THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume I, Number 113 | 2nd Waxing Day of Tabodwe 1376 ME | Wednesday, 21 January, 2015

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits religious sites, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in India

NEW DELHI, 20 Jan—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party offered meals, water, lights and joss sticks at Buddha Images on the upper terrace of Maha Bodhi Temple in Gaya, India, on Tuesday morning.

Officials of the management committee of the temple presented Maha Bodhi Shwekyar robe to the vice president.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham gave cash donation at the management committee office through the abbot of the temple.

The vice president visited the stone inscriptions chamber of King Mindon.

At Kanbawza Shan monastery in Bodh Gaya, the vice president offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

At Bodh Gaya Myanmar monastery, the vice president donated provisions to Myanmar monks, student monks and nuns and offered meals to members of the Sangha.

He comforted patients at Primary Health Centre in Gaya and then viewed construction of a new centre.

The vice president and party left for Palam Airbase in New Delhi and proceeded to Hotel Oberoi.

At Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), the director explained facts about the institute and replied to queries raised by the vice president.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences.—*MNA*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon offer donation to abbots at Myanmar monastery in Bodh Gaya, India.—MNA

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World Bank Group, International Hydropower Association Promote Sustainable Hydropower Development in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—The World Bank Group and the International Hydropower Association (IHA) are helping Myanmar develop a more sustainable hydropower sector by promoting best practices in technical, environmental, and social standards. A sustainable hydropower sector will help mitigate environmental and social risks while realizing the country's huge energy potential, contributing to economic growth and shared prosperity.

Supported by the Australian government, the World Bank Group and International Hydropower Association are hosting a two-day hydropower workshop January 19-20 in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw to foster knowledge and encourage exchange between about 100 representatives from government, private sector, and civil society. Participants from Myanmar and neighboring countries will discuss hydropower planning, taking regional examples and lessons learned into account on managing river basins with cascades of hydropower, sustainable financing mechanisms, and sustainability approaches.

"Around the world, different approaches are applied to hydropower development to make sure hydropower is developed sustainably and for the benefit of all stakeholders," said Cameron Ironside, IHA's Sustainability Director. "What they all have in common is that it is essential to put a good political and technical framework in place to promote regional collaboration and make projects successful."

Myanmar has enormous hydropower potentials of up to 100,000 megawatt which would be almost 30 times the currently installed capacity of 3,500 megawatt if realized. Currently less than 30 percent of households in Myanmar have access to electricity, and electricity consumption per capita is among the lowest in the world. The World Bank Group is working to turn on the lights in Myanmar by helping the country develop a greener energy mix that is environmentally sustainable and socially sound.

"Electricity is fundamental to reducing poverty and improving living standards for Myanmar people, and hydropower is an important part of Myanmar's energy future – but it has to be done in an environmentally and socially sustainable way," said Karin Finkelston, Vice President for Global Partnerships at IFC, the member of the World Bank Group focused on private sector development in emerging markets. "Done well, hydropower offers cleaner, affordable, and reliable electricity access to help drive economic growth, poverty reduction, and sustainable development."

Workshop discussions will center on the opportunities and challenges of Myanmar's hydropower development. Participants will talk about the urgent

(See page 3)

Pyuchaung Dam and hydropower plant commissioned into service on 8 January 2015 will generate 120 million kwh per year.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss Japanese loans, Chemical Weapons Convention

Representatives attending second day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — The twelfth regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened Tuesday and discussed about borrowing10.500 billion yen loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency, and membership application of Myanmar for Chemical Weapons Convention.

U Thaung Tin, deputy minister for Communications and Information Technology, explained the Japanese loan will be spent on telecommunication infrastructure and upgrading Internet connection in six different categories— installation of equipment for Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay fiber network; extension of fiber network in Yangon; setting up metro fiber equipment; expanding bandwidth of national gateway for international communication; upgrading IPv 4 internet system to IPv 6; establishing telecommunication infrastructure at Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The deputy minister added that while mobile telecommunication services are being operated by private companies, the state will operate landline and fax, banking network and special economic zone which need tight security in line with the standards of ITU/APNIC.

JICA's interest rate is 0.1 percent with a 10-year suspension period and 40-year term of settlement.

Regarding the message of President U Thein Sein on membership application of Chemical Weapons Convention, Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin for foreign affairs made explanation.

The Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

U Tin Oo Lwin said Myanmar has been a signatory to Biological Weapons Convention after the country has submitted applications at Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 December 2014 for membership to the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia which are the founding members of the treaty.

The CWC comprises a Preamble, 24 Articles, and 3 Annexes—the Annex on Chemicals, the Verification Annex, and the Confidentiality Annex. The Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

All States Parties have agreed to disarm by destroying any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may hold and any facilities which produced them, as well as any chemical weapons they abandoned on the territory of other States Parties in the past. States Parties have also agreed to create a verification regime for certain toxic chemicals and their precursors in order to ensure that such chemicals are only used for purposes not prohibited.

One-hundred and ninety states have given their consent to be bound by the CWC. Myanmar and Israel have signed but not yet ratified the treaty and four states—Angola, North Korea, Egypt, and South Sudan— have not accede to the treaty.

State parties have destroyed 72,524 matric tonnes of chemical weapons accounted for 84.95 percent in the world.

Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin said Myanmar's aspiration to apply for membership of CWC would be a gesture of protection against chemical not only in Asian region, but global community. Membership of CWC will take effect after 30 days of application to UN Secretary-General.

U Tin Oo Lwin made a conclusion remark that CWC membership will benefit Myanmar through industrial sector, and a good impression of international community for global peace. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed application for membership of CWC.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw

Yangon University being furnished with modern teaching aids, scientific laboratories

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan— U Thant Shin, the deputy minister for Education, at the Pyithu Hluttaw on Tuesday dealt with a question of how world's best universities are helping upgrade Yangon University, explaining extensive renovations to the university, the improvement of education quality, international relations and research works.

Regarding renovation work, U Thant Shin said that classrooms are being furnished with modern teaching aids materials and laboratories with scientific instruments.

New constructions will include a two-storey canteen, two buildings that can house 400 students, a building for the National English Language Centre, a building for aquatic life, and some buildings for arts and science disciplines, according to the deputy minister.

As part of improving educational quality, he emphasized changes in pedagogic principles, the launch of e-learning, seminars and workshops on the internationalization of syllabuses and curricula, and the provision of teacher trainings.

Speaking of international cooperation, he said memoranda of understanding aimed at student exchange, staff exchange, faculty exchange and collaboration research have been signed with 21 international universities and organizations, with 16 more to come.

Another question was concerned with functions of traffic police, with the deputy minister for Home Affairs explaining the organizational structure of traffic police.

Nearly six million traffic violations nationwide were reported in 2014, with Nay Pyi Taw alone seeing 11,412 cases in 2012, 7,380 cases in 2013 and 6,001 in 2014, according to Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint.

Last year, traffic violations numbered 252,045 in Yangon and 62,694 in Mandalay, he said.

The Myanmar Police Force allotted K10.88 million as expenditures for the transport of culprits and their automobiles, of which K6.78m was disbursed to traffic police stations nationwide in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. He stated that there is no need to offer bribes in return for seized vehicles at police stations and pledged bribery charges in line with the rules and regulations of traffic police.—*MNA*

Myanmar to host 34th ASEAN Tourism Forum-2015 on 22-29 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — The 34th ASEAN Tourism Forum-2015 will comprise the ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Meeting, related meetings, ASEAN hotel and tourism private organization meeting and ASEAN Tourism Show, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung told the coordination meeting of the forum organizing management committee at the ministry, here, on 19 January.

The union minister urged officials to carry out coordination tasks among the departments for successfully holding the forum and subcommittees to make necessary preparations in their sectors.

The director-general of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism reported on timetables for the forum and preparation tasks to host the forum at Myanmar International Convention Centre-I and II in Nay Pyi Taw from 22 to 29 January.

The union minister and the director-general replied to queries raised by attendees to the meeting.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Bago village health care centre to be upgraded to station hospital in next FY

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — The deputy minister for Health at the Amyotha Hluttaw session here on Tuesday responded to a question concerning a permission to the construction of a station hospital and the possible appointment of medical staff by the government in Thapyu village of Kawa township, Bago Region.

Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay said that there is difficult access by road and waterway even to the nearest hospital from the village, thereby causing local people great travelling expenses.

The deputy minister promised to upgrade the village's health care centre to a regional hospital in 2015-2016 fiscal year.

A well-wisher has set up a fund close to K600 million, with another well-wisher pledging a five acres of plot at the front entrance of the village, according to the deputy minister.

A defence service personnel representative asked the Hluttaw whether a village in Taungtha township, Mandalay Region, could get a tube well drilled for fresh water.

Responding to the question, U Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, said that his ministry have received a fund of K4.44787 billion for 2014-2015 fiscal year to undertake 381 water facilities in Mandalay Region.

The township of Taungtha has been earmarked for 19 water supply facilities with a K345 million fund for 2014-2015 fiscal year and a deep tube well with a K9.95 million for following fiscal year, according to the deputy minister.—*MNA*

UEC Chairman meets EU Ambassador, officials of International IDEA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia, secretary general of International IDEA Mr Yves Leterme, regional director Ms Leena Rikkila Tamang and party at the UEC Office, here, on Tuesday.

At the meeting, the chairman explained work process for successful holding the 2015 general elections, cooperation of the commission with political parties, civic social organizations and media, voter education being undertaken together with EU, IFES and IDEA and future plans.

Ms Leena Rikkila Tamang and Ms Ashley Pritchard of International IDEA discussed cooperation between the commission and stakeholders for successfully holding the electoral process, conducting workshop and trainings for voter education, cooperation of political parties with the commission with positive attitude, enhancement of capacity of political parties, training for CSO to disseminate voter education to the people, and expression of media without bias meeting international standard.

The EU Ambassador requested the commission to give an invitation letter for sending an election monitoring team to Myanmar.

The chairman cordially discussed that the commission will cooperate with them in undertaking the discussions.—*MNA*

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye reecives EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia and officials of International IDEA.—MNA

Intellectual Property Proprietors' Association of Myanmar to improve IP rights in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Efforts are being made for emergence of laws related to intellectual property in line with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights-TRIPS and international agreements, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo told the grand inaugural ceremony of Intellectual Property Proprietors' Association of Myanmar (IPAM) at UMFCCI in Yangon on 18 January.

The ministry is striving for coming out effective intellectual property rights system in Myanmar, he said, adding that preparations are being made for establishment of the IP Rights Office for registration and inspection of IP rights under the law.

The union minister said that training courses are conducted for staff who will discharge duty at the IP Rights Office. He stressed the need to establish IP Rights Office and other organizations related to intellectual property rights.

MNA

World Bank Group . . .

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need for a policy framework that encourages sustainable hydropower development and the adoption of good international environmental and social practices in the industry.

The workshop is an essential part of the World Bank Group's strategy to engage a range of different stakeholders on key topics relevant to the hydropower sector, which will be taken forward in the World Bank Group's support of sustainable hydropower development in Myanmar. Highlights of the workshop will be presented in other global and regional forums on water and energy, including the World Hydropower Congress 2015 in Beijing, China.

GNLM/ World Bank Myanmar

Myanmar youth players to participate in ITF Asia 14 Under Development Championship

YANGON, 20 Jan — A Myanmar youth tennis team led by U Min Min of Myanmar Tennis Federation left for Vietnam on 17 January evening to take part in the ITF Asia 14 Under Development Championship 2015, Division-2 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 18 to 29 January.

The team comprised Daw Ei Ei Khaing of women's team and U Kyaw Kyaw Latt of men's team, players Ye Min Paing, Kaung Khant Oo, Paing Hein Ko, Barani Khin, Shoon Le Wai and Su Yati.—*GNLM*

Union ministers, employers, employees hold meeting on SME development, enhancement of life of workers

Union Ministers meet employers and employees to discuss development of SMES and uplift of living standard of workers.

Byline: *Khin Yadana;*
Photo: *May Moe Oo*

YANGON, 20 Jan—Establishment of small- and medium-scale enterprises will create job opportunities for local people, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint said at the meeting between union ministers and employers and employees at the hall in Hlinethaya Industrial zone on Tuesday.

He stressed the need to solve problems of employees' salaries and difficulties of their life.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint highlighted that it is necessary to manufacture SME products to penetrate into the market in ASEAN Economic Community. As such, the ministry places emphasis on establishment of region and state chambers of commerce and industry, he said.

Union Minister for Energy Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Zeyar Aung said that the commission has allowed citizens to invest in 1,018 businesses. The SME bill includes availability of energy at full capacity, livelihoods of workers and salaries, he added.

Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint claimed that the ministry is trying to borrow US$20 million from Diamond Asia international bank and US$ 30 million from a Vietnamese bank by signing agreements. The ministry of Science and Technology prepares to conduct trainings for employees for enhancement of their capacity.

Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine National Race Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Chairman of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone management committee U Myat Thin Aung and officials participated in discussions on development of industrial zones, social security, health care services for workers and seeking markets for products.

CTUM Chairman U Maung Maung and Chairman of MTUM U Aung Lin reported on mutual respects between employers and employees, conducting of training courses for workers for enhancement of capacity, rights of migrant workers and responsibility for life security.

Villagers elect members of committees for implementation of emerald green project

NYAUNGLEBIN, 20 Jan — Mezalikhin Village was chosen as green emerald project area in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region.

A ceremony to elect members of the fund supervisory committee and the financial subcommittee for the project was held in the village on 16 January.

Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan delivered a speech.

Chairman of the project implementation committee Head of Township Department of Rural Development U Than Lwin explained formation of committees at five levels and six points for election of the project village.

Local people cast vote for election of seven members of the fund supervisory committee and three members of the financial subcommittee.

Officials discussed duty and functions of the fund supervisory committee and the financial subcommittee, and ethics for members to implement the project.

The ceremony was attended by chairman of the township development supportive committee U Thein Naing, Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Thet Thet Nyunt, Manager of Township Agricultural Development Bank U Soe Min Win, and local people.—*Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)*

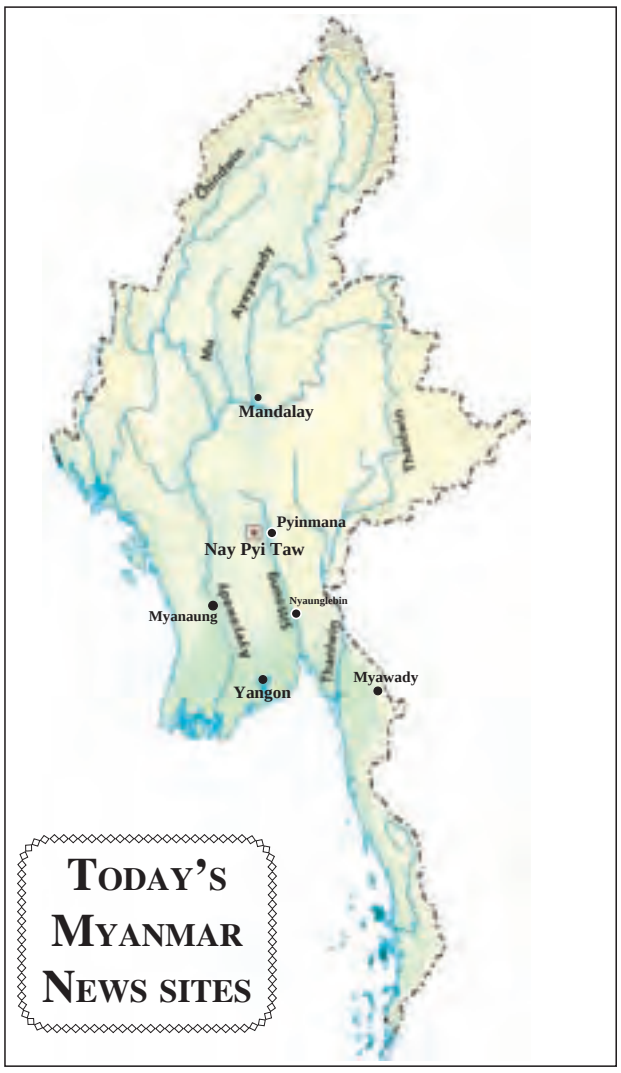
Members of election sub-commissions hold meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Dekkhina District Election Sub-commission met members of Pyinmana Township Sub-commission and ward/village sub-commissions at the hall of Pyinmana Township General Administration Department on Tuesday.

Chairman of the district sub-commission U Myint Oo extended greetings.

Chairman of the township sub-commission U Aung Myint explained progress of electoral tasks and replied to queries raised by members of ward/village sub-commissions.

Shwe Kokko



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Myawady District People's Hospital to get extended operation theatre

MYAWADY, 20 Jan — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of an extended operation theatre was held at Myawady District People's Hospital on Tuesday.

The construction will be funded by Japanese Embassy to Myanmar.

Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs U Chit Hlaing, Head of Kayin State Health Department Dr Aung Kyaw Htay, Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw and officials drove stakes for construction of the building.

The state minister spoke on the occasion. Engineer U Ye Win Aung of Kayin State Development Public Company reported on a plan to build an extended operation theatre.

The one-storey building will be 136 feet long and 62 feet. It will have three operation rooms, six rooms for doctors and nurses and four patient awards.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Firefighters inspect use of fire extinguishers

MYANAUNG, 20 Jan — A squad comprising four personnel of Township Fire Station, four members of No 5 Auxiliary Fire Brigade and eight members of No 5 fire prevention team inspected housings on Tawateintha streets, Mya Ayeya road, Mya Nanda Road and Mya Kantha Road in Ward 5, Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 19 January.

They checked systematic use of fire extinguishers and stoves of the houses.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

An official drives stake for construction of extended operation theatre at Myawady District People's Hospital.

A photo taken on 19 January shows Lawkamarazein Pagoda in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Buddha Pujaniya of Lawkamarazein Pagoda on 25 Feb-11 March

PYINMANA, 20 Jan — Lawkamarazein Pagoda is 92 feet and two inches high in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

It was built by King Mindon in 1234 Myanmar Era (1873 A.D). The 142nd Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda will be held at its precinct from 25 February to 11 March.

The pagoda board of trustees will organize the festival on a grand scale with entertainments for pilgrims and people.

Shwe Kokko

Health staff, volunteers join mass immunization of students against measles, German measles

A health staff vaccinates students of basic education schools against measles and German measles in Thaton Township, Mon State, on 20 January.

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — The Ministry of Health adopted plans for speeding up health care services so as to ensure longevity of the people free from diseases.

This year, the ministry supervises mass immunization of measles and German measles across the nation.

Health staff gave vaccines to students at No 1 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 20 January.

Health staff from Pyinmana Township Hospital (200-bed), members of social organizations and teachers participated in mass immunization tasks.

Likewise, vaccination against measles and German measles is being given to children at basic education schools in Thaton Township, Mon State, as of 19 January.

At the launching ceremony of vaccination at No 2 BEHS in Thaton, Head of District Health Department Dr Daw Khin Win said, "We performed mass immunization for children under 15 from 19 to 27 January for the first phase and remaining children in the community from 19 to 28 February."

According to the Township Health Department, health staff will vaccinate 45,201 students from 181 basic education schools in the township and 27,389 children in wards and villages at 223 gathering points.—*Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)/Thet Oo (Thaton)*

Officials of Carter Center meet Mandalay Region Election Sub-commission

MANDALAY, 20 Jan — Carter Center established in 1980 is a US based NGO emphasizing health, rule of law, administration, peace process and democratization process in addition holding the democracy elections in 30 countries.

At the invitation of the government and the Union Election Commission, officials of the center arrived in Myanmar.

They met members of Mandalay Region Election Sub-commission at the latter's office in Mandalay on 19 January.

They will monitor the 2015 general elections meeting international standard.

The chairman of the region election sub-commission and officials replied to queries raised by Carter Center.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mandalay Mayor inspects progress of shaping Mandalay into green city

MANDALAY, 20 Jan— Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moung together with MCDC member Dr Thwin Kyaw Kyaw inspected sanitation tasks at Mahaaungmye gems trading camp in Mahaaungmye Township on 19 January.

Workers of Sanitation Department carried out sanitation at drains for proper flow of water with the use of dredgers and spraying at the shops of the camp. The mayor and party viewed vendor shops of the camp and maintenance of roads and left necessary instructions.

At the people's park of Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake, the mayor and party looked into preparations for holding the Mandalay Mayor's Trophy Vegetables and Fruits Show and Contest and spraying at the ground for prevention of dengue haemorrhagic fever.

The mayor and party viewed landscaping works and growing of flowery plants along Theikpan Street and other streets to shape Mandalay as a greening city.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Singapore's Minister for Education Heng Swee Keat (2nd L), Singapore's Scoot Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson (3rd R) and Rolls-Royce Regional Director for ASEAN and Pacific Jonathan Asherson (2nd R) attend the unveiling ceremony of the first Singapore-built Trent 1000 aero engine in Singapore's Rolls-Royce Seletar Campus on 20 Jan, 2015.—XINHUA

Indonesian official urges Netherlands, Brazil to respect Indonesia's law

JAKARTA, 20 Jan — Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Politics, Legal and Security Affairs Tedjo Edhy Purdijatno on Monday urged the governments of Netherlands and Brazil to respect legal process in Indonesia after the two countries recalled their ambassadors from the country over drug execution.

"Foreign countries have to respect the Indonesian law because Indonesia is a sovereign country," Edhy said at the State Palace.

Brazil and the Netherlands have recalled their ambassadors from Indonesia and expressed fury after Jakarta denied their pleas and executed two of their citizens along with four other drug offenders.

The four other convicts were from Vietnam, Nigeria, Malawi and Indonesia.

Previously Indonesian President Joko Widodo, better known as Jokowi, stressed that he would not give clemency to any drug dealers who have been sentenced to death penalty as the country has been on emergency against the danger of drug.

Jokowi said that he had already rejected dozens of petitions for exemption submitted by drug dealers who have been sentenced to death penalty by courts.

Xinhua

Nepal's opposition parties disrupt meeting of Constituent Assembly

KATHMANDU, 20 Jan — Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA) on Tuesday turned into a battleground after opposition parties disrupted an assembly meeting and attacked ruling parties' lawmakers, resulting in the injuries of a dozen security personnel.

Lawmakers from opposition parties, led by UCPN (Maoist), began shouting and vandalizing infrastructures when CA Chairman Subas Nembang asked Nepali Congress Chief Whip Chin Kaji Shrestha to form a panel to initiate a voting process for the settlement of contentious issues.

Opposition parties insist that contentious issues concerning the new constitution, such as federalism, the form of government, judiciary and electoral systems, should be settled on the basis of consensus.

Tensions ran high after the opposition parties tried to attack the CA chairman and other ruling party lawmakers.

Security personnel struggled to bring the situation under control and during the clash with opposition party lawmakers, a dozen got injured.

Chairman of CPN-UML, KP Oli, told reporters after the meeting that he has sustained a minor injury. He said opposition party lawmakers tried to hit him inside the CA.

Opposition party lawmaker Giriraj Mani Pokhrel said they resorted to such activities after the ruling parties tried to bypass them in the constitution drafting process.

Despite the farce, the CA chairman as well as the ruling parties still decided to initiate the voting process. Ruling parties Nepali Congress and CPN-UML command two-third votes in the CA.

"The attack by opposition parties inside the CA is very condemnable, it is not excusable," Nembang said after the meeting.

Confrontation between ruling and opposition parties in Nepal is posing a serious threat to the Himalayan nation's effort to promulgate a new constitution. Parties have pledged to draft a new constitution by 22 January this year but as the deadline looms disagreements remain.

Xinhua

Bold Thai plan to send prisoners to sea sinks amid rights protests

BANGKOK, 20 Jan — A radical plan by the Thai government to put prisoners to work on the country's under-staffed fishing boats has been scrapped, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday, following charges the scheme threatened inmates' rights.

Rights groups had also argued the idea would fail to address the fundamental causes of the labor shortage that fuels human trafficking in Thailand's fishing industry. Thailand is the world's third-largest seafood exporter and its fishing industry employs more than 300,000 people, many of them illegal migrant workers from neighbouring countries who are often subject to ill-treatment.

In December the country's Labour Ministry said that it would send consenting prisoners who had less than a year left of their sentence to work on fishing boats to ease a labour shortage in the fishing sector and to combat human trafficking fueled by the shortage.

Thailand is ranked one of the world's worst centres of human trafficking.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday that the plan had been withdrawn, adding that it was an "exploratory idea" and part of a government policy to help prisoners reintegrate into society.

Reuters

Vietnam to build casino on southern Phu Quoc Island

HO CHI MINH CITY, 20 Jan — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has approved the development of tourism projects that include casino components on Phu Quoc Island, which is under the administration of southern Kien Giang province, local *Tuoi Tre News* reported on Tuesday.

The prime minister has assigned the Ministry of Planning and Investment to coordinate with the provincial authorities and relevant state agencies to explore the details for the establishment of such projects in accordance with regulations.

In its plan for developing Phu Quoc island into a special economic zone, the province has set aside an area of 30,000 square metres for building casinos with 200 to 400 roulette tables and 2, 000 gaming machines, in addition to conference centres and an international five-star hotel with 3,000 rooms.

Phu Quoc Island is located off the western coast of the Mekong Delta Kien Giang Province, and also situated at the heart of Southeast Asia and an economic belt between Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

Vietnam has seven licensed casinos, six of which are operating in Quang Ninh, Hai Phong and Lao Cai in the north, Da Nang in the central region, and Ba Ria-Vung Tau in the south.

The only casino that is still inactive is the South Hoi An casino in central Quang Nam Province.

Besides, there are 50 entertainment centres with small-scale casinos for foreigners that have been licensed for four to five star hotels throughout the country, according to the Ministry of Finance.

In a draft submitted to the government in August 2014, the Ministry of Finance proposed that Vietnamese people from 21 years of age have sufficient behavioural and financial capacities to gamble in domestic casinos, but it has not been adopted by the country's lawmakers.— *Xinhua*

Indian soldiers ride on camels during the rehearsals of the Beating Retreat ceremony at Raisina Hill, in New Delhi, India, on 19 Jan, 2015. The ceremony is performed every year on the evening of on 29 January by the three wings of the Indian military marking the end of Republic Day festivities.
XINHUA

Australia raises terror threat level against police to 'high'

***Police watch as people enter the harbour foreshore area in the city for the annual new year fireworks display on Sydney Harbour on 31 Dec, 2014.*—REUTERS**

SYDNEY, 20 Jan — Australia raised the threat level of a terrorist attack against law enforcement officers to "high" on Tuesday, federal police said, citing intelligence, discussions with international partners and recent high-profile attacks in Europe and Canada.

The change in the threat level for police officers brings it in line with the current threat level against the general public, which was raised to high in September and has remained so following a hostage crisis in Sydney in December.

"As a result of intelligence information and discussions with our partners, the terrorism threat level against police is assessed as high, which is commensurate with the broader threat level for the community," the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said in a statement.

"Recent events in France, Canada and Australia serve as a sobering reminder of the risks associated with policing," the statement said.

In December, two hostages and a gunman were killed after police stormed a downtown Sydney cafe to end a 16-hour standoff with the hostage-taker, a loner and convicted criminal who identified himself with radical Sunni Islamist groups.

Australia, a staunch ally of the United States and its action against the Islamic State militant group in Syria and Iraq, is on high alert for attacks by sympathizers of the radical group and from homegrown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East.

Last week in Belgium, two gunmen were killed during raids against an Islamist group that authorities there said were planning to attack police.

Two police officers were among the 12 people killed earlier this month when a pair of gunmen stormed the Paris offices of French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*.

In October, one soldier died during an attack by an Islamist radical on the Canadian parliament in an incident cited by the AFP in their statement on Tuesday about the decision to raise the threat level against Australia's police.

The AFP singled out Australian citizens who may have gone overseas to fight with the Islamic State group and returned home as a potential threat, although police commissioners in two states said no specific threats had been identified.

Reuters

ILO chief laments failure to tackle inequality at Davos

GENEVA, 20 Jan — World leaders meeting in Davos this week are likely to agree that inequality is a problem but unlikely to do anything about it, the head of the International Labour Organization said.

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, speaking in Geneva before heading to attend the Alpine conference, said a feature of the annual meeting was the glaring gap between words and actions of participants over the issue.

"It's the lamenting, if you like, of this ill of inequality, and then an almost entire failure to consider the types of policies, or to consider seriously the types of action, that might reduce inequality," he told a news conference in Geneva.

"There is a disconnect. There is a cognitive dysfunction."

Ryder called it an example of the "strange behaviour" exhibited by the elite participants at the annual conference. His spokeswoman intervened to ask reporters to keep that remark off the record but Ryder said he wanted to be quoted.

The Davos meeting attracts politicians and central bankers as well as over 1,500 business executives. The pre-Davos survey by the organizers, the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, almost invariably identifies growing inequality as one of the greatest risk factors in the global economy, Ryder said.

By next year, more than half the world's wealth will be owned by just one percent of the

Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) gestures during a news conference at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva on 26 May, 2014.
REUTERS

population as global inequality soars, the anti-poverty charity Oxfam said on Monday.

As well as contributing to social problems and potential unrest, inequality is a brake on growth and social mobility, Ryder said. "If people with talent can't get into positions to exercise that talent, there is a great deal of economic waste."

Countries with higher inequality also find it harder to recover from economic crises, according to analysis by the ILO.

Ryder said governments should try to ensure workers shared in their employers' successes by supporting collective bargaining processes, minimum wages and tax policies.

That would reverse the trend in many developed countries, where average wages have stagnated since the financial crisis, as penny-pinching corporate budgets have failed to reward productivity increases, the ILO said last month.—*Reuters*

Iranian paper banned for showing Clooney wearing 'Je suis Charlie' pin

DUBAI, 20 Jan— Iran's hardline judiciary has banned a reformist newspaper for publishing a picture of Hollywood star George Clooney wearing a "Je suis Charlie" ("I am Charlie") button, Iranian newspapers reported on Monday.

Mardom-e Emrooz (Today's People) had come under criticism after running the image of the US actor at last week's Golden Globes ceremony displaying his support for victims of a deadly attack two weeks ago on the *Charlie Hebdo* weekly in Paris.

A conservative press watchdog revoked *Mardom-e Emrooz*'s permit only three weeks after it started publishing with a pledge to support President Hassan Rouhani in his political and social liberalization programme, the official *IRNA* news agency said, citing board member Allaeddin Zohurian.

Like many other Hollywood celebrities, Clooney commands wide popularity among Iranian youths, although they only get to watch his movies on pirated videos. Almost all Hollywood productions are banned in the Islamic republic as "culturally decadent".

Twelve people were killed in the 7 January shooting at the *Charlie Hebdo* office, carried out in retaliation for caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad.

Thousands of Islamist hardliners gathered outside the French embassy on Monday to denounce a new drawing of the Prophet published last Wednesday in the first issue of *Charlie Hebdo* after the shooting.

The cartoon has sparked violent clashes in other Muslim countries.—*Reuters*

***Actor George Clooney and wife, Amal Clooney, arrive at the 72nd Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 11 Jan, 2015.*—REUTERS**

Hosono, Nagatsuma, Renho named as DPJ executives

TOKYO, 20 Jan — Katsuya Okada, the recently elected president of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, said on Tuesday he has decided to appoint Goshi Hosono as the party's policy chief and name Akira Nagatsuma and Renho as acting presidents. Okada's decision to promote popular members of the largest opposition party presents an image of unity at a time when the DPJ is hoping to regain public trust. Hosono, a former DPJ secretary general, and Nagatsuma, a former health minister, ran in Sunday's party presidential election won by Okada.

Renho is known for her widely broadcast questioning of bureaucrats over wasteful public spending while the DPJ was in power between 2009 and 2012.

Okada told reporters he was able to set up a strong executive board to oppose Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party.

Okada, who previously headed the DPJ between May 2004 and September 2005, has already decided to retain Yukio Edano in the party's No 2 position of secretary general.—*Kyodo News*

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 21 January, 2015

Change or be changed

By *Aung Khin*

The world is now changing very fast in terms of technology, education, eating habits and dress. We like some changes, while others create fear and anxiety. However, there is hardly anything in life that is not changing.

An unknown philosopher remarked: "If you do not create change, change will create you". In some cases, we are resistant to change, while change itself is constant. The questions that make us insecure for life are: What will happen to us tomorrow, what will happen to our children.

There is no doubt at all that everything is changing. The choice is whether we let change happen or make change happen. If we chose the former, we would be changed by external conditions. If we chose the latter, we need courage and flexibility to make changes. Many business strategy books point out the resilient, responsible and profitable businesses are those that "make change happen".

Natural phenomena are demanding changes. Any institution also calls for change. However, changes should be aimed for the development of an organization or a society. If we resist changes, we will suffer from this obstinacy. For example, if we do not change our posture after working for some minutes, we will feel pain in our body.

It seems that now the entire fabric of life will have to be changed. Life will have to be redesigned. The life of the individual, the social structure, and governance—all will have to be re-planned to meet the mainstream of emerging development.

Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw said progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. However, changes need "courage" and "confidence".

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.

What is the price of beauty?

By *Myo Myint*

Whatever their age, there are very few people who would not like to be good-looking. For centuries, human beings have been grooming themselves to be physically attractive. To achieve this, they have sought inspiration from nature, the living things around them, and their own creativity. The standard of beauty differs from culture to culture, and from decade to decade, and women have resorted to unusual ways to make themselves more beautiful. For instance, in Myanmar, women in Chin State in the northwestern part of Myanmar have adorned their faces with tattoos for centuries, so also, women of the Padaung community living in Kayah State in eastern Myanmar like to wear heavy brass coils around their necks and these, when worn for a long time, sunken their shoulders and make them appear to have long necks. On the other hand, the majority of Myanmar women decorate their faces with the paste of the bark of the fragrant thanaka (Limonia acidissima) which serves as adornment, sun block and skin care. Among our neighbouring countries, in ancient China, having small feet was supposed to add beauty to women, and girls from wealthy families underwent the painful process of having their feet tightly bound while they were young, so that their feet would not grow larger. In another neighbouring country, India, women in some regions like to have elongated ear lobes which are regarded as a symbol of beauty and wealth in their society and this is achieved by piercing the ear lobes and wearing heavy jewellery. So, also in Japan, women during the Heian-era (794-1185) with the belief that their beauty is enhanced, they blackened their teeth to match their black hair. In Europe, at one time, women of the upper class rubbed poisonous titanium paint on their faces to achieve a pale look, the standard of beauty at that time. In some African and Pacific countries, women of large physical size are regarded as worthy of admiration.

Today, however, most women seemed to have come to a universal agreement on the standard of beauty. They want to look fair, slim, tall, youthful and as European as possible. Since nowadays, they also want to reveal as much of their assets as possible, they have come to give more attention to their entire body.

Producers of beauty products, beauticians, scientists, cosmetic surgeons and others in the beauty industry are all eager to make the dreams of women (and some men) come true, but of course at a price. A Myanmar woman with an average income who likes to lavish herself with beauty enhancers may spend about 100,000 kyats a month on beauty products and hair styling, which does not include the price of the perfume she uses. The cost comes up to about three thousand kyats per day, a sum of money that can buy her a decent meal. She, and in some cases he, with the rise in Metrosexual males who are men who like to beautify themselves with expensive clothes, trendy hair products and elaborate facials, have a wide range of beauty products such as skin care products, shampoos, hair dyes, make-ups, lip sticks, nail polish, bath products, etc., etc., etc., made of herbal, chemical and animal products to choose from. Many spas have also sprung up in cities in Myanmar to provide massage, special baths and beauty treatments. There are also many beauticians now available to make a woman look extra beautiful for special occasions. (Unfortunately, some ends up looking like the beauticians themselves.)

To achieve women's obsession for the European look, there are lotions and creams to make them "fair and lovely". Moreover, they can get their eyes fitted with blue, hazel or green tinted contact lens to change the colour of their eyes. They can get their hair dyed, auburn, blonde, brunette, chestnut, or ginger, and straighten, frizz, or curl their hair to look like the women in the West. Operations can also be done to their eyes, nose, lips, mouth, cheek and jaw bones to get the perfect European features. Their teeth can also be beautified by whitening them, changing the shape and alignment and filling spaces in between using cosmetic dentistry. To give their body a trendy look, they could add a few, or many tattoos. Slimness may be difficult to achieve and may require a bit of effort, but there are fitness centres, exercise and diet plans and massage to help them achieve their ambition. Furthermore, women can take drastic measure like undergoing liposuction operation to suck fat from under their skin, or remove a few ribs to create a smaller waist. They can also add a bit of silicon here and there to gain a great figure. If they want to look youthful, they can use skin care lotions and oils, Botox injection, or plastic surgery to get rid of all the wrinkles on their faces and make their skin smooth and young. If a woman wants to look tall, she can wear shoes with six-inch heels, and if she is desperate to have long legs, she can do so with the assistance of surgeons.

All that a person dreams of, to improve himself/herself can be done these days with a bit of help from beauty products and cosmetic surgery, but of course at a certain price. The price may be just a large sum of money, or one might have to pay with health. There might be allergic reactions by a person's skin to certain lotions and hair dyes, and this might cause her health problems. Surgery might permanently disfigure a person instead of enhancing her beauty as, when a person due to a botched operation to lengthen her legs, ends up with one leg longer than the other and walking with a limp the rest of her life. One could also become addicted to cosmetic surgery, and end up looking like an ogress. A person could also die after an unsuccessful operation to improve her figure as happened recently to a beauty queen from a South American country. Finally, nobody is able to predict the long-term consequences of the changes a person has made to herself to gain the perfect look. So, before one takes drastic measures to improve one's looks, one should think of the short-term, as well as the long-term consequences carefully.

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ROK delegation visits significant places in Yangon City

YANGON, 20 Jan—A delegation led by Dr Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of the National Assembly of ROK Tuesday paid homage to Shwedagon Pagod, here.

At the pagoda, the speaker donated cash to the fund of the pagoda's board of trustees.

They paid tribute to martyrs at Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township and laid a wreath at Korean martyrs' memorial near the Mausoleum.

Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win hosted a luncheon to the ROK delegation at Sedona Hotel.

The delegation also visited the National Museum in Alon Township this evening.

MNA

***Speaker of the National Assembly of ROK Dr Chung Ui-Hwa visits National Museum.*—MNA**

Information Team issues press release on President's message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Information Team of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Tuesday issued a press release on the President's message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that calls for review and amendment of the provisions of the National Education Law approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 September 2014.

The President's message highlighted the role of the legislative body in reviewing and amending the recently-enacted law as the Ministry of Education is unable to amend it within its legal framework regarding a call for amending the law which has not taken effect.

The message pointed out that the ministry is only responsible for formulation of rules and regulations of the national education law and related laws in accord with Section 97, sub-section (a) of the Constitution.

The message said that a call for amending some provisions of the law is making the ministry hard to continue further coordination with parties concerned for formulation of rules and regulations and related laws. The message stressed the need for coordination between legislative body and administrative body as some calls are beyond the provisions stated in the national education law.

Demands for amending some provisions of the law includes decentralization in education, unnecessary roles of National Education Commission and Higher Education Coordination, inclusion of the formation of teachers' organizations and students' organization in the law, inclusion of inclusive education in the law and development of literature and culture of national races.

The President's message to the Parliament spotlighted the exclusion of inclusive education in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved National Education Law, saying that it was included in the National Education Bill submitted to the Parliament by the Union government.

Regarding the formation of National Education Commission, the message suggested that a way to form an independent organization comprising suitable persons for quality assessment and quality assurance should be taken into consideration.

The message concluded calling on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to review and amend the provisions of the National Education Law as the above-mentioned points will contribute towards peace and stability, allowing students to pursue their education peacefully without having negative impact on the objective of uplifting national education standards.

GNLM

Myanmar Investment Summit in London to offer business opportunities for European corporate and financial investors

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 20 Jan— With the aim of providing investors with real insight into emerging investment opportunities in different sectors, City & Financial Global, a leading UK's research-based conference organizer, is organizing "The Myanmar Investment Summit" in London on 19 February.

To encourage and support responsible British business in Myanmar, UK Trade & Investment is helping to organize an investment conference in London on 19 February, the British Embassy in Yangon said on Tuesday.

U Set Aung, deputy governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and chairman of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, will lead a Myanmar delegation that will also include Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet, economic advisor to the president and member of Myanmar Investment Commission, and U Aung Naing Oo, MIC secretary and director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, the embassy added.

According to The Myanmar Investment Summit's webpage, the conference will offer participants an opportunity to hear about the latest political and economic developments, give practical guidance on doing business in Myanmar and raise awareness of the many opportunities Myanmar has to offer to foreign firms.

During the one-day conference, panel discussions on professional financial and legal services, energy and electricity, capacity-building, education and training and firsthand experience in Myanmar will take place in addition to the Myanmar delegation's keynote addresses.

According to the agenda, Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet will speak on Myanmar's economic reform progress so far, U Set Aung on the development of Myanmar's financial sector to date, and Daw Khine Khine Nwe, joint secretary general of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, on the capacity gap as an opportunity and a challenge.

The conference expects to attract senior executives in European and UK companies with an interest in the opportunities that Myanmar presents, including hedge funds and private equity firms, the conference organizer said.

GNLM

International IDEA, Local Resource Centre launch 'English-Myanmar Glossary of Democratic Terms'

YANGON, 20 Jan — On Sunday, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and the Local Resource Centre (LRC) published the 'English-Myanmar Glossary of Democratic Terms' by presenting the first edition of the book to experts who contributed to it. The purpose of this publication is to promote the development of a shared vocabulary and common definitions in Myanmar to discuss democratic developments. It does so by providing a starting point for public discourse, rather than offering static definitions.

A glossary of democratic terms will be especially useful in the Myanmar context. As Pansy Tun Thein, Executive Director of the Local Resource Centre, said during the launch: "This glossary will be a valuable tool for Myanmar as many of us struggle each day to translate the democratic terms into Myanmar and often become frustrated when we cannot come up with the right terminology in Myanmar language. It is an initial document and we hope to make this glossary into a living document so that we can continue to update it and improve on it in the future."

The book will be freely distributed and can now be downloaded at http://www.idea.int/publications/english-myanmar-glossary-of-democraticterms/index.cfm. In order to make the Glossary even more widely available, a website and Android app were developed as a companion to the book. These digital tools can be found at www.democraticglossary.org.mm. International IDEA and LRC look forward to receiving the public's feedback through these innovative channels to turn this Glossary into a dynamic document.

Mr. Yves Leterme, Secretary-General of International IDEA: "The publication's related website and Android mobile app puts access at the public's fingertips and allows for quick feedback from users. I welcome the people of Myanmar to use the book, website and app to review the terms and provide suggestions too."

GNLM

Population survey on Baer's Pochard to be conducted in mid-winter season

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 19 Jan — With the aid of the World Wildlife Trust (WWT) and the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), a local non-government organization, will conduct a survey on the Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) population in inland lakes in Myanmar at the end of February.

Baer's Pochard is a type of duck found in eastern Asia that breeds in southeast Russia and northeast China, migrating in winter to the countries on the Central Asian Flyway, including Myanmar.

There is no estimation of ducks population in the survey, but foreign ornithologists expect that those ducks are likely to exit in the country, Daw Thiri Dae Wei Aung of BANCA said.

The survey will be conducted in Kyayni, Myittha, Taungpyan Sedawgyi, Paleik and Inlay lakes in Myanmar's central dry zone by direct meeting with local people, she added.

The species was last seen in Inlay Lake in Shan State in 2006, bird observers said.

According to estimations, the global population of Baer's Pochard is more than 700. It is 50 per cent sure to go extinct in the coming five years and has been classified as a critically endangered species as the population is in a globally decline since 2012.

More than 80 kinds of water bird species usually migrate to Myanmar for wintering. Baer's Pochard migrates to Myanmar in the mid-winter season.

Myanmar's total bird species will be 1,114, including new species found within the late five years from 2010 to 2014. Forty-nine are in danger of extinction. Currently BNACA has been carried out conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpipers (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), a small wader and critically endangered, in Mottama Gulf.—*GNLM*

Baer's Pochard (Aythya baeri), one of the species of duck, seen in Myanmar.
PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Japan, Germany agree to closely cooperate over Ukraine

BRUSSELS, 20 Jan — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier agreed on Monday to closely cooperate in ensuring an early stabilization of the situation in Ukraine.

Kishida said he told Steinmeier in a meeting in Brussels that Japan "would like to cooperate (with Germany) toward peaceful settlement" of the crisis in Ukraine, and that Tokyo plans to extend additional financial assistance to Kiev.

Referring to recent terrorist attacks in France, the two ministers vowed to strengthen measures to fight terrorism. They affirmed coordination with India and Brazil in their quest to become permanent members of the UN Security Council, according to Kishida. Kishida and Steinmeier also agreed to ensure the success of a visit to Japan by German Chancellor Angela Merkel in March and a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations slated for June in Germany.

In a separate meeting in Brussels, Kishida and Federica Mogherini, high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy, agreed to boost Japan-EU cooperation in the fight against terrorism, human rights issues in North Korea and the crisis in Ukraine, according to Kishida.

In separate talks with Frans Timmermans, first vice president of the European Commission, and Cecilia Malmstrom, European commissioner for trade, Kishida requested that Europe ease the import restrictions on Japanese food products it imposed in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Kyodo News

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (far R) and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier (far L) attend a meeting in Brussels on 19 Jan, 2015. They agreed to closely cooperate in ensuring an early stabilization of the situation in Ukraine.—KYODO NEWS

US to seek end to travel curbs, set up embassy in Cuba talks

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — The United States will urge Cuba to lift travel restrictions on US diplomats and agree to establish US and Cuban embassies in historic talks in Havana this week aimed at restoring relations, a senior State Department official said on Monday.

The talks on 21-23 January will be led by Roberta Jacobson, the top US diplomat for Latin America, in the first visit to Cuba in 38 years by a US assistant secretary of state.

"We are looking forward to the Cubans lifting travel restrictions, to trying to lift the caps on the number of our diplomatic personnel, to trying to gain unimpeded shipments for our mission and to the free access to our mission by Cubans," the official told a conference call.

The State Department later clarified the official was referring to travel curbs on US diplomats, who are typically not allowed outside Havana except for special requests. The same applies to Cuban officials in Washington.

The official said Washington hoped to restore its embassy in Havana in "the coming months." After breaking ties between the countries the United States converted its six-story embassy into an interests sections.

The official said it was hard to know what could be achieved in the first round of normalization talks and all depended on how far Cuba was willing to go.

***Recently released dissidents Haydee Gallardo (L) and Sonia Garro hold the Cuban national flag during a march in Havana on 11 Jan, 2015.* REUTERS**

"It is hard to know exactly what will come out of this first conversation," the official said. "I am not oblivious to the weight of history."

The official said the hope was to accelerate the pace of normalization talks with Cuba following the initial meeting to include other areas such as settlement of claims by Cuban Americans and US businesses whose assets were confiscated.

US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro on 17 December announced plans to restore relations between the Cold War foes, with a view to ending the 54-year-old US economic embargo against the communist-led island.

In initial moves in recent weeks, Cuba released 53 political prisoners and the United States said it would ease some trade and investment restrictions.

Washington has said it will press Cuba to release more political prisoners and end short-term detentions.

The official said Obama's new policy depends on "mutual consent" between the United States and Cuba.

"We are ready to accelerate the pace of engagement as it regards our interests and the Cuban people but a lot will depend on the tolerance of the Cuban government for that engagement," the official said.

The first day of talks will focus on migration issues, including cases of Americans who have fled to Cuba, which has regularly returned US fugitives since 2008 but US authorities say dozens remain.

In a letter to Obama on Monday on the eve of his State of the Union address, a group of 78 policy experts and former US official urged the administration to work with Congress to update Cuba legislation.

A US congressional delegation, led by Senator Patrick Leahy, arrived in Cuba on Saturday to get a sense of what the "normalization" of relations could look like. Congressional approval is needed to fully lift the US embargo on Cuba.

Alan Gross, the American aid worker who spent five years as a prisoner in Cuba, will be among the guests invited to Obama's State of the Union address.

The senior State Department official said the United States would raise concerns over Cuba's human rights record during the talks. The US delegation hopes to meet with human rights and dissident groups while in Havana, the official added.

"It has always been our practice to engage with civil society. ... I really don't see any need to change that," the official added.—*Reuters*

Russia's Strategic Missile Troops begin this year's first snap check

MOSCOW, 20 Jan — The Russian Strategic Missile Troops have started a surprise combat readiness check in the Uzhursk missile unit, in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, the press service of the military branch said on Tuesday.

The troops were inspected for their readiness to combat terrorism.

"More than 1,200 troops have been involved in the check. In 2015, at least four similar checks are planned," the statement reads.

The snap drill is conducted in order to ascertain the readiness of troops to perform tasks of being put on high alert in required time. More than 20 designated tasks will be performed, including evacuation amid terror attack threat and explosive device disposal.

The tasks will include cooperation with the Emergencies Ministry, Interior Ministry and Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB).

Itar-Tass

Abe denounces hostage-taking, calls for release of hostages

JERUSALEM, 20 Jan — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday condemned as "unforgivable" the Islamic State militant group reportedly holding two Japanese citizens captive and demanding a ransom, and strongly called for their immediate release.

Abe, who is on a tour of the Middle East, said in Jerusalem that the Japanese government is still trying to verify the authenticity of a video released online threatening to kill them, but that Tokyo will make utmost efforts to secure their release unharmed.

The group has demanded that a random of $200 million — the same amount Abe pledged in his speech on Saturday as part of Tokyo's contribution to anti-Islamic State efforts — be paid within 72 hours.

Abe said Japan will not give in to terrorism and its nonmilitary support is "unwavering," saying the aid plan for refuges in the region will still go through as planned.

At the same time, the premier said Tokyo will prioritize the safety of the hostages.

Kyodo News

A masked person holding a knife speaks as he stands in between two kneeling men in this still image taken from an online video released by the militant Islamic State group on 20 Jan, 2015. The militant Islamic State group released the online video on Tuesday purporting to show two Japanese captives and threatening to kill them unless it received $200 million in ransom.
REUTERS

Egypt's Sisi says respects right to protest but warns of harm to economy

CAIRO, 20 Jan — President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Tuesday people in Egypt have the right to demonstrate but cautioned that protesting now could cause more harm to the country's battered economy. Human rights activists say a law restricting protests and other security legislation enacted by Sisi in the absence of a parliament have rolled back freedoms won in a 2011 uprising that ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Sisi was elected virtually unopposed last May, almost a year after the military he then led toppled freely elected Islamist president Mohamed Mursi.

A security crackdown under Sisi's watch ended months of economically ruinous anti-government unrest and jailed thousands of Islamists and liberal activists alike, including people for demonstrating without a police permit.

Sisi did not mention various security laws, which have been condemned by rights groups at home and abroad, in his speech. The occasion for his remarks was a Police Day celebration.

"I am more keen on human rights than anybody ... But take care when you demand your rights. Take care, don't take us down with you," Sisi told hundreds of police officers and many senior government officials.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

A few months after Mursi's overthrow in July 2013, the government passed a law outlawing demonstrations without the prior approval of a police permit. In 2011, the Police Day national holiday marked the start of 18 days of mass protests that swept Mubarak from power after 30 years of authoritarian rule. "I never say that demonstrations are refused. We put the issue of protesting in a distinguished position...But the 90 million people (of Egypt) want to eat, drink, live and be assured about their future," Sisi said. He called on activists to support government efforts to improve health, education and the lives of the poor, suggesting protests would hinder such efforts.—*Reuters*

Houthis, accused of coup, surround Yemeni PM's residence

***A vehicle from the Presidential Protection Forces is seen positioned outside the house of President Hadi during clashes near the house and the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 19 Jan, 2015.—*REUTERS**

SANNA, 20 Jan — Yemen's powerful Houthi movement fought artillery battles with the army near the presidential palace in Sanaa on Monday, surrounded the prime minister's residence and drew accusations they were mounting a coup.

Explosions echoed across the city and smoke hung over downtown buildings as the most intense clashes since the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi movement seized the capital in September, throwing the fragile Arab state deep into turmoil.

In the evening, the government said a palace in central Sanaa where the prime minister lives had been encircled by Houthi forces and that Houti representatives were talking with the president. "Houthis in meeting with president to agree on terms for releasing chief of staff in return for changes in constitution and national authority," Information Minister Nadia al-Saqqaf said on her Twitter account.

The Houthis' September takeover made them the country's de facto top power, and tensions between them and President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi had been growing since Saturday when they abducted his chief of staff, Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, to gain leverage in a bitter dispute over a proposed new constitution. Earlier on Monday, Saqqaf said Houthi fighters had fired on Prime Minister Khaled Bahah's motorcade after he left a meeting with Hadi and a Houthi adviser that had been called to try to resolve bitter disagreements over a draft constitution. A Yemeni government spokesman described the shooting at Bahah's armoured convoy as an assassination attempt. Bahah's residence, the Republican palace, was later cut off. "The gunmen have surrounded the palace and the prime minister is inside," government spokesman Rajeh Badi said. Two eyewitnesses confirmed the siege.

Al-Saqqaf earlier told *Reuters* the presidential palace had come under "direct attack" in what she described as an attempted coup. Hadi was believed to have been at home in another district at the time. "If you attack the presidential palace ... This is aggressive, of course it is an attempted coup," she said.

Reuters

Nigerians face killings, hunger in Boko Haram's 'state'

YOLA, (Nigeria), 20 Jan — Boko Haram says it is building an Islamic state that will revive the glory days of northern Nigeria's medieval Muslim empires, but for those in its territory life is a litany of killings, kidnappings, hunger and economic collapse.

The Islamist group's five-year-old campaign has become one of the deadliest in the world, with around 10,000 people killed last year, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. Hundreds, mostly women and children, have been kidnapped.

It remains the biggest threat to the stability of Africa's biggest economy ahead of a vote on 14 February in which President Goodluck Jonathan will seek re-election.

But while it has matched Islamic State in Syria and Iraq in its brutality — it beheads its enemies on camera — it has seriously lagged in the more mundane business of state building.

"The Islamic state is a figment of their imagination. They are just going into your house and saying they have taken over," said Phineas Elisha, government spokesman for Adamawa state, one of three states under emergency rule to fight the insurgency. Unlike its Middle East counterparts wooing locals with a semblance of administration, villagers trapped by Boko Haram face food shortages, slavery, killing and a lock down on economic activity, those who escaped say. "(They) have no form of government," Elisha, who saw the devastation caused by Boko Haram after government forces recaptured the town of Mubi in November. Boko Haram, which never talks to media except to deliver jihadist videos to local journalists, could not be reached for comment.

Reuters

Morris Enoch, a leader of traditional militia hunters helping the army to fight the Boko Haram insurgence in the northeast region of Nigeria, speaks during an interview in Yola, Adamawa State on 14 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EROL VOY NO (14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EROL VOY NO (14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2015 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO. LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J023R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J023R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2015 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

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Invitation for Workshop on World Bank Procurement Procedures for private construction sector, Yangon

To support the implementation of World Bank financed projects in Myanmar, the workshop to raise awareness of the Myanmar Construction Companies on the business opportunities and to understand the World Bank procurement procedures for Civil Works will be organized in Yangon as follow.

Venue: Summit Parkview Hotel,Yangon
Date: 29th Jan 2015
Time: 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Interested participants should inform your company name, address, participant name and contact email and phone number to Ma Wut Yi Win, Fax No. 01 654825 (or) email address **wwin@worldbank.org** not later than 27th Jan 2015. Due to the limited seats available, please nominate maximum two persons from one company to attend the workshop.

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st January, 2015: Rain are likely to be isolated in Mandalay and Bago Regions, Shan State, weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Tributes, protests mark US Martin Luther King Jr Day

Black rights protesters gather near illuminated letters spelling "DREAM" outside a house which they identified as the residence of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, in Oakland, California on 19 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 20 Jan — Tributes to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr were held around the United States on Monday as protests over the treatment of minorities by law enforcement rolled on across the country.

Observers of Martin Luther King Jr Day have this year linked the federal holiday to a rallying cry in recent months during demonstrations over police brutality: "Black lives matter." In a pre-dawn rally in Oakland, California on Monday, about 40 people converged on the home of Mayor Libby Schaaf, calling for harsher punishment of police who use violence against civilians. They chalked outlines of bodies on the tree-lined street, played recordings of King's speeches and projected an image of the slain civil rights leader with the words "Black lives matter," on the mayor's garage door. Other protests were planned in major cities such as Dallas and New York, where the family of Eric Garner, who died after being placed in a police chokehold, was set to lay a wreath on the Brooklyn street where two uniformed officers were ambushed in December by a gunman claiming to avenge Garner's death.

Decisions by grand juries not to indict officers in the deaths of Garner and Michael Brown, an unarmed black man shot dead by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, touched off months of protests across the country.

The sentiment resounded even at traditional events honoring King that were under way elsewhere, including a King commemoration at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where King once preached.

"We all need to remember him this day because we still don't have complete freedom," said Kelly Pongee, 50, of Jonesboro, Georgia, who was among hundreds of people who waited for hours to attend the service. "Look at what they're doing to the voting rights. Look at Ferguson and those other places. Black people and poor people are still treated differently," Pongee said. Fellow churchgoer Arthur Williams, 60, of Atlanta, said King was a guiding light in the ongoing efforts toward equality for minorities in the United States.

Reuters

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‘Birdman’ director Alejandro Gonzalez lands Sundance honour

“It comes as a great honour to receive this award from an organization whose objectives are noble and have a profound effect on many filmmaker,” said Gonzalez Inarritu.—PTI

Los Angeles, 20 Jan — ‘Birdman’ director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu is to receive a special award from the body behind Robert Redford’s Sundance Film Festival.

The moviemaker, who is in the running for Best Director at this year’s Academy Awards, has been announced as the recipient of the Sundance Institute’s Vanguard Leadership Award for his success in the independent film industry, said the Hollywood Reporter.

“It comes as a great honour to receive this award from an organization whose mission, spirit and objectives are noble and have a profound effect on many filmmakers around the world,” Gonzalez Inarritu said.

Keri Putnam, Executive Director of Sundance Institute, added, “Alejandro G Inarritu is among the most creative and innovative filmmakers working today, and the boldness, humanity and audacity of his films will inspire generations to come.”

The ’21 Grams’ moviemaker will be presented with the award at the organisation’s annual benefit gala which takes place on 2 June in Los Angeles.

Previous recipients of the prize include actress Glenn Close.—*PTI*

Jennifer Lawrence to star in ‘The Dive’

Actress Jennifer Lawrence will soon be working again with her ‘Hunger Games’ director Francis Lawrence in the movie ‘The Dive’. **PTI**

Los Angeles, 20 Jan — Actress Jennifer Lawrence will soon be working again with her ‘Hunger Games’ director Francis Lawrence.

The pair will team up for ‘The Dive’ — the biopic based on the real life story of freediving married couple Francisco “Pipin” Ferreras and Audrey Mestre, reported The Wrap.

James Cameron is slated to produce the 20th Century Fox film after planning to direct himself at one point.

The film will tell the story of how the pair broke records diving without the use of breathing equipment until Mestre lost her life during a 2002 dive.

The film has gone through years of development with ‘Casino Royale’s Martin Campbell previously attached to direct.

The screenplay was first written by Laeta Kalogridis before a 2012 rewrite from J Michael Straczynski.

Lawrence, 24, is expected to play Mestre but the role of Ferreras is yet to be cast.

PTI

Kristen Stewart wants to join ‘Captain America’

Los Angeles, 20 Jan — Actress Kristen Stewart has expressed her desire to take part in the next installment of “Captain America” movie franchise, “Captain America: Civil War”.

Stewart, 24, said she loves watching superhero movies, reported Ace Showbiz.

“I love watching those movies. I would love to show people that I can do more than just be ‘Kristen Stewart’ in a different movie, in a different circumstance. I’m sure I could get on board with ‘Captain America’, you know what I mean... It would just have to be the right thing,” she said.

Stewart is not the only actor who recently shared her desire to be in superhero movies. Kit Harington said he wanted to play a more cheerful version of Batman.

Lopez is also excited with the possibility of her appearing in a superhero movie.

PTI

Whitney Houston’s family slams TV biopic

Los Angeles, 20 Jan — Singer Whitney Houston’s sister-in-law has slammed the singer’s upcoming Lifetime biopic.

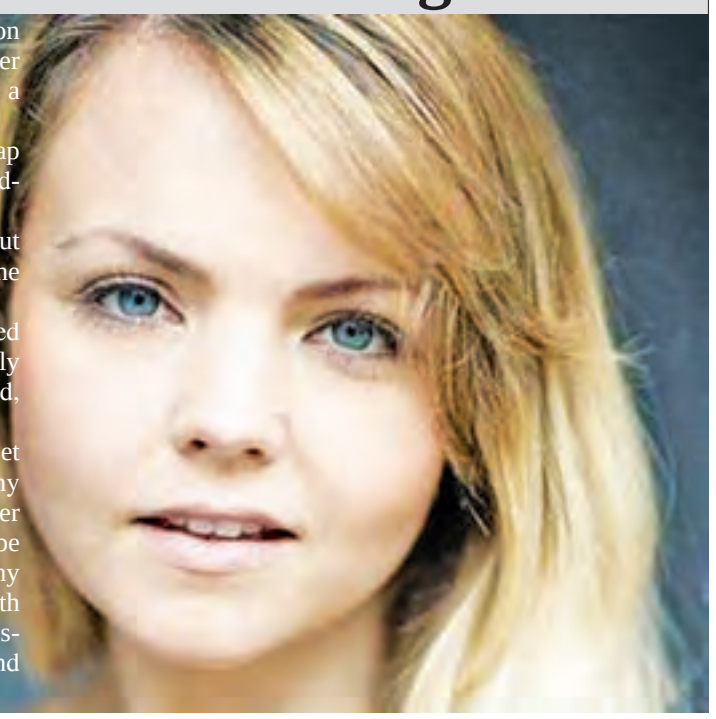
The singer’s sister-in-law, Pat Houston, has released a statement on the late singer’s website telling fans to “brace yourself for the worst”, reported Deadline. “We have dealt with her every emotion from the day she was born until the day she died, which gives us absolute position and absolute authority as a family to feel the way we do about her legacy,” she wrote.

“We matter. We’re still here. Why wasn’t there a call to myself, Gary, Cissy or even her daughter? Why deny selected members of the family an advanced copy of the film?

“As we once again enter a season of bereavement and the strategic timing so close to the anniversary of Whitney’s death, this is a disappointment that any of us who loved her could do without.” Yaya DaCosta has been cast the late icon in the film, which will tell the story of Houston’s rise to fame and her turbulent marriage to Bobby Brown.

Houston’s ‘Waiting to Exhale’ co-star Angela Bassett has directed the movie. Houston was found dead at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in February 2012, leading to an outpouring of grief from her fans around the globe.—*PTI*

‘Coronation Street’ fires Katie Redford after she lied about her age



London, 20 Jan — Producers of Coronation Street have dropped actress Katie Redford, after claims that she lied about her age to win a part as a 14-year-old.

ITV announced Redford was joining the soap last week, playing the role of Bethany Platt, granddaughter to Gail McIntyre.

A Press release described the actress as 19. But fans found evidence, including a CV, suggesting she was actually 25, reported BBC online.

A spokeswoman for the actress later confirmed she auditioned “as a 19-year-old”. Producers only became aware of the discrepancy at the weekend, after the discussion gained momentum online.

As a result, ITV announced, “Coronation Street have taken the decision to recast the part of Bethany Platt”. It is understood that producers have another actress in mind for the role, and there will not be a new audition process. The character of Bethany was last seen in 2007 when she moved to Italy with her mother, Sarah Louise. Bethany was previously played by three child actors – Mia Cookson and Amy and Emily Walton.—*PTI*

Rihanna, Drake pay tribute to ASAP Yams

Los Angeles, 20 Jan — Rihanna, Drake and Azealia Banks are among musicians to have paid tribute to rapper ASAP Yams, who passed away last week.

The ASAP Mob founder passed away at the age of 26 last week, and stars have taken to social media to honour the late musician, with Rihanna posting an illustration of ASAP on Instagram. Captioning the image, she wrote, “RiP Yamz! #longliveASAP (sic).” Drake also expressed his sadness about the death, with ‘Royals’ hitmaker, Lorde, being one of more than 27,000 people to retweet the message.

“Rest in peace Yams. ASAP is family,” he wrote. The cause of the rapper’s death has not yet been revealed but the news of his death has been confirmed by his record label after the news spread on social media over the weekend.

Other musicians to pay tribute to the young musician include Wiz Khalifa, Chance the Rapper, Mac Miller, 2 Chainz and Azealia Banks, who urged for his fans to remember him as a “leader”.—*PTI*

Big data tops humans at picking 'significant' films

NEW YORK, 20 Jan — In the escalating battle of big data vs. human experts, score another win for numbers.

The most accurate predictions of which movies the US Library of Congress will deem "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" are not the views of critics or fans but a simple algorithm applied to a database, according to a study published on Monday.

The crucial data, scientists reported in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, are what the Internet Movie Database (IMDb.com) calls "Connections" — films, television episodes and other works that allude to an earlier movie.

For 15,425 films in IMDB.com examined in the study, the measure that was most predictive of which made it into the Library of Congress's National Film Registry, which honours "significant" movies, was the number of references to it by other films released many years later.

The 1972 classic "The Godfather," for instance, is referred to by 1,323 films and television episodes, which as recently as 2014 quoted the "offer he can't refuse" line, referred to the famous horse-head scene, or played the theme music, for instance. "Godfather" made the registry in 1990.

The number of references to a film more than 25 years after its release was a nearly infallible predictor of whether it would make the registry, topping 91 percent accuracy, said applied mathematician and study author Max Wasserman of Northwestern University.

Critics' judgements, Oscar wins, and box-office numbers did not come close.

Films are nominated for the registry by the public and chosen by the Librarian of Congress in consultation with a board of experts including critics, academics, directors, screenwriters and other industry insiders.

By the 25-year-lag rule, the 1971 box-office disappointment "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" should be in the registry: IMDb lists 52 long-lag citations to it, the 37th most in the Northwestern analysis.

US director/actor Al Pacino arrives for the British premiere of his film "Salome and Wilde Salome'' at Southbank in central London on 21 Sept, 2014. REUTERS

In December, six months after the scientists submitted their paper, the Library added "Willy Wonka" to the list of 650 cinematic immortals, just as the research predicted.

"Experts have biases that can affect how they evaluate things," said physicist and co-author Luis AN Amaral of Northwestern. "Automated, objective methods don't suffer from that. It may hurt our pride, but they can perform as well as or better than experts."

Other movies identified by the Northwestern algorithm as likely to make the Registry include "Dumbo," "Spartacus" and "The Shining."

Of course, humans are not entirely superfluous: flesh-and-blood creators must decide to refer to an earlier gem in order to establish the crucial IMDb "connections."

Reuters

Tiger loses a tooth while celebrating Vonn victory

ROME, 20 Jan — Tiger Woods lost a front tooth after being hit in the face by a video camera while watching girlfriend Lindsey Vonn take a record 63rd World Cup Alpine ski win in Italy on Monday, according to his agent.

The former world number one surprised Vonn when he turned up in the resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo for the Super-G race but caused more of a stir when photographs showed a gap where his tooth had been.

"During a crush of photographers at the awards' podium at the World Cup event in Italy, a media member with a shoulder-mounted video camera pushed and surged towards the stage, turned and hit Tiger Woods in the mouth," the golfer's agent told USA Today.

US golfer Tiger Woods sits on a snow bike during the women's World Cup Super-G skiing race in Cortina D'Ampezzo on 19 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

"Woods's tooth was knocked out by the incident," added Mark Steinberg.

Woods, who was limited to nine tournaments last year due to back issues, said earlier this month that he will make his season debut at the 29 January- 1 February Waste Management Phoenix Open.—*Reuters*

Algeria fight back to beat South Africa 3-1

MONGOMO, (Equatorial Guinea), 20 Jan — South Africa missed a penalty and conceded an own goal as top-ranked Algeria came from behind to win 3-1 in their African Nations Cup Group C game on Monday.

After a nightmare in the previous Cup when they were the first team eliminated despite also being high up the rankings, Algeria fought back for a winning start to their campaign.

But it could have been a vastly different story after South Africa took a 51st minute lead through ThusoPhala and then won a penalty minutes later for a chance to go 2-0 up. They had already struck the crossbar in the first half through Dean Furman and looked to be in the driving seat after getting behind the Algerian defence just before the interval.

But TokeloRantie blasted the 58th minute kick against the crossbar.

South African defender ThulaniHlatshwayo then mistimed a header to concede an own goal in the 67th minute to allow Algeria back into the game.

His attempted clearance of YacineBrahimi's innocuous-looking chip shaved the top of his head and beat his goalkeeper Darren Keet.

Algeria were ahead four minutes later when full back FaouziGhoulam blasted home.

Islam Slimani made sure of the win with a third goal in the 82nd minute as the ball slipped under Keet's body in another error from the South Africans. "It was an intense game and it could have been catastrophic. But things turn quickly in football and we played well to come back and win," said Algeria coach Christian Gourcuff.

In the earlier Group C match at the Estadio de Mongomo, Senegal scored with the last kick of the match to beat Ghana 2-1 after trailing at half-time.

Reuters

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(21-1-15 07:00 am~ 22-1-15 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
* World News
* Today Myanmar "Visiting Neighbours Thailand"
* Local News
* The Caves
* World News
* Wholesale Fish
* Local News
* Up Against The Tide
* World News
* Tea Leaves
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
* World News
* In The Studio
* "Lann Sa" (Part-I)
* Local News
* Insight Myanmar "Trafficked Children Protection Cases"
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass "Caricature"
* Local News
* A visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
* World News
* Traditional Snack
* Local News
* Choral Dance (Duel)
* World News
* Porcelain and Glass
* Local News
* Food Trip (Ep-3)
* World News
* Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing

MRTV News Channel

(21-1-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am
- Physical Exercise

6:30 am
- Documentary

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

8:00 am
- News/ International News

9:35 am
- Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am
- News / International News

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

1:40 pm
- Gatamahar

2:35 pm
- Traditional Boxing

3:35 pm
- Documentary (EDUCATION TALK) (Part-1)

4:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Physics)

5:35 pm
- Documentary (EDUCATION TALK) (Part-2)

6:35 pm
- Science and Technology Programme

7:00 pm
- News

7:35 pm
- People's Talks

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News / Weather Report
- Hluttaw Image

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(21-1-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Travelogue Programme

6:25 am
- Wut Hmone Music Troupe

6:45 am
- TV Drama Series

7:15 am
- Fashion Show

8:15 am
- TV Drama Series

9:00 pm
- Music Programme

9:20
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:40 am
- Myanmar Japan Cultural Show

10:05 am
- Myanmar Movie

Champion Klitschko to meet unbeaten Jennings in New York

BERLIN, 20 Jan — World heavyweight champion Vladimir Klitschko is to defend his titles against unbeaten American challenger Bryant Jennings in New York on 25 April.

The 38-year-old Ukrainian, who holds the IBF, IBO, WBA and WBO crowns, will try to retain all four belts in Madison Square Garden in his first fight on American soil in seven years.

"I have a lot of respect for Bryant Jennings and his performances," Klitschko said in a statement on Tuesday.

"He moves very well and is very skilled. I know it will be a tough challenge but I am especially happy to be fighting in New York again."

Klitschko, who has 63 wins and three losses, last fought in November, knocking out challenger Kubrat Pulev.

Reuters

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Wednesday, 21 January, 2015

Honda on target again as Japan reach quarterfinals

Japan's Keisuke Honda (L) scores the opener in the first half of an Asian Cup match against Jordan on 20 Jan, 2015, in Melbourne, Australia.
KYODO NEWS

Japan's Keisuke Honda (4) expresses joy after scoring the opener in the first half of an Asian Cup match against Jordan on 20 Jan, 2015, in Melbourne, Australia.—Kyodo News

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan — AC Milan midfielder Keisuke Honda scored his third goal in as many games as holders Japan defeated Jordan 2-0 to reach the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup on Tuesday.

Honda, on target from the penalty spot in both of Japan's wins over Palestine and Iraq, struck midway through the first half and Shinji Kagawa added a late second to ensure Javier Aguirre's men finished top of Group D with a maximum nine points.

Japan will meet Group C runners-up United Arab Emirates in the last eight on Friday in Sydney. Iraq finished second in the group with six points after a 2-0 win against Palestine and will play Iran next in Canberra.

Makoto Hasebe made his 56th start as captain -- a national team record -- and coach Aguirre kept faith with the same team that started against Palestine and Iraq.

Japan controlled from the outset in front of over 25,000 fans at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium and Takashi Inui nearly caught Jordan goalkeeper Amer Shafi out with a deflected shot after two minutes.

The Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder then thought he had given Japan the lead when he rifled home a half-volley, but the goal was ruled out, with the ball appearing to have gone out of play before Kagawa was able to get his cross in.

Japan, however, made their pressure pay off and broke the deadlock on 24 minutes.

Shinji Okazaki let fly after Inui had flicked on Hasebe's pass, but Shafi could only parry the ball and Honda snapped up the rebound at the far post.

A super reaction save by Shafi from Masato Morishige's header prevented Japan from doubling their lead just before the half hour mark, and Okazaki missed a great chance to make it 2-0, drilling into the side netting after being put through by Kagawa.

Jordan substitute Monther Abu Amara tested Eiji Kawashima at his near post in the 55th minute and Japan had another goal disallowed, this time for a dubious offside called against Honda.

Japan produced some pretty approach play and Shafi had to be alert to keep out efforts from Honda and Dortmund midfielder Kagawa. But Kagawa finally scored since Aguirre took over as coach after last summer's World Cup, steering home a cross from substitute Yoshinori Muto before Honda hit the post in the last minute.

Kyodo News

Nishikori wins first match in straight sets at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan — Japan's Kei Nishikori saw off Spaniard Nicolas Almagro in straight sets in the first round in men's singles at the Australia Open on Tuesday.

No 5 seed Nishikori struggled with Almagro's powerful shots early on but eventually found his rhythm against the world No 69 player in a 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-2 victory.

It was world No 5 Nishikori's first big step in his bid to become the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam.

Kei Nishikori of Japan returns a shot during a first-round match against Nicolas Almagro of Spain at the Australian Open tennis championships at the Margaret Court Arena in Melbourne on 20 Jan, 2015. Nishikori won 6-4, 7-6, 6-2.—KYODO NEWS

"I am relieved," said Nishikori after taking a little over two hours to beat the former world No 9. "I am glad that I could beat a tough opponent in three sets."

Almagro, who has reached the quarterfinals in four Grand Slam tournaments, was the first to convert a break point in the first set before Nishikori rebounded with a string of solid returns.

"I felt a little pressure when I was broken first but my returns got better little by little. Now I want to get ready for (my next match)."

Nishikori, who reached the final of the US Open last year, also got revenge against Almagro for a loss at the 2013 Japan Open where he was denied a second straight title.

Kyodo News

Mirallas penalty miss extends dismal Everton run

LONDON, 20 Jan— Kevin Mirallas' first-half penalty miss proved costly and probably landed the Belgian in hot water with manager Roberto Martinez as Everton's dismal run continued with a 0-0 Premier League draw at home to West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

The winger stepped up ahead of regular spot-kick taker Leighton Baines but blasted his effort against the foot of the post just before halftime after former Everton defender Joleon Lescott had been penalised for handball.

Mirallas did not emerge for the second half with Bryan Oviedo coming on.

Baines, who briefly consulted Mirallas before allowing the Belgian to take the penalty, has missed only one of the 16 spot-kicks he has taken in a Premier League game — the first time coming in October against Manchester United.

Everton moved up one place to 12th but have now won one out of their last 13 matches in all competitions.

Not even a halftime video screen message from Hollywood great Sylvester Stallone, with the Goodison Park crowd filmed in a scene for the new Rocky film, could inspire Everton.

West Brom, who moved up to 14th and three points above the drop zone, are unbeaten in three league games since Tony Pulis took charge. —*Reuters*

Everton's Kevin Mirallas misses his penalty kick during their English Premier League soccer match against West Bromwich Albion at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 19 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

C Ronaldo can overtake Messi to win more Ballon d'Or, says Zidane

PARIS, 20 Jan — Zinedine Zidane insists that Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo has more to give in the future and will end up winning more Ballon d'Or titles than rival Barcelona star Lionel Messi. "Ronaldo will win more Ballons d'Or," he told Goal.com on Monday.

A week ago in Zurich, the 29-year-old Portuguese striker was crowned the world's best player of 2014 for the third time overall, leaving him just one behind his Argentine counterpart.

"What he's doing is from another planet. If this continues, he will improve even further and may end up winning more than Messi," said the iconic Zidane, 42, who's coaching Real reserves Castilla after retiring from soccer with Real.

The former France international had a lot to say about compatriot Karim Benzema, saying he's exceptional for Los Blancos.

"He is another very important player. Sometimes it is discussed whether to change to him to a No 9 for Madrid and it's wrong. All wrong," said Zidane. "He is not a player who will score 60 goals a year like Cristiano, but thanks to his quality, he links up with everyone and always makes the moves that the team needs," he added. "Very few in the world can do that."

Xinhua

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

Japan	2 – 0	Jordan
Iraq	2 – 0	Palestine

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

"R/489 Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily."