on record. That has raised questions about whether the blaze is the result of climate change and a possible sign of worse to come.

"Unless there are rapid, substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and globally, Australia will experience more heat waves and bush

fires as in 2014," David Karoly, a professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Melbourne, said in a statement.

At least 29 people have been injured or taken to hospital but no deaths have been reported.

The fires are the worst in terms of scale and intensity since the Ash on Wednesday fires of 1983 which killed 75 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.

Country Fire Service state coordinator Brenton Eden said the next 48 hours were critical to firefighting efforts because of higher forecast temperatures and changing winds.

"Today we will see easterly winds coming through and by mid-afternoon, 4 pm, we're going to be back to 36 degrees Celsius (96.8 degrees Fahrenheit)," Eden said. "We've got to get through on Tuesday and Wednesday and see no increase in the perimeter of this fire."

Hundreds of families

have been evacuated and firefighters have rescued scores of koalas in the fire that is raging through the Adelaide Hills, just outside the state capital. Wildfires are a natural annual event in Australia, but some scientists say climate change is increasing both the fire season and intensity.

The heat caused different problems in the West Australian capital of Perth where thousands of iiNet Ltd internet customers found themselves offline for hours after the company shut down some of its systems. The temperature in Perth reached a maximum of 44.4 degrees Celsius on Monday, the hottest January day since 1991 when it reached 45.8 degrees.

"Due to record breaking temperatures, iiNet Toolbox, Email and our corporate websites are unavailable. Apologies for any inconvenience caused," iiNet tweeted.

Reuters

US urges Abe to resolve historical perception issue with neighbours

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — The United States hopes Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will try to resolve disagreements over perceptions of history with neighbouring nations in a statement to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the US State Department said on Monday.

"We encourage Japan to continue to work with its neighbours to resolve concerns over history in an amicable way through dialogue," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a press briefing when asked to comment on Abe's planned statement.

At his first press conference of the year on Monday, Abe said he will express remorse for Japan's past actions and uphold the 1995 apology given by then premier Tomiichi Murayama in his expected statement.

Abe is expected to visit the United States in April or May before the release of the statement.

On the 50th anniversary of the war's end on 15 August, 1995, Murayama said Japan caused "tremendous damage and suffering" to the people of Asia and other countries through its colonial rule and aggression.

Neighbouring Asian nations, particularly China and South Korea, are paying attention to whether Abe will maintain the apology.

"Our view is that the apologies extended by previous Prime Minister Murayama and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono marked important chapters in Japan's effort to improve relations with its neighbours," Psaki said.

In a separate statement in 1993 issued by then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, the government apologized for its military's involvement in establishing wartime "comfort stations" where women, including those from the Korean Peninsula, provided sex for Japanese soldiers.—Kyodo News

Japan, China to resume talks on maritime crisis management next week

TOKYO, 6 Jan — Japan and China have agreed to resume talks as early as next week to launch a maritime crisis management mechanism in 2015, several Japanese government sources said on Tuesday.

Arrangements are being made for working-level talks around on Tuesday in Tokyo as both countries work to avert unwanted clashes

around the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea — uninhabited islets controlled by Japan but claimed by China — the sources added.

Japan had sounded out China about resuming talks by the end of January on the establishment of some mechanism that would enable their defence authorities to contact each other in emergencies. Beijing re-

sponded by saying that they could be held in the middle of the month, according to the sources.

During their first summit talks in November, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to ease tensions over the sovereignty of the islands and establish the crisis management mechanism.

The upcoming talks would include officials from Japan's Defence Ministry and the Maritime Self-Defence Force, and China's Defence Ministry. In 2012, Japanese and Chinese defence authorities reached a basic agreement to set up a hotline, and use a common radio frequency for their ships and planes around the Senkakus.—Kyodo News

Thai police arrest fugitive convicted of 1995 India bombing

BANGKOK, 6 Jan — Thai police have arrested a man convicted of involvement in a bomb attack in India two decades ago that killed 18 people, including the then-chief minister of the northern state of Punjab, a spokesman said on Tuesday.

Gurmeet Singh, also known as Jagtar Singh Tara, a former member of the Babbar Khalsa International Sikh separatist group, was jailed for life in 2007 for his involvement in the 1995 attack outside a government complex in Chandigarh.

A bomb planted in then-Chief Minister Beant Singh's car exploded killing Singh, the state's high-



Police officers escort Gurmeet Singh, also known as Jagtar Singh Tara, from India, as they arrive at the criminal court in Bangkok on 6 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

est elected official, and 17 others, including aides and members of his security detail.

Singh was one of six militants convicted in con-

nection with the blast.

He and three others escaped a high-security prison in India in 2004. Singh entered Thailand in October, police said, and was

arrested in the seaside town of Pattaya, east of the capital Bangkok, on Monday.

"We arrested fugitive convict Mr Gurmeet Singh in Pattaya after monitoring his movements for several months and with the help of police in India," Royal Thai Police spokesman Police Lieutenant General Prawut Thavornsiri told Reuters.

Police were seeking permission from Thailand's Supreme Court to extradite Singh, he added.

"The plan is to send him back to India."

Beant Singh became chief minister of Punjab, home to most Indian Sikhs, in 1992.

Reuters

Firefighters' New Year parade



Firefighters demonstrate ladder-top stunts during the annual New Year parade of fire brigades organized by the Tokyo Fire Department, in Tokyo's Koto Ward on 6 Jan, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Turkish parliament commission votes against graft trial for ex-ministers

ANKARA, 6 Jan — A Turkish parliamentary commission voted on Monday not to commit for trial four former ministers accused in a corruption investigation, effectively backing President Tayyip Erdogan after a scandal that rattled his inner circle.

Erdogan has cast the corruption scandal, which erupted in December 2013 when he was prime minister, as a plot to unseat him by his political enemies.

The affair led to the resignation of the ministers of the economy, the interior and urbanization, while European Union Affairs Minister Egemen Bagis lost his post in a subsequent reshuffle. All four have denied wrongdoing.

The 14-member parliamentary commission, including nine members of Erdogan's ruling AK Party, was set up in May to study

prosecutors' files alleging wrongdoing by the four ex-ministers.

A member of the commission from Turkey's main opposition party CHP branded the decision not to send the ministers to the Supreme Court for trial as a cover-up.

"We've witnessed today in parliament how the biggest corruption scandal in Turkey's history has been covered up on the orders of the AK Party and the president. The outcome is saddening," CHP deputy Levent Gok told reporters.

Erdogan portrayed the corruption scandal, which posed one of the biggest challenges to his more than decade-long leadership, as a coup attempt orchestrated by his former ally, US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, to undermine his rule.

He reacted with a purge of the state appara-



(From L to R) Republican People's Party (CHP) MPs Riza Turmen, Osman Koruturk, Levent Gok, Erdal Aksunger and Emre Koprulu attend a news conference in Ankara on 5 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

tus, reassigning thousands of police and hundreds of judges and prosecutors deemed loyal to Gulen, in what his supporters said was a cleansing of the cler-

ic's influence.

Speaking over the weekend, Health Minister Mehmet Muezzinoglu questioned the impartiality of the Supreme Court,

highlighting the tension between government and the judiciary.

"The AK Party will clean up the its own rotten ones, with its own values.

Nobody should doubt this. But it will not submit itself to a system with ill intentions," he said in an interview with the *Haberturk* newspaper.

Ankara's Western allies have reacted with alarm to what they see as signs of erosion of the rule of law, with four prosecutors who initiated the corruption investigation suspended last month, cases dropped and government influence over the judiciary tightened.

The commission's decision must be debated by 30 January by the parliament in full session, which will have the final say on whether the ministers are tried in the Supreme Court.

Turkey's immunity rules mean they can only face trial if parliament, where the AK Party has a large majority, agrees.

Reuters

Two New York City police officers shot and wounded

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—Two New York City police officers were shot and taken to a local hospital, police said on Monday night.

The New York Police Department said the officers were responding to a reported robbery in the Bronx when the shooting occurred.

The conditions of the

policemen were unknown. No suspect had been taken into custody, police said.

Further details were not immediately available.

Local broadcaster NBC New York reported that the officers suffered non-life-threatening wounds.

The shooting comes just weeks after NYPD

officers Wenjian Liu, 32, and Rafael Ramos, 40, were ambushed and fatally shot on 20 December by a killer who said he wanted to avenge the deaths of two unarmed black men in encounters with white officers in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City this summer.

Reuters

Cuba to hold partial elections in April

HAVANA, 6 Jan — Cuba's State Council convened about eight million voters for partial elections in April to choose the delegates for a two-and-a-half-year-term to the 168 municipal assemblies of the People's Power, the daily *Granma* reported on Monday.

This first round of the

elections is scheduled for 19 April, and the second will be held on 26 April in those constituencies where no candidates obtains over 50 percent of the valid votes, according to an official release published by *Granma*.

Cuban electoral law establishes that if there is a tie in any constituency, a

third round or more will be necessary to define an electoral winner.

This is the 16th electoral process on the island since the establishment of the People's Power, the country's unicameral parliament, in 1976.

Cuba's last legislative elections were held in October 2012.—Xinhua

NY Times reporter questioned in court in CIA leak case

ALEXANDRIA, 6 Jan — New York Times reporter James Risen refused on Monday to answer all but a few basic questions in court about his book detailing a failed CIA effort to undermine Iran's nuclear weapons program, in a case that has become a flashpoint for press freedom.

Risen testified in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, as part of the U.S. government's case against former Central Intelligence Agency officer Jeffrey Sterling, who is charged with leaking classified information to Risen.

Risen, appearing under oath on the witness stand for the first time, declined to identify what information confidential sources provided for his book,

where or when he met with unnamed sources, or who had not served as a source.

The terse, and at times combative, testimony prompted a lawyer for Sterling to question whether prosecutors could even proceed with their case.

There are many unequivocal statements the government cannot prove without Risen, said Edward MacMahon, a lawyer for Sterling. Sterling was indicted on unauthorized disclosure of national defense information and other charges in 2010.

Risen sought to quash an earlier subpoena requiring him to testify, but an appeals court ruled against him and the Supreme Court last year declined to take up his case.

In mid-December, after a decision from Attorney General Eric Holder, prosecutors said they planned to limit the questions they asked Risen, and would not ask him to name any individuals who provided anonymous information for his 2006 book "State of War."

On Monday, Risen said he did not want to provide any information to the government that it might be able to use as a "building block" to prove or disprove a "mosaic" it was trying to make. He made the comments just days before Sterling is scheduled to begin trial on 12 January.

The case is USA v Sterling 10-00485 in the Eastern District of Virginia.—Reuters

Turkish Airlines suspends all Libya flights amid security concerns

ISTANBUL, 6 Jan — Turkish Airlines, the last foreign airline operating in Libya, said on Tuesday it was suspending all flights to the north African country over concerns about worsening security. Turkey's

flag carrier suspended all Misrata flights on Monday, and on Tuesday it said it would no longer fly to its other Libya destinations - Benghazi, Tripoli or Sebha. Three years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya

is mired in a violent power struggle between two rival factions of former rebels who have established competing governments, both claiming legitimacy and control of vast oil resources.—Reuters

El Nino indicators ease over recent weeks: Australia weather bureau

SYDNEY, 6 Jan — Pacific Ocean temperatures have cooled over the last two weeks, easing away from El Nino thresholds, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) said on Tuesday.

Ocean temperatures have oscillated near El Nino thresholds for several months but over recent weeks have again eased, the Australian weather agency said.

Sea surface temperature anomalies have cooled by around 0.4 degrees in the parts of central to eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, the BOM said.

However, temperatures remain above average along much of the equator, the Australian weather agency said.

Beneath the surface, temperatures have also eased closer to average in many areas, the BOM said.

Despite the cooling indicators, the BOM said its climate models continue to show warmer-than-average sea temperatures persisting over the next two-to-three months. Japan in December declared an El Nino, marking the first declaration by a major meteorological bureau of the much-feared weather phenomenon, which had been widely expected to emerge this year.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 7 January, 2015

Learning soft skills is important in education

By Aung Khin

As countries across the globe enter competition in various sectors such as human resources and skills, focus on competences becomes a vital drive for Myanmar. An academic education should be a good foundation for the country. However, life competences, soft skills, must also be taught at schools and universities.

Soft skills include the ability to communicate, IT literacy, numerical and statistical skills, high-level thinking and social competence, while good physical and mental health are crucial for

ideal graduates. These skills are fundamentals for producing quality and valuable citizens who will face this highly competitive global community.

The world is now a global village and communication becomes the highest priority in international relations. The lack of abilities to read, write, listen and speak fluently and effectively in different circumstances cannot produce a society with skillful human resources.

In addition to global languages, proficiency in languages of ASEAN countries will be advantageous for graduates. Myanmar students need more IT literacy. The ability for effective use of IT is a necessity for the new generation. Moreover, numerical and statistical competency must be developed in non-science students.

Teachers at basic education schools and academics at universities and colleges must equip themselves with up-to-date knowledge to share with their students. Genuine education should be focused on developing life-long learners with inquiring minds.

Proper teaching methods are required for education reform, with the focus on intellectual development to install in students the practice of 'learning to learn'. Educators need to help students maximize their abilities in both learning and thinking skills.

Myanmar needs quick steps to get a great momentum, while neighbouring countries are enjoying fruitful results after passing through challenges. Realizing actual situations and pragmatic approaches must be considered to keep pace with development of the global community.

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.

Good Samaritans working on Christmas Holidays for eye patients in Sagaing Hills

By Sayar Mya

Eight-Passenger Light Van pulled over right in front of the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills. It was cool soft winter Sunday morning on 21 December 2014 and the thin fog enveloped the surrounding and its environment and also over the large green trees. The Wachet Hospital is situated on the western bank of the Mighty Ayeyawady in Sagaing Region of Upper Myanmar.

We travelled from Yangon to Sagaing by public transport express bus on Saturday night and arrived at Sagaing bus terminal the following morning. A light van from the hospital was waiting and carried us to the destination.

The WJSH was first established as a small dispensary for the local villagers in 1984 getting up and standing up high out of a dilapidated and collapsed Zayat — wayside public rest house built on a sacred premise — by venerable monk of Kyaswa Religious Retreat Dr. Ashin Lakkhana through the collective efforts of well-wishers. A very small dispensary in the remote hills has developed into a modest hospital due to the ardent and tireless efforts of the Buddhist monks, doctors, well-wishers and the local populace.

The hospital is treating patients from all walks of life especially the marginalized, vulnerable and poor patients. The hospital charges a nominal fee to

those who could afford, and treated free of charge to poor patients.

The hospital is funded by well-wishers across the country and managed by two committees namely the Lower Myanmar Wachet Hospital Supervisory and Logistic Committee and the Upper Myanmar WHS and LC. Retired Director of Finance and Revenue Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Yangon is working as dynamic Honorary Secretary for



**Dr. H. Kwon Kang,
Vitreoretinal
Surgeon of Sydney.**

Lower Myanmar EC, and private entrepreneur U Myint Soe of Sagaing is handling the Secretary portfolio of Upper Myanmar EC.

On our arrival, Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr. U Win Kyaing warmly welcomed me and my family members under the portico of the hospital. He is a retired MS of 200-bed government hospital in Taninthayi Region and joined the philanthropic hospital in May 2012 after his retirement. He is a nice man working heart and soul for the smooth functioning of the hospital.

With much enthusi-

asm, he explained the treatment schedule for eye patients from 21 to 26 December 2014. He praised the Good Samaritan ophthalmologists as they were not going to take a break even on Christmas Holiday the 25th of December.

We were accommodated in two rooms earmarked for the patients on the third floor. It was my fourth visit to WJSH for follow up treatment on my problematic left eye. The awkward, tricky and sticky eye trouble started with the simple cataract removal and intraocular lens (IOL) implant on my left eye at a local eye clinic in Yangon in April 2013, which developed into eye infection and haunted me with multiple nuisances for nearly two years.

As my long journey in quest of eye treatment involved the venues such as Yangon – Singapore – Sydney and finally Wachet in Sagaing Hills, I decided to write a separate article on my bitter experiences of recurring nightmare.

I took a short rest in the patient's room of the hospital.

At noon time, accountant of the hospital Miss Aye Khaing Moe came to my room and informed me that Dr. Kwon has just arrived Wachet Hospital from the Mandalay/TadaU Airport. He travelled a long way from Sydney to Yangon, and then to Mandalay.

I first met Dr. Kwon at Marsden Eye Specialists at 152 Marsden Street Parramatta NSW 2150 near



Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills

Sydney in quest of eye treatment in August 2013.

At this juncture, it is my honour to introduce Dr. Kwon. His full name is Dr. Hyong Kwon Kang, MBBS, B.Sc. (Med), FRANZCO MEDICAL & SURGICAL RETINA. Dr Kang attended medical school at the University of Sydney, where he also attained a Bachelor of Science degree with the University Medal. He completed ophthalmology training at Prince of Wales Hospital and pursued a fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery and medical retina at Southampton University Hospital in UK, where he also worked as a consultant in 2005 and 2006.

Dr Kang has been active in research into retinal vein occlusion, macular degeneration and macular hole, and published numerous papers in major international journals. He routinely performs surgery for retinal detachment, macular hole, epiretinal membrane and diabetic retinopathy. He participates in rural ophthalmology as a visiting

consultant at Broken Hill Base Hospital. He has been involved in a volunteer ophthalmology programme in Myanmar since 2003.

Later, I learnt that Dr. Kwon is visiting twice a year to WJSH since 2003 and visited three times each in 2013 and 2014. Immediately after arrival, Dr. Kwon inspected the recently renovated Operation Theatre-2 and Operation Theater-3. He said that he preferred the renovation of OT-2 being revamped at the cost of Myanmar kyat 25 million.

He is the lone foreign ophthalmologist at this recent trip for 22-27 December which was assisted by Professor Dr. Daw Yee Yee Aung and Dr. U Saw Htoo Set, both from Mandalay Eye Hospital. Professor Dr. Daw Yee Yee Aung joined the Wachet Hospital in early 2013 and has a host of eye patients as she is a very kind hearted doctor. Dr. U Saw Htoo Set has been working for the Wachet Hospital since 2004 dedicated his heart and soul for the eye patients, especially

for the poor.

Over the years, the month of December is allocated for the team that undertakes Myanmar Eye Care Program (MECP) with the coordinator Dr. Geoff Cohn.

The Myanmar Eye Care Program (MECP) is led by Sydney-based ophthalmologist Dr Geoff Cohn. Every couple of months or three to four trips each year, Dr Cohn and a dedicated team of about 40 Australian medical eye specialists, technicians and support staff, self-fund their trips to Myanmar and volunteer their time to provide treatment to 30,000 people each year. They treat eye diseases such as cataract and glaucoma and provide essential equipment for ophthalmic surgery. Importantly, the program helps train native ophthalmic personnel to operate independently, which enables them to continue the work when the Australian team returns home. The aim of the MECP is to reduce the prevalence of preventable

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NATIONAL

Non-collateral loan, up to K10 million, available for every...

(from page 1)

in Myanmar, allowing them to get up to K10 million from SMIDB, said the chairman.

"But, the borrowers are covered by credit guarantee insurance being sold by Myanma Insurance, and we can lend to CGI holders only," the chairman added.

The country's first insurance service went on sale last June, but it has been described as a hard sell.

It is aimed at improving the access to finance for SMEs, said the state-owned insurer at the press conference on the launch of the new service last year.

With different premium rates for two types of loans, credit guarantee insurance for a loan with collateral is set with a premium rate of 2 kyats per 100 kyat for first year, 1.5 kyat for second year and 1 kyat for third year while a non-collateral loan with a premium rate of 3 kyats

Political parties apply for registration at UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and allows applications for registration of political parties.

On 6 January 2015, Mro National Democracy Party applied for party's registration at the UEC.

MNA

for first year, 2 kyats for second year and 1 kyat for third year and next.

MI guarantees to imburse for a loss up to 60 per cent of the loan amount in the event of a loan default, the SMIDB chairman said.

"We are ready to loan money to every SME who bought credit guarantee insurance. To research performance of businesses seeking loans from us is the MI's responsibility, not that of us," he added.

Statistics show there are 126,237 registered SMEs in Myanmar, accounting for 99.4% of overall industries across the country. Sources said most SMEs with financial needs are struggling to grow their businesses at the advent of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Local businessmen welcome the loan program, saying it is good for SMEs wanting to get a small business loan without putting

up property or something else as collateral.

On plans to reduce the loan interest rate for SMEs, Dr Than Tun envisioned that the current 8.5 per cent interest rate for SMEs would be reduced if the bank could borrow at much lower interest rate from international organizations or financial institutions.

He disclosed that discussions with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have concluded on two-step loan project for SME development in Myanmar. Moreover, the bank is going to receive US\$20 million in loan from a financial institution in Singapore with the approval of the Central Bank of Myanmar and it is waiting the CBM approval for US\$30 million loan from the Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV).

GNLM

Announcement of National Energy Policy

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—For ensuring the development of energy and electrical sectors, National Energy Management Committee and Energy Development Committee are formed on 9 January, 2013 by the president office notification No (12/2013).

National Energy Management Committee formulated the National Energy Policy based on the "Myanmar Energy Sector Policy Draft Working Paper", prepared by international and national energy sector experts under the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance Program to support the formulation of policy, rules and regulations that meet international standard, and "Current Situation Analysis, policy, strategy and road map of each energy sub-sector" prepared by energy related ministries.

And National Energy Management Committee announced the nine points of national energy policy from the national energy policy paper as follows:

Nine Points of National Energy Policy

1. To implement short term and long term comprehensive energy development plan based on systematically investigated data on the potential energy resources which are feasible and can be practically exploited, considering minimum impact on natural environment and social environment
2. To institute laws, rules and regulations in order to promote private sector participation and to privatize State Energy Organizations in line with State Economic Reform Policy
3. To compile systematic statistics on domestic demand and supply of various different kinds of energy resources of Myanmar
4. To implement programs by which local population could proportionally enjoy the benefit of energy reserve discovered in the areas
5. To implement programs on a wider scale, utilizing renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and bioenergy for the sustainable energy development in Myanmar
6. To promote Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation
7. To establish R, D, D&D (Research, Development, Design and Dissemination) Institution in order to keep abreast with international practices in energy resources exploration and development works and to produce international quality products in order to manufacture quality products and in order to conduct energy resources exploration works in accordance with international standard
8. To promote international collaboration in energy matters
9. To formulate appropriate policy for energy product pricing meeting economic security of energy producers and energy consumers

Good Samaritans working on Christmas Holidays...

(from page 8)

and avoidable blindness in the rural areas of Myanmar by developing a high quality, locally staffed, self-sustaining and efficient eye care health system by 2020.

It was learnt that Dr. Cohn is preoccupied with the earlier commitment of Cambodia visit at this time of the year. With a view to filling the wide open space of December 2014, Dr. Kwon alone rushed in to treat the eye patients, who were in dire need of foreign ophthalmologist.

Aim and objective of his visit was (1) Assessment of Sterilization and (2) Supervision of Vitreoretinal Surgery. Sterilization of the operation theaters is an important protocol to improve the health standards in the hospital and to prevent surgical infections.

The eye treatment program for December 2014 was not publicized to the public as many eye patients were already registered.

Those were the patients who have not been treated during the previous visit of Surgery and Vitreoretinal Disease Treatment. Certain number of eye patients from Mandalay Eye Hospital was also in the waiting list.

Working in a straight long stretch, Dr. Kwon, Professor Dr. Daw Yee Aung and Dr. U Saw Htoo Sett stepped into the Out Patient Department (Eye) at the ground floor in the afternoon of 21 December and examined the patients who were waiting in the long queue. The three eye surgeons assisted by skilled nurses quickly but carefully examined the eye patients to diagnose the disease and serializing for priority during the 22-26 December working days.

Ideally, the eye examination consists of an external examination, followed by specific tests for visual acuity, pupil function, extra ocular muscle motility,

visual fields, intraocular pressure and ophthalmoscope through a dilated pupil.

A minimal eye examination consists of tests for visual acuity, pupil function, and extra ocular muscle motility, as well as direct ophthalmoscope through an undilated pupil.

On the first day, 21 December 2014, there was no eye operation. The examination of (87) vitreoretinal eye patients was carried out and the voluminous task ended at 8:00 pm.

The team members in small groups came up one after another from the ground floor to the third floor towards the dining hall passing through the corridor facing the Mighty Ayeyawady. The cool winter breeze was blowing from across the water with no moon in the sky on the first day of Myanmar month "Pyar Tho", and the dark blue sky hovered all over the area.

The three ophthalmologists, skilled nurses and other staff members seemed exhausted physi-

cally, but their facial expression was fresh as a daisy under the bright neon light on the third floor.

They exchanged views over the dining table and called it the day, as the first day's work has been completed.

Non-stop work continued the following day.

On 22 December, the team examined (36) patients and operated (5) cases.

On 23 December, the ophthalmologists checked (17) cases and treated (6) patients.

On 24 December, the eye surgeons looked over (13) men and women. They handled (7) cases through operation.

On 25 December, the Happy Holiday of Merry Christmas, the Good Samaritans did not take a break, but examined (5) patients. They operated (6) patients.

Christmas or Christmas Day is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed most commonly on December 25 as a religious

and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.

However, the Sagaing Hills area is exclusively scattered with Theravada Buddhist Religious Resorts, and therefore, no carol songs was heard.

On 26 December, the last day of the program, out patients' examination was not carried out. Initially, five patients were called in for last day operation. Two patients were alerted to be called in for operation if the cases of five patients were completed on time. The operation of five patients was completed at 7:20 pm entering into night.

Even at 7:20 pm night time, Dr. Kwon called in the two remaining eye patients for operation. The mission of Good Samaritans accomplished at 10:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

A total of (158) eye patients were examined and (31) difficult, delicate

and tricky eye operations were accomplished.

The eye patients and the family members were happy to go home.

Professor Dr. Daw Yee Yee Aung and Dr. U Saw Htoo Set remained at the hospital on 27 December to take care and check the patients operated the previous day. They went back to Mandalay the following day.

Dr. H. Kwon Kang left on 27 December and flew back to Australia from Mandalay / TadaU Airport via Yangon.

Before departure, he promised the hosts that he will come back again to Wachet Hospital in February 2015.

I would like to say in Australian culture "Cheerio". It means good bye; or "Toodle-oo" with the same meaning. May be "Hooroo" [spelled "ooroo"] which means "Good Bye" or "See you later".

✿ ✿ ✿

The author of this article is a Retired Counsellor / Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar.

US stands by plan to pull troops from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — The United States on Monday stood by plans to halve the number of its troops in Afghanistan this year and reduce them further in 2016 following Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's suggestion that President Barack Obama review his deadline.

But Ghani's comment adds to a growing debate over whether the White House will stick to its plans, already amended twice, of cutting US troops to about 5,000 by the end of this year and drawing down to a "normal" US embassy presence in Kabul at the end of 2016. Ghani may have also given political cover to Obama should the president decide he needs to renege on his withdrawal pledge to preserve shaky gains made over 13 years of war and to avoid a collapse of local forces that Iraq witnessed last year.

"My guess is that he probably will re-evalu-

ate these decisions in due course," said James Dobbins, who was Obama's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan until July. Among the factors at play are the course of the war itself; reconciliation efforts between the government and Taliban; US public opinion and the 2016 US presidential debate.

If Obama decides to change course, he may find a more receptive domestic audience. American skepticism about the Afghanistan war seems to be moderating in the face of the rise of Islamic State fighters who have seized swathes of Iraqi and Syrian territory following the US withdrawal from Iraq in 2011.

According to a Washington Post-ABC poll published on Monday, support for the war in Afghanistan has risen since 2013. A 56 percent majority says it has not been worth fighting, but 38 percent said the war was



Paratroopers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, march up the ramp as they return home from Afghanistan at Pope Army Airfield in Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 5 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

worth the costs, up 10 percentage points from the record low in July 2013.

Speaking in a television interview on Sunday, Ghani made his case for a greater US presence in an understated manner.

"Deadlines concentrate the mind. But deadlines should not be dogmas," Ghani told the "60 Minutes" program on CBS. "If both parties, or, in this case, mul-

tiples partners, have done their best to achieve the objectives and progress is very real, then there should be willingness to re-examine a deadline."

Asked about Ghani's comments, Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said, "The drawdown plan remains in effect and there have been no changes to the drawdown timeline."—Reuters

Two Egyptian policemen shot dead outside church south of Cairo

CAIRO, 6 Jan — Two policemen guarding a church in Egypt's Minya Province, south of the capital Cairo, were killed by unidentified gunmen on Tuesday, security sources said.

The two policemen fell dead immediately after the masked men showered them with bullets, according to eyewitnesses and security sources.

The attackers have stolen all the weapons in the security men possession, security sources added.

The attack took place one day before the Coptic Christmas, ahead of which security has been intensified. Website of state-run Al-Ahram newspaper also confirmed the deaths.

Following the attack, dozens of security forces have cut the road in front of the church to protest the killing of their colleagues.

The victims include

Eid Fahim, a 57-year-old Coptic, who has only two months left to finish his service, and Mohamed Yazid, a 40-year-old Muslim.

The officials from the Minya Forensic Department told *Xinhua* that more than 32 bullets have penetrated their bodies.

Coptic Christians, co-existing peacefully with the majority Sunni Muslims in Egypt, make up about 10 percent of the country's total population of 85 million.

Following former President Mohamed Morsi's removal by the military in July, 2013, a number of churches and public properties were burned and destroyed.

Meanwhile, anti-government attacks killed hundreds of police and military men in the Sinai Peninsula and other parts across the country, including Cairo.

Xinhua

US troops training Iraqi military at bases in Anbar, Taji

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — US troops have started training Iraqi military forces at two bases in Iraq as they work to build a force that can take the offensive against Islamic State militants who overran part of the country last year, the Pentagon said on Monday.

About 320 US Marines are training members of the Iraqi 7th Division at Ain al-Asad air base in western al Anbar Province, which is taking regular harassing mortar fire from Islamic State militants, said Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman. The training began on 20 December.

Another 170 US troops, soldiers of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, began a six-week training course for four battalions of Iraqi security forces on 27 December in Taji, a predominantly Sunni rural area north of Baghdad, Warren said.

President Barack Obama announced plans on 7 November to roughly double the number of US troops in Iraq to more than 3,000, adding the additional 1,500 military personnel to train nine Iraqi military brigades and three Kurdish peshmerga brigades.



Tribal fighters take part in a military training to prepare for fighting against Islamic State militants, at the Ain al-Assad military base in Anbar Province on 15 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

The decision came at the recommendation of US military assessment teams deployed to Iraq to evaluate conditions and needs after Islamic State militants overran much of the northwestern part of the country.

The United States had about 2,140 military personnel in Iraq as of 4 January, with about 800 of those protecting US personnel and facilities and the remaining 1,340 advising Iraqi forces fighting Islamic State militants or training Iraqi troops, Warren said.

US forces also are

planning to train Iraqi military personnel at bases in Arbil in the Kurdish region as well as Besmaya south of Baghdad, the site of a combat centre that trained many Iraqi troops.

"We don't expect either of those to be up and running for several more weeks," Warren told reporters at a briefing. Warren said the Marines at al Asad base in Anbar Province were primarily assisting Iraqis with "mission support planning, information and intelligence fusion, close air support coordination oper-

ations and overall development of security strategies."

He said Asad was "coming under regular ... harassment fire" from Islamic State militants, describing them as "purely nuisance attacks" using indirect weapons like mortars.

"The fire has been completely ineffective ... The Iraqi security forces there have done a very good job of creating a security zone. American forces ... have sustained absolutely no injuries, wounds or even a close attack," he said.

Reuters

Syria tells UN that McCain and former diplomats visited illegally

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Jan — Syria has complained to the United Nations that US Senator John McCain, former French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and former US diplomat Peter Galbraith entered the country without visas in separate visits in violation of its sovereignty.

Syria's UN ambassador, Bashar Ja'afari, called on UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the 15-member Security Council to pressure governments to take "the necessary measures against their nationals who enter Syrian territory illegally."

"Such actions are a blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty and of the resolutions of the Security Council concerning Syria," Ja'afari wrote in a letter dated on 30 December and seen by *Reuters* on Monday.

He complained generally about "certain journalists and prominent figures" entering Syria illegally but singled out McCain for entering Syria in June 2013. McCain, a former Republican presidential candidate, visited Syria in May 2013 and met with some Syrian rebels, his spokesman said at the time.



US Senator John McCain

Ja'afari also cited Kouchner for visiting in 2014 November, Galbraith for travelling to Syria in December 2014 with other US political and military leaders, and former Kuwaiti politician Walid al-Tabtaba'i for entering Syria in September 2013.

In response, McCain said in a statement: "It is a sad but unsurprising truth that the Assad regime is less concerned with its massacre of more than 200,000 men, women and children than it is my visit with those brave Syrians fighting for their freedom and dignity."

"The fact that the international community has done virtually nothing to bring down this terrible regime despite its atrocities is a stain on our collective moral conscience," McCain added.

Reuters

China's upbeat housing sentiment rolls into 2015

HONG KONG, 6 Jan — China's stronger-than-seasonal property sales in December point to a recovery in market sentiment thanks to looser housing and monetary policy, with the upbeat momentum expected to swing into 2015, analysts said.

But with oversupply still looming large, any recovery — especially in home prices — is likely to be slow, tempering hopes that housing could provide a badly needed boost to the Chinese economy as it struggles to overcome the slowest growth since the global financial crisis.

"December sales figures were a positive surprise because they were better than the September and October figures which were traditionally the golden and silver month," Macquarie analyst David Ng

said. "They're stimulated by loosening policies."

Ng said however that sales would see slow, healthy growth rather than a big rebound.

China's top listed residential developer China Vanke reported a 129 percent surge in sales in the last month of 2014 from a year earlier, while sales over the same period for mid-sized Country Garden leapt 167 percent.

Sixty percent of China's major cities recorded a rise in sales volume in December, according to housing data researcher CRIC, with first-tier cities rising the most, up more than 15 percent from November and over 45 percent from a year earlier.

China has put in place a series of stimulus measures including interest rate cuts to spur home buying



A fisherman walks on the partially frozen Jinzhou Bay of the Bohai Sea near residential construction sites, in Dalian, Liaoning Province on 17 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

demand and market liquidity since the third quarter.

Betting on even looser policy to come, investors have been snapping up property shares, pushing the property sub-index in Shanghai to its highest since February 2008.

But housing supply remains excessive despite the

pick-up in sales, with only two major cities out of 23 seeing a decline in inventory at the end of December, CRIC data showed.

"Inventory is high. We can't raise prices until after the market digests them," said a chief executive officer of a developer based in southern Guang-

dong Province. "The sales went up but prices didn't; it won't be easy for us to raise prices."

China's new home prices fell for the 11th consecutive month in November by an annual 3.7 percent, the biggest drop since 2011. Property sales hit 132.2 million square metres, the highest level in 11 months, though still down 11 percent from a year earlier.

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) said in a report last month it expects home prices in first and second-tier cities to continue to fall in 2015 on high inventory, while prices in third and fourth-tier cities would stabilize.

In terms of full-year results, a breakdown of sales figures also underscores the increasing polarisation between large and small play-

ers, leading to quicker consolidation. CASS forecasts that half of the developers will "vanish".

China has an estimated 50,000 developers although only 80 account for close to 40 percent of market share.

The largest companies tend to grow faster. Seven developers with over 100 billion yuan in sales, including Dalian Wanda Commercial Properties and Evergrande Real Estate, on average sold 24 percent more in 2014, while those with 30-100 billion sales grew at 14.6 percent, according to housing researcher China Index Academy.

Unlisted state-backed Greenland Group said its 2014 contracted sales jumped 50 percent from a year earlier to 240.8 billion yuan, topping China Vanke for the first time.—Reuters

Toyota targets 1.1 million vehicle sales in China this year, after missing 2014 goal



A man walks past Toyota Motor's logo at the company's showroom in Tokyo on 5 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

BEIJING / SHANGHAI, 6 Jan — Toyota Motor Corp and its two Chinese joint ventures are targeting to sell 1.1 million vehicles in China in 2015, after failing to meet its sales objective for last year.

The carmaker sold

about 1.03 million vehicles in China in 2014, up 12.5 percent from the previous year but short of its sales target of more than 1.1 million vehicles.

For the month of December, the top Japanese carmaker sold 125,000 ve-

hicles, a rise of 15.3 percent from a year earlier, it said on Tuesday.

The monthly gain followed a 2.9 percent year-on-year rise in November and a 27.1 percent increase in October.

Toyota executives told Reuters late last month that it was likely to miss its 2014 sales target and will sell slightly more than 1 million vehicles this year.

Still, 2014 marks the first time Toyota surpassed annual sales of 1 million vehicles in China, a target it originally aimed for in 2010.

Toyota operates joint ventures in China with China FAW Group Corp and Guangzhou Automobile Group.—Reuters

GM says 2014 China auto sales up 12 percent year-on-year

SHANGHAI, 6 Jan — General Motors Co and its Chinese joint ventures sold a record 3,539,970 vehicles in China in 2014, up 12 percent from the previous year, the US automaker said on Tuesday.

For the month of December, GM sold 357,375 vehicles, a rise of 31.9 percent from a year earlier.

The monthly gain followed a 5.3 percent year-on-year rise in November and a 3.2 percent rise in October.

GM has said it plans to invest \$12 billion (8 billion pounds) in China between 2014 and 2017 and build five more plants to ramp up its manufactur-



General Motors World Headquarters is seen in downtown Detroit on 10 June, 2014.—REUTERS

ing capacity.

GM makes vehicles in China in partnership

with China FAW Group Corp and SAIC Motor Corp Ltd.—Reuters

Feijoas, blackberries offer new hope for inflammatory ailments: NZ study

WELLINGTON, 6 Jan — Two common fruits could provide a breakthrough in treating inflammatory diseases, particularly in the bowel, according to New Zealand research out on Tuesday.

Feijoas and blackberries stood out among 12 fruits for their anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties, said University of Auckland researchers.

The study also looked

at mangos, elderberries, cranberries, blackcurrants, red raspberries, strawberries, green and black grapes, plums and pears.

The study identified fruit compounds with an anti-inflammatory effect through certain chemical pathways that could be tested further to develop them as complementary therapies for inflammatory bowel disease and other inflammatory disorders.

"Inflammatory responses are important for coping with damage, but an over-active inflammatory response is also damaging and can create problems," Professor Lynn Ferguson said in a statement.

The two fruits could help to limit the inflammatory response.

The study also showed that the anti-oxidant action of the feijoa compounds was not a direct effect, but

was mediated through inhibitory effects on the enzyme, kinase.

For the experiments reported in the study, the testing included the skin and pulp of all the fruits.

"In feijoa, the skin has more bio-activity than the pulp," said Ferguson.

"Some Asian cultures eat the skin, but in most Western cultures many people find the taste too sour."—Xinhua

J&J and Bavarian Nordic start clinical tests of Ebola vaccine

LONDON, 6 Jan — US drugmaker Johnson & Johnson said on Tuesday it had started clinical trials of its experimental Ebola vaccine, which uses a booster developed by Denmark's Bavarian Nordic.

The initiation of the Phase I tests, which had been expected about now, marks further progress in

the race to develop a shot against a disease that has killed more than 8,000 people in West Africa since last year.

Two other experimental vaccines, one from GlaxoSmithKline and a rival from NewLink and Merck, are already in clinical development.

Reuters

“ ရန်ကုန် စေတနာ့အဖွဲ့ချုပ်နှင့် အလုပ်အကိုင် အခွင့်အလမ်းများ ”

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သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ စီးပွားရေးလုပ်ငန်းရှင်တို့ကတိုင်းများ၊ ဥပဒေရေးရာဝတ္ထုရှင်များ၊ စိတ်ပါဝင်စားသူများအားလုံး စည်သူစသို့အသိပေးတော်မူရန်နှင့် ပါဝင်ကြောင်း စိတ်ကြိုက်အပ်ပါသည်။

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(23/2014)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-123(14-15)	Skid Mounted Double Pump Cementing Unit with Complete Accessories (Silo, Cutting Pot, Power Pack, Dryer & Compressor) (1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-124(14-15)	6" x 8" R Mixing Pump with 50HP Motor (2) Lots	US\$
(3)	IFB-125(14-15)	Mud Agitator Unit with Motor (2) Lots	US\$
(4)	IFB-126(14-15)	4" Dia Steel Line Pipe (3,000) Meter	US\$
(5)	IFB-127(14-15)	Spares for Metering System (CNG Filling Station) (5) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-128(14-15)	Komatsu (D 39 E x 22) or Caterpillar (D40A, P-3) Bulldozer (1) Unit	US\$
(7)	IFB-129(14-15)	Spares for Kenworth Truck (14) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-130(14-15)	Data Acquisition Sercel 428 Telemetry System (4) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-131(14-15)	Interpretation Workstation (1) Item	US\$
(10)	IFB-132(14-15)	Electrical spares for D3 T2 Drilling Rigs (15) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time – 2-2-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5th January, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+95 67-411097/411206

Landslides, flooding menace rain-soaked western Washington state



Elevated water levels of the Tolt River pass near a residence after heavy rains caused the river to rise in Carnation, Washington on 5 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

SEATTLE, 6 Jan — An unusual burst of heavy rain-fall in western Washington state caused landslides and flooding early on Monday, knocking three homes off foundations and forcing the evacuation of a nursing home, officials said.

Several landslides in rain-soaked coastal Grays Harbor County pushed muddy floodwater and debris across key state highways, county and rural roads, most of which remained closed at nightfall in and around Aberdeen and Hoquiam, the county's largest cities.

"It's not one of these snow-melt events, it's the inundation of rain over the last 24 hours," said Dave Porter, a spokesman for the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office, adding no injuries have been reported.

Drier forecasts for Monday night and Tuesday could aide emergency crews working to clear roadways, although it was uncertain when roads would be re-open, Porter said.

Officials warned of possible severe flooding for downtown Aberdeen and other areas with high-tide early on Tuesday.

In Hoquiam, where

7 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, some 60 nursing home residents were ordered to leave due to flooding, Porter said. Officials at local schools, including Grays Harbor College, canceled classes and sporting events.

Outside of Seattle, in the Fall City area, two people died and one suffered non-life-threatening injuries after a car crash, the King County Sheriff's Office said on Twitter.

There was no word on the cause of the crash but broadcast images showed a car and a truck with their fronts smashed near a guardrail of a turning, rain-slicked roadway.

Several roads would be closed due to flooding in Snohomish County, northeast of Seattle, and a flood warning was declared through Wednesday evening for the Snohomish River, the county sheriff said on Twitter.

Some 1,000 customers were without power on Monday morning in Seattle-area communities, local media reported, citing Puget Sound Energy. About 50 customers remained without power by nightfall, the utility's website said.—Reuters

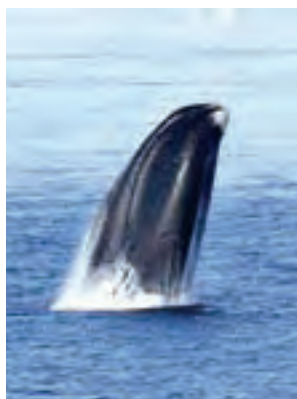
How to age gracefully? Ask a bowhead whale

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — To learn the secret behind aging gracefully, you may want to check out the bowhead whale, the majestic denizen of the Arctic waters that boasts a lifespan topping 200 years.

Scientists on Monday unveiled the genetic blueprint for the bowhead whale, a genome chock full of clues behind this creature's exceptional longevity and remarkable disease resistance.

Comparing its genome to other mammals, the scientists discovered differences in the whale's genes related to DNA repair, cell cycle, cancer and the aging process that may help explain its lifespan and vitality.

"This is the biggest animal whose genome has been sequenced thus far and the first big whale to be sequenced," said University of Liverpool geneticist



A bowhead whale breaches out of the water in this undated handout photo courtesy of Kate Stafford and provided to Reuters on 5 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

João Pedro de Magalhães, who led the study published in the scientific journal *Cell Reports*.

"By identifying novel maintenance and repair mechanisms, we hope to learn what is the secret for living longer, healthier lives and may be able apply

this knowledge to improve human health and preserve human life," Magalhães added.

Bowhead whales, which live longer than any other mammal, are among Earth's largest creatures. They reach up to 60 feet (18 metres) and are the second heaviest whale after the blue whale. They are mostly black, with the front part of their upturned lower jaw white. Bowhead whales are filter feeders that eat huge amounts of zooplankton.

"Bowhead whales weigh between 50 and 100 tons when fully grown and have probably 1,000 times as many cells as humans, but they apparently have a anti-tumor response at the cell level that is far more efficient than what is found in humans," said biologist Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen of the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the University

of Copenhagen.

The scientists said the bowhead whale's genome may also help explain physiological adaptations related to size.

Magalhães said whale cells must have a much lower metabolic rate than those of smaller mammals. He said the genome study detected changes in one specific gene involved in the body's temperature regulation that may be related to metabolic differences in whale cells.

The bowhead whale genome is slightly smaller than the human genome and the typical mammalian genome.

"Generally speaking, more complex species tend to have larger genomes with more genes, but I don't think within mammals there is a correlation between body size and genome size," Magalhães said.—Reuters

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASSAD ULLAH VOY NO (04/14)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MV ASSAD ULLAH VOY NO (04/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPPING
PTE LTD**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KORALIA VOY NO (743)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KORALIA VOY NO (743) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIPPING
AG**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FLORENCE K VOY NO (178)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FLORENCE K VOY NO (178) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SPRING SHIPPING &
LOGISTICS CO., LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY NO (1001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY NO (1001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINETAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO (1001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO (1001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINETAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (118)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (118) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of R.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J022R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J022R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO
(089N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (089N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Two killed in train-school bus collision in US state N Dakota

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — Two people were killed and a dozen of others injured on Monday when a school bus collided with a freight train in the US northern state of North Dakota, local media reported.

The accident took place on Monday afternoon in Larimore in the northeast of the state, as the school bus from the Larimore Public School failed to yield to a stop

sign at a railroad crossing where a westbound freight train was passing by, local authorities were quoted as saying.

The bus driver, 62, and a student, 17, were killed after being ejected from the bus as the train struck it on the passenger side. About 12 other students were wounded, with three being listed as in "very serious condition," according to the reports.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 7th January, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kay-in and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

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Two US airlines apply to serve Tokyo's Haneda airport

NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan — Two US airlines said on Monday they have applied to US regulators to operate daily nonstop flights to and from Tokyo's Haneda airport using a slot currently unused by another US carrier.

American Airlines applied to link with Haneda from Los Angeles International Airport, while Hawaiian Airlines requested

to connect from Kona International Airport in Hawaii in their applications with the Department of Transportation, they said.

Under a US-Japan bilateral agreement, US airlines can operate a total of four daily round-trip flights at Haneda, with all slots having been allocated, but a service operated by Delta Air Lines Inc from Seattle has been suspended

since October, according to American Airlines.

In opposing the moves to take over its slot, Delta said the service is expected to reopen in late March.

Hawaiian Airlines, which operates direct daily flights between Haneda and Honolulu, said it seeks to launch the new route to Kona, as the area is popular with Japanese tourists.

Kyodo News

Brad Pitt leads sing-along at film-awards gala

CALIFORNIA, 6 Jan — The first star-studded film-award ceremony of the new year was literally something to sing about.

While not an honouree himself, actor-producer Brad Pitt stole the spotlight with a sing-along for a few moments on Saturday night at the annual black-tie gala for the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Pitt traveled some 100 miles (160 kilometres) east of Los Angeles to the desert town of Palm Springs, California, to introduce British actor David Oyelowo, an honoree at the gala whose profile is only now on the rise in the US.

Pitt is a producer of director Ava DuVernay's historical epic 'Selma', in which Oyelowo portrays



Brad Pitt stole the spotlight with a sing-along for a few moments on Saturday night at the annual black-tie gala for the Palm Springs International Film Festival. PTI

civil-rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr. The festival honoured Oyelowo with its Breakthrough Performance Award for an actor.

In his introduction, Pitt professed his admiration for Oyelowo — both

as a colleague and friend — and, at one point, Pitt led the audience in a sing-along with lyrics spinning around Oyelowo's often-mispronounced last name. (It sounds like "oh-yellow-oh," by the way.)

The gala, which at-

tracts numerous locally based Academy voters who now have ballots in hand, traditionally is the first of each calendar year's award-season ceremonies, which include approximately two-dozen events significant enough to attract major movie stars between now and the Oscars, set for 22 February in Hollywood.

"This is the first time I am a part of (the two-month award season)," said Morton Tyldum, director of the Golden Globe-nominated drama "The Imitation Game" earlier in the evening while doing red carpet interviews. "When I saw the schedule," Tyldum continued, "I was in shock."

Not so award-season

veteran and Palm Springs honoree Reese Witherspoon ("Wild"), who said, "It's a great opportunity for all of us to get together and celebrate this wonderful year of film."

The actress, an Oscar winner for "Walk the Line" (2005), said, "Wonderful performances, wonderful direction and producing. And I feel like it has been a real great, strong year."

At points, love was in the air on the red carpet, as festival honoree Eddie Redmayne ("The Theory of Everything") posed for photographers with his new wife, public-relations executive Hannah Bagshawe, and "Imitation" star Benedict Cumberbatch, briefly stopped for a few snaps with his fiancée, theater di-

rector Sophie Hunter.

Oyelowo actually did two photo sessions: one with wife, actress Jessica Oyelowo, and three of their four children. The actor returned to pose for photos with DuVernay.

Both Oyelowo and DuVernay are nominated for Golden Globe awards, to be handed out next weekend in Beverly Hills.

"The last time I was at the Golden Globes, I was a publicist for (the movie) 'Dreamgirls,'" DuVernay recalled. "I was in a black suit on the (standing) side of the room. This time, I have an actual seat. I'm very happy about that. So I get to sit down. No matter what I wear, I won't be on my feet. So I'm very happy about that." —PTI

'Birdman,' 'Boyhood,' small films vie for Producers Guild Award



Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, from the film "Birdman", who is receiving the Director of the Year Award, poses at the 26th Annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala in Palm Springs, California, on 3 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan — "Birdman" and "Boyhood," two of the front-runners for Hollywood's film honours this year, were nominated along with a slew of small movies on Monday for the top Producers Guild Award, a reliable predictor of the best picture Oscar.

Among the 10 films nominated for outstanding producer in the a motion picture were noir LA drama "Nightcrawler" and the tale of a drummer's obsession in "Whiplash," both small independent films with Oscar chances.

The notable exclusions were two films that opened

25 December, Angelina Jolie's second film as director, the World War Two survival story "Unbroken," and the civil rights drama "Selma." Clint Eastwood's portrayal of an Iraq war hero in "American Sniper" made the list, as did two British biopics, "The Imitation Game" and "The Theory of Everything."

Rounding out the nominations were the film adaptation of the best-selling novel "Gone Girl," the American wrestling tragedy "Foxcatcher" and the off-beat period comedy "The Grand Budapest Hotel." "Birdman," a satire of show business, and "Boyhood," a coming-of-age drama filmed over 12 years with the same actors, are the favourites going into the awards season that kicks off next Sunday with the Golden Globe Awards. The Producers Guild of America

has 6,700 members, and in its 25 years handing out its top award has managed to choose the eventual winner of the Academy Award for best picture for the last seven years. The PGA hands out its awards on 24 January, while the Oscars are held on 22 February. Sony Pictures Classics and Fox Searchlight Pictures, the art-house units of Sony Pictures and 20th Century Fox, each had two films in the 10 nominations. Among the big studios, only Warner Bros. and 20th Century Fox had nominees, with one each.

In the animated motion picture category, the PGA nominated blockbusters "Big Hero 6," "How to Train Your Dragon 2" and "The LEGO Movie," and smaller films "The Book of Life" and "The Boxtrolls."

Reuters

Ali Smith's 'How to be both' takes Costa novel award

LONDON, 6 Jan — Scottish writer Ali Smith's inventive "How to be both", which is divided into two parts, each starting with a different character, was named as the winner in the novel category on Monday for Britain's 2014 Costa Book Awards.

Smith's critically acclaimed novel, which also was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize, contains the twin stories of George and Franchescho, one a 1960s teenager, the other a young artist in 15th-century Ferrara, which can be read in

either order.

A winner of the same award in 2005 for "The Accidental", Smith's novel will contend with four other books for the main Costa Book of the Year award, to be announced on 27 January.

The five Costa Book Award winners, each of whom will receive 5,000 pounds, were selected from 640 entries.

Since the introduction of the Book of the Year award in 1985, it has been won 11 times by a novel, five times by a first novel, five times by a biography, seven times by a collection of poetry and once by a children's book.

The Costa Book Awards is the only major British book prize that is open solely to authors resident in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Reuters



Nominated British authors Ali Smith

Cameron Diaz marries Benji Madden at her Beverly Hills home

LOS ANGELES, 6 Jan — Hollywood actress Cameron Diaz has tied the knot with Good Charlotte rocker Benji Madden. The pair said their vows at the 'Annie' star's Beverly Hills pad in front of close friends and family last evening, reported *Us* magazine.

The wedding was attended by celebrity guests including Reese Witherspoon, Gwyneth Paltrow,

Samantha Ronson and Robin Antin. Benji's nephew, Joel Madden and Nicole Richie's son, Sparrow served as the ring bearer. Joining Diaz, 42, as her bridesmaids were her friends Richie, Drew Barrymore, her sister Chimene and assistant Jesse Lutz.

The event was orchestrated by wedding planners Yifat Oren and Stefanie Cove and featured flowers

from The Velvet Garden — all companies used by Diaz's longtime friend and Charlie's Angels costar Barrymore in her June 2012 wedding to Will Kopelman. Before saying "I do", the couple celebrated with a rehearsal dinner catered by Lucques at the star's Beverly Hills pad on 4 January. The couple got engaged on 19 December after dating for seven months.—PTI



Hollywood actress Cameron Diaz has tied the knot with Good Charlotte rocker Benji Madden. REUTERS

Azarenka loses comeback match at Brisbane International

BRISBANE, 6 Jan — The decibel readings were not needed for Victoria Azarenka on Monday as the groans from the crowd at the Brisbane International almost drowned out her trademark shrieks.

Still struggling to get back to her best, the former world number one was beaten 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-4 in the first round by Czech Karolina Pliskova.

The crowd at the Pat Rafter Arena, aware of the injuries and personal problems the Belarusian has endured over the past year, urged her on but their vocal backing was not enough.

Azarenka was the architect of her own defeat.

She failed to convert two match points in the second set and made nine



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reacts to a missed point during her Brisbane International tennis tournament first round loss to Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic in Brisbane on 5 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

double faults and 44 unforced errors in a match that lasted 3-1/4 hours.

At 25, time is still on Azarenka's side and there were enough positive signs

to show she can get back towards the top but the road to a full recovery looks

likely to be a slow one.

A year ago, Azarenka arrived Down Under hoping to successfully defend the Australian Open title she won in 2012 and 2013 but bowed out in the quarter-finals. She suffered a foot injury that saw her miss most of the first six months of the year and then had a knee problem. Azarenka finally abandoned the season in September after playing just 24 matches all year and not winning a title. She plummeted down the rankings and split up with her boyfriend Stefan Gordy, better known as Redfoo, one half of LM-FAO, the US pop duo behind the hit single "I'm Sexy and I Know It".

Azarenka started the Brisbane International

ranked 42nd in the world but not without hope. She is healthy again, physically and emotionally, and determined to get back to where she was. Monday's match was her first since September and Pliskova was a difficult and dangerous first-round opponent, ranked 23rd in the world after winning two WTA title last year.

For a while it looked like old times for Azarenka. She jumped out to a 5-1 led in the opening set before the first signs of trouble came.

Pliskova reeled off the next three and although Azarenka took the set, she squandered her chances in the second before running out of puff in the decider.—Reuters

Unstoppable Anderson leads Lazio to 3-0 win

MILAN, 6 Jan — Felipe Anderson produced one of the best individual performances of the Serie A season, setting up two goals and scoring with a brilliant effort of his own, to lead Lazio to a 3-0 win over Sampdoria on Monday.

After creating the first goal for Marco Parolo and then rifling home a 25-metre shot just before half-time, the inspired Brazilian capped his performance by running 50 metres to lay the third on a plate for Filip Djordjevic.

Although the sides began the match level in joint third alongside Napoli, Sampdoria were ultimately outclassed and seemed certain to get a roasting from coach Sinisa Mihajlovic who watched most of the second half with an angry, fixed stare.

Pedro Obiang summed up their frustration when he kicked away a drinks container in disgust after being

substituted in the second half as Sampdoria suffered only their second league defeat of the season.

Lazio broke through seven minutes before half-time when Anderson burst down the left and laid the ball off for Marco Parolo to volley home.

Three minutes later, the 21-year-old, signed from Santos 18 months ago, doubled Lazio's lead with a low, diagonal shot which flew past Emiliano Viviano and into the left-hand corner, his fourth goal in as many Serie A games.

Not content with that, Anderson then ran from his own half, skipped past a couple of tackles and laid the ball off for Djordjevic to tap into an empty goal midway through the second half. Lazio moved onto 30 points from 17 games, six behind second-placed AS Roma and a further three adrift of leaders Juventus.—Reuters



Lazio's Felipe Anderson celebrates after scoring a second goal against Inter Milan during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 21 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

South Korea need more time under Stielike, says Lee



South Korea's head coach Uli Stielike

SEOUL, 6 Jan — South Korea are on the right track under new coach Uli Stielike but may need another year to reach their full potential and are unlikely to break their 55-year Asian Cup drought in Australia this month, former international defender Lee Young-pyo said.

Stielike has revitalised South Korea since taking over in late September following the resignation of Hong Myung-bo, injecting a much-needed dose of confidence in a young side that were totally overwhelmed at the World Cup in Brazil.

Lee, who won 127 caps in a career that also included spells at PSV Eindhoven and Tottenham Hotspur, was part of the Korean side that finished third at the Asian Cup four years ago in Qatar, a team he believes was one of the nation's best ever.

"I think in 2011 in Qatar at the Asian Cup our team was fantastic," Lee told the Asian Football Confederation's website.

"Individually this team I can't say is better than 2011, but they're still strong. We can reach the

semi-finals, but I don't know if we can go further than that."

The South Koreans went through the 2011 competition unbeaten in normal play, suffering a penalty shootout defeat to arch-rivals Japan in the semi-finals before beating Uzbekistan in the third place playoff game.

"It was a great pity because we had one of the best teams in Korean history," he added.

Lee said Stielike, who won three German and Spanish league titles playing for Borussia Monchengladbach and Real Madrid, was determined to bring back the swagger to South Korea.

"He told us he would try to change the mentality because some of the players are too shy on the pitch," said Lee, who now works as a television commentator in South Korea. "He has asked them to become stronger and more confident, and if we do that then we can go on to be much better than before."

"But it's going to take more than a few months, we will need more than one year. I believe we can show something different at the end of the year."

South Korea, who won the last of their two Asian Cup titles in 1960, kick off their 2015 campaign on Saturday against Oman. They also face hosts Australia and Kuwait in the group stage.

Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(7-1-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am

• Travelogue Programme

6:30 am

• Honour Song of Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein

6:50 am

• TV Drama Series

7:15 am

• Fashion Show

7:20 am

• TV Drama Series

8:10 am

• TV Drama Series

9:00 am

• Musical Programme

9:10 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:25 am

• Myanmar National Symphang Orchestra Concert 2014

9:40 am

• Myanmar Movies

12:00 am

• Close Down

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-1-15 07:00 am~
8-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Visit To San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
- * World News
- * Nang
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach
- * World News
- * Traffic Police
- * Local News
- * Chef Life "Phyo Aridans"
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
- * World News

- * In The Studio: Zip Zapt & Air Air
- * Local News
- * Insight Myanmar "Overview of Child Protection Program"
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)
- * Local News
- * Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-2)
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Performing Arts-Puppet
- * World News
- * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Ep-3)
- * World News
- * Next Weekend

Gerrard double gets Liverpool out of trouble

LONDON, 6 Jan — Captain Steven Gerrard scored twice to rescue Liverpool from FA Cup embarrassment and lead them into the fourth round after a tricky 2-1 win at fourth tier AFC Wimbledon on Monday.

In the night's other Cup match, Premier League strugglers Burnley fought back from a goal down at Turf Moor to draw 1-1 with Tottenham Hotspur and force a replay to decide who then takes on Leicester City.

Liverpool will move on to play second tier Bolton Wanderers in the next round but only after a night of living dangerously with determined League Two opponents who looked far from overawed.

"That was a very tough game," Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers told the BBC. "We lost our sort of shape within the game and presented them with chances by giving the ball away."

"We had to defend right the way through to the end."

Gerrard, in his first match since announcing his departure for the United States at the end of the season, had headed the opener in the 12th minute as Liverpool looked set for a comfortable win. But the match at Kingsmeadow, reviving memories of 1988 when the original Wimbledon 'Crazy Gang' beat Liverpool in a



AFC Wimbledon's Sean Rigg (L) challenges Liverpool's Javi Manquillo (R) during their FA Cup third round soccer match at Kingsmeadow Stadium in Kingston-upon-Thames, southern England on 5 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Tottenham Hotspur's Nacer Chadli (R) shoots to score a goal against Burnley during their FA Cup third round soccer match at Turf Moor in Burnley, northern England on 5 Jan, 2015. REUTERS



hard-tackling final at Wembley, refused to follow the script. Lifelong Liverpool fan Adebayo Akinfenwa, a stocky striker nicknamed 'The Beast', had the home fans dreaming when he poked in a 36th minute equaliser from close range after some woeful defending by the Merseysiders.

The hefty 32-year-old, who has played for 11 clubs in a journeyman career around the lower leagues, was perfectly placed to cash in after the ball bounced back off the bar following a goalmouth scramble.

With a major upset looking possible, and Wim-

bledon missing several clear chances, Gerrard settled nerves with a curling free kick into the top corner in the 62nd minute.

"I always enjoy the FA Cup, I grew up loving the competition and to play in it. It's going to be my last time and I want to make the most of it and try and go all the way," the midfielder, who turns 35 on Cup final day, told the BBC.

"It's the beauty of the FA Cup," added Gerrard of Wimbledon's spirited performance. "It doesn't matter where you are, in what league, form seems to go out of the window and it becomes a leveller. "Fair play to them. I think their manager can be very proud of them. They gave us a real test." Burnley's match against in-form Spurs brought back memories of the 1962 final, won by Tottenham, but there was little glamour in a dire first half.

Spurs took the lead through a Nacer Chadli strike from close range in the 52nd minute but Sam Vokes side-footed in an equaliser in the 73rd.

"It was a lacklustre game, with little atmosphere. We did everything to try and get a result," said Burnley manager Sean Dyche of a match watched by a crowd of only 9,348 spectators. —Reuters

Podolski completes loan move to Inter Milan

LONDON, 6 Jan — Striker Lukas Podolski has completed a loan move from Arsenal to Inter Milan for the rest of the season, the Premier League club said on Monday.

The 29-year-old German has scored 31 goals in 82 appearances for Arsenal since arriving from Cologne in 2012.

"Everyone at Arsenal

would like to wish Lukas the best for his time in Serie A," the London club said on their website.

This season the World Cup winner has been reduced to being a bit-part player at Arsenal despite injuries to Olivier Giroud and Theo Walcott, with manager Arsene Wenger appearing to better trust the speed and skills of young-

er players such as Danny Welbeck and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Podolski has made just two starts and 11 substitute appearances for the Gunners, netting three times, during the current season.

Podolski became the youngest ever European to reach the 100-cap mark for his country during Euro 2012.—Reuters



Murray sizzles in scorching Perth

PERTH, 6 Jan — Andy Murray continued his strong build-up in his quest for a maiden Australian Open title with a comfortable victory over Frenchman Benoit Paire in the Hopman Cup mixed-team event in Perth on Monday.

Fresh from his first title of 2015 in Abu Dhabi, the Scot, representing Britain at the event alongside Heather Watson, de-

feated Paire 6-2 7-5 in the evening match.

The 27-year-old arrived in sweltering Perth on Sunday after a walkover against an ailing Novak Djokovic in the Abu Dhabi final but showed no signs of rust despite the stark difference in conditions.

"It was a bit of an eye-opener when we arrived at the practice court this morning and it was 44

degrees (Celsius) outside," Murray, who also beat Rafa Nadal and Feliciano Lopez in Abu Dhabi, said with a grin in a courtside interview.

"I'm from a small town in Scotland and the weather is not quite like that there."

The conditions here are fantastic to get ready for Melbourne."

After breezing through

the first set, the world number six was put under pressure by his French opponent in the second and had to fight hard to hold his serve in a marathon eighth game during which his left shoulder started hurting.

Murray had to wait till the 11th game for the decisive break and completed the win on his second match point with a booming ace.

"I had the (shoulder) problem in Abu Dhabi couple of days ago and haven't had much time to serve after that. We flew straight from there and arrived yesterday," Murray said.

"It doesn't really make sense for a right-handed player to have a problem with their left arm. So I am not sure exactly what it was and I had a scan in Abu Dhabi and that was all clear."

"But it's still a little bit sore today."

Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain plays a backhand shot to Benoit Paire of France during their men's singles tennis match at the 2015 Hopman Cup in Perth on 5 Jan, 2015. REUTERS