

President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of ROK Armed Forces

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan— President U Thein Sein Thursday received Admiral Choi Yoon-hee, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea, and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here to discuss promotion of military cooperation between the two countries.

They also discussed promotion of bilateral relations between peoples and governments of the two countries, endeavours of armed forces of each country in peace and security measures, Tatmadaw's role in democratization process in Myanmar and promotion of investment opportunities.

Also present at the call

were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Tin Naing Thein.

Admiral Choi Yoon-hee was accompanied by Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Baek-soon and officials.—MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Admiral Choi Yoon-hee, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea.

MNA



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2015 ASEAN travel trade event to feature tourism products and services at more than 400 booths

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 22 Jan — The 2015 ASEAN Tourism Forum TRAVEX — a two-day travel trade exhibition and business meetings platform on 28 and 29 January — is expected to see more than 400 travel booths showcasing tourism products and services of the 10 ASEAN countries, Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism said.

Up to 8 January, 415 sellers have been listed for the two-day trade ex-

hibition. Among them, host Myanmar will be participating in a big way with 143 exhibition booths while Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia will have 86, 52, and 52, respectively.

Confirmed exhibitors include hotel chains such as Oberoi, Bali, Santika Indonesia Hotels & Resorts, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, Vacation Singapore DMC Pte Ltd, Kempinski Hotels, Thavorn Hotels and Resorts, and Bayview International Hotels and Resorts.

Host Myanmar will have a pavilion area for booths of tour operators and hoteliers, airlines and related businesses in the country's tourism industry, including members of Myanmar Tourism Federation.

The event, part of the 2015 ASEAN Tourism Forum in Nay Pyi Taw from 22 to 29 January, will welcome more than 1,700 delegates from 50 countries comprising heads of National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) from ASEAN and dialogue

partners, suppliers from across ASEAN, international buyers, international and local media, as well as trade visitors.

All ATF 2015 registered participants will have access to an array of networking and leisure activities, beginning with a friendly game of golf at the Royal Myanmar Golf Club on 26 January and a 2-day/1 night post-show city tours of Yangon or Mandalay on 30 and 31 January. A complimentary (See page 3)

Beach resort to be built at Kabyawa Beach in Ye Township

YANGON, 22 Jan— A company is planning to invest \$12 million in implementing a beach resort project at Kabyawa Beach in Ye Township, Mon State.

Aurum Co Ltd is negotiating with Mon State Government to build a beach resort project with an initial investment of \$12 million along an 8-mile long beach in Ye Township and has a plan to expand the project.

The site chosen for the beach resort is 17 miles far

from Ye Town.

The project includes bungalows with 120 modern rooms, hotels, offices, restaurants, swimming pools, staff quarters and car parking.

Kabyawa Beach is considered the most beautiful beach in Ye Township, but it could not attract visitors as it was not easily accessible and because of security reasons.

The company carried out assessment of the project at the beach as from April, 2014, with the permission of Mon State Government and submitted the assessment report to the government in July.

It has invited local and foreign investment to build high-rise buildings and to develop ecotourism sites.

Meanwhile, it will encourage environmental conservation, marine research, Mon literature and culture, creating job opportunities for local people and establishing smokeless industries in the area.

YCDC Daily



A photo of an under-construction hotel in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw. The Hotels and Tourism Ministry says that there are 1,106 hotels in the country, 58 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw with over 4,884 rooms up to 31 December 2014. PHOTO: YE MYINT

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses messages of president on national education law

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed the messages of the president on the national education law and six-party talks on Thursday.

Secretary of Joint Bill Committee U Saw Hla Tun read out the findings of the committee on

the message.

The committee recommended amending the national education law, adding that the contents of the message on the law are comprehensive and contribute to stability and peaceful learning environment and the Ministry of Education should come up

with the amendment bill as soon as possible.

Then, the secretary read out the response of the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the president's message on six-party talks. The response to the message urges the president to hold the first found of six-party

talks in order to develop the framework and future tasks of the talks as soon as possible.

Afterwards, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session discussed the bill amending the law on salaries and emoluments of Hluttaw representatives sent back

with remarks by the president and approved the bill as recommended by the joint bill committee.

Later, a member of the committee read out the bill for holding a national referendum for amending the 2008 state constitution and invited representatives to take part in the discussion at next sessions.

MNA

Correction

Please read "ODA's interest rate of 0.01 percent with a 10-year grace period and 40-year term of settlement" in third paragraph of second column in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw news on page 2 of this daily issued on 21-1-2015.

GNLM

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw raises questions on retirees, industrial waste water, upgrading of stadium



Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session raised questions on retirees who worked beyond their retirement age, environmental and social impacts from factory sewage of an industrial zone in Mawlamyine and upgrading a stadium in Myaung on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung answered the questions on retirees, saying that government employees are required to retire when they are sixty under section 230



Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung. MNA

of rules for government employees, and it is true that the Ministry of Education asked retirees who worked beyond their retirement age to repay the salaries and benefits they enjoyed beyond their retirement age.

The deputy minister added that some staff of the education ministry, however, were found to have dishonestly changed their dates of birth so that they could work beyond their retirement age and as a result, the ministry took nec-

essary measures to recover the salaries and benefits in accordance with the law.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Daw Thet Thet Zin responded to the question on sewage from factories in Mawlamyine, saying that only nine out of 117 factories under operation use water and the waste water from the factories is treated before it is drained out into nearby paddy field. The waste water is not drained out into the Attaran River, which is about 1,800 feet away from the industrial zone, according to the deputy minister. As paddy in the field is growing well, there is no impact of waste water on the environment, she added.

For the upgrading of the stadium in Myaung, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik said that the government allotted K 100 million in 2014-15 fiscal year and upgrading tasks are being carried out at the moment.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Recompense for farmlands affected by highway construction underway

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Construction, at the Amyotha Hluttaw session here on Thursday responded to a question of paying compensation to people affected by the construction of the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

The ministry in the 2013-2014 fiscal year paid nearly K1.486 billion to 976 farmers in recompense for the loss of 2,402.75 acres of their farmland, with the deputy minister saying that arrangements are underway to compensate over K1.182 billion to 797 farmers in four townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for the loss of 1,864.04 acres of their farmland in the 2014-2014 FY. He added that over K124m has been earmarked for spending on affected farmland in Bago Region, whose area is still being measured. The compensation could be made, following an approval by the local government, he said, adding that funds of K10 billion have been appealed to recompense affected farmers in the regions of Yangon, Bago and Mandalay as well as the Nay Pyi Taw council area in



Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan.—MNA

the 2015-2016 FY.

U Than Swe, Deputy Minister for Culture, dealt with a question of whether donations are allowed for the effort to maintain the World's Biggest Book, a stone inscription which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The deputy minister explained cooperation between Myanmar and Australian researchers and archaeologists in preserving the pages of stone inscriptions, collecting data and upload digitalized photos of stone inscriptions online. Reckless acts of some people have caused damage to some stone pag-



Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe. MNA

es, with the deputy minister saying that the damage is due to chemical reactions of correction ink, whitewash and metallic ink. Such acts have now been prohibited and donors are welcome to contribute to re-inking the inscriptions, according to the deputy minister.

The Amyotha Hluttaw approved a bill that revokes "the Agricultural Produce Markets Act" submitted by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and agreed to discuss a proposal that calls for the government to open a sport institute in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

MNA



Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung visits booths of medical companies at 23rd Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists Conference.—MNA

Union Health Minister attends opening of 23rd ENT Specialists Conference

YANGON, 22 Jan — The 23rd Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists Conference kicked off at Inya Lake Hotel, here, on Thursday, with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung.

The union minister visited the photo gallery to mark the Golden Jubilee anniversary of Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital and booths of

medical companies.

Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association Professor Dr Ye Mya and Chairman of the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists Society Professor Dr Maung Maung Khaing extended greetings.

Specialists from China, Australia, Japan, Spain and some ASEAN countries will give lectures and hold talks at the conference. They will

submit 20 research papers to the conference.

At a workshop at Yangon General Hospital on 20 and 21 January, Philippine specialist and party demonstrated academic tasks in medical education. Moreover, local and foreign specialists shared experiences of surgical operations.

The conference will be held on 22 and 23 January.

MNA

NATIONAL

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visit Red Fort, Raj Ghat, Akshardham Temple, Vipassana Pagoda in India

MUMBAI, 22 Jan—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, wife and party attended a dinner hosted by Vice President, Mohammed Hamid Ansari and wife of India at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, on 21 January evening.

On Thursday morning, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited the Red Fort,

the Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi and Akshardham Temple.

The vice president and party left New Delhi by special flight and arrived at Mumbai International Airport in the afternoon.

The vice president and party paid homage to Shwedagon designed Vipassana Pagoda

in Bawdiwali quarter in Mumbai where the chairman of the pagoda's board of trustees and officials explained facts about the pagoda.

The 325 feet high Vipassana Pagoda is the largest temple across the world, one foot lower than Shwedagon Pagoda in Myanmar.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon with Indian Vice President Mohammed Hamid Ansari and wife at the dinner.
MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun urges officials to return released land to farmers according to law

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Vice President U Nyan Tun inspected Saunders Weaving and Occupational Institute of the Small-scale Industries Department of the Ministry of Cooperatives in Amarapura, Mandalay Region, on Thursday.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan and officials explained the vice president on salient points of the institute at the meeting hall.

The vice president urged the official to transform the institute into the

most prestigious weaving centre in Myanmar, a school where high technology for hand weaving can be studied in Southeast Asia and a tourist attraction, saying that it is necessary to penetrate the market with innovative clothes from the institute, which was built in 1914 by Mr L H Saunders, who served as secretary for justice under King Mindon.

Then, the vice president and party view round the textile exhibition of the institute.

Later, the vice presi-

dent attended the Regional Land Utilization Committee Meeting at the meeting hall of Mandalay Region Government. Present at the meeting were union ministers, the region chief minister, deputy ministers, region ministers and officials.

At the meeting, the region chief minister and officials explained the settlement of land disputes stated in seven parts of the report of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commission, releasing confiscated land to farmers, totals of fallow and virgin

land and the number of landless farmers and rural electricity supply for poverty reduction.

Then, union ministers and deputy ministers reported to the vice president on handover of confiscated land to former owners by each ministry.

At the meeting, the vice president said that it is necessary to return land to former owners in accordance with the law, pointing out that one of the biggest

challenges for Myanmar is landlessness of farmers and the issue aggravated due to complex rules and regulations of the old systems, difficulty to examine ownership evidence and outdated laws, rules and regulations.

Taking advantage of the situation, projects were implemented without transparency and consideration for locals, the vice president added. The vice president also urged the officials to return released land to former owners without corruption in a transparent manner based on goodwill in accordance with the law and to make further investigation into land confiscation and to return land that should be released to former owners as soon as possible, he said. Emphasis should be placed on coordination to effectively solve land disputes in accordance with the law as soon as possible, he said.

Out of 576 cases of land confiscation in Mandalay Region stated in the seven-part of the report of

the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commission, 546 cases have been examined and 30 cases are under investigation. A total of 16,906.999 acres including 13,629.716 acres of land for the 546 cases and 3,277.283 acres of land of the Ministry of Defence which is not stated in the report were released. A total of 10,042.304 acres have been returned to 2,760 farmers and 6298.709 acres have been handed over to departments concerned. Arrangements are also underway to return land to farmers for the 30 cases under investigation.

After the meeting, the vice president and party visited ShweUmin Monastery in TadaU Township and paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumangala. The vice president also heard reports of the officials on rural development tasks at the monastery, before inspecting preparations for fishery exhibition in Amarapura and Thirimingala Sport Grounds in Mandalay.

MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun visits Hsaungda Weaving School in Amarapura Township.—MNA

China-Myanmar Electric Power Cooperation Commission meets

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—China-Myanmar Electric Power Cooperation Commission held its first meeting at the Ministry of Electric Power on Thursday.

In his welcome remarks, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe emphasized the importance of implementing more hydro-

power projects for long-term benefits of the country and stressed the need of greater transparency in conducting both environmental impact assessment (EIA) and social impact assessment (SIA) studies and public consultation over the projects. He affirmed that sufficiency of electricity for domestic con-

sumption will be prioritized while investing in electric power production and the country's power grids. Vice-Administrator Mr. Liu Qi of the National Energy Administration of China also spoke at the meeting, followed by presentations of officials from both sides.

The China-Myanmar Electric Power Cooperation Commission was formed with a view to enhancing deeper cooperation in electricity sector of the two countries and addressing challenges with appropriate ways to develop power projects under implementation with minimal impacts.

MNA

2015 ASEAN travel trade...

(from page 1)

half-day pre-show city tour of Nay Pyi Taw for hosted buyers and media delegates includes a visit to Uppatasanti Pagoda (Peace Pagoda) where the royal white elephants are housed and a shopping trip to Myoma Market and a dining at a local restaurant.

ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) is a cooperative regional effort to promote the region of 10-nation bloc as one tourist destination where Asian hospitality

and cultural diversity are at its best. Regional tourism statistics revealed that 99.2 million of 1,087 million international tourists travelling the world in 2013 visited ASEAN.

The 2015 ATF kicked off today and it will last eight days until next Thursday. This is the first time the forum takes place in Myanmar since its inauguration in 1981. Myanmar expects to welcomes more globetrotters through the two-day leisure-trade event.—GNLM

Region Minister meets Civil Society Organizations



MYANAUNG, 22 Jan — A meeting between the Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs and civil society organizations in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, was

held at the Township Fire Station on 20 January.

Chairman of Township Fire Prevention Work Committee U Aye Thaung explained cooperation of the committee with Town-

ship Fire Services Department, and cooperation between CSOs and Township FSD in operating fire engines and fire trucks in full swing.

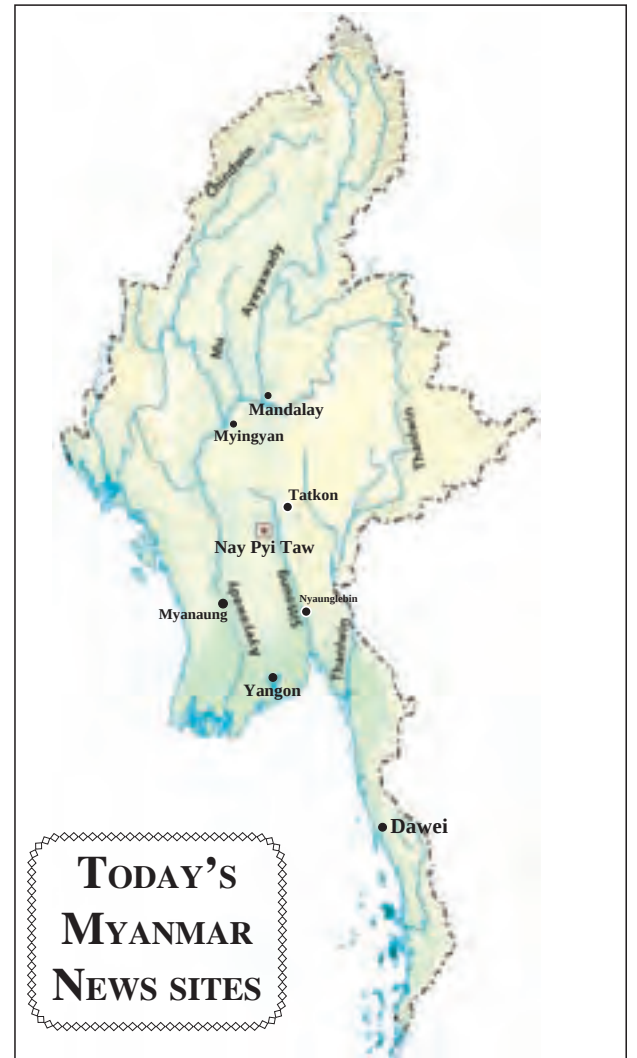
Ayeyawady Region

Hluttaw representative U Aung Win Swe discussed participation of social organizations in taking fire preventive measures.

The region minister gave words of encouragement to the social organizations.

The meeting was attended by Region Hluttaw representatives, township development supporting committee members, officials of Township Development Affairs Committee, Township Fire Prevention Committee, Myitta Shin blood donor association, Kyel Ngar Collector children's fund, funeral service association, regional fire brigade, Parami social associations and fire brigade members.

Nay Win Zaw
(Myanaung)



Cooperative officials lecture book-keeping to trainees

DAWEI, 22 Jan — The book-keeping course for cooperative societies kicked off at the hall of Dawei Township Cooperative Department, Taninthayi Region, on

21 January.

These cooperative societies carry out micro-finance tasks in the township. Deputy Director U Kyaw Moe Tint of Taninthayi Region Cooperative

Department spoke on the occasion. Township Staff Officer Daw Aye Aye Myint explained purpose of conducting the book-keeping course and arrangements for the training.

Altogether 25 trainees from cooperative societies are attending the course up to 25 January. The instructors gave lectures on eight topics of accounting to the trainees.

Po Shwe Thun
(Dawei)

Villagers in Tatkon Tsp to get bridge, station hospital

TATKON, 22 Jan — Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe together with Township Administrator U Kan Saw Hlaing and township level officials met local people in Thyabyechaung, Shwemyo and Kanhla village-tracts in Tatkon Township on 19 January.

They discussed rural development tasks.

The council member

inspected progress of a station hospital (16-bed) in Shwemyo village-tract built by Diamond City Company with the fund of Township Administrative Office and Ministry of Health for 2014-15 fiscal year.

He also viewed construction of Sein and Shwe reinforced concrete bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek being built by Special Con-

struction Bridge No 3 of Public Works. The bridge will be 360 feet long and 12 feet wide bridge.

Upon completion of the station hospital and the bridge, local people from Thabyechaung, Shwemyo, Bawga, Thayettaw, Buta and other villages will enjoy fruits of smooth transport and better health care services.—Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Madalarians interested in Dagon City 1 Mandalay Roadshow



MANDALAY, 22 Jan — Dagon City 1 Mandalay Roadshow for sales of housings and apartments was held at Hotel Amara-pura in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, from 18 to 21 January.

Members of Myanmar Real Estates Association and enthusiasts visited the

show. Dagon City Housing Project is being implemented on U Htaung Bo Road, opposite site of Yangon Zoological Gardens, near Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon Township.

It is a modern housing estate being built by Marga Landmark.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe views progress of reinforced concrete bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek in Shwemyo, Tatkon Township.



LOCAL NEWS

Mon State authorities take security measures for locals



THATON, 22 Jan — Mon State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htay Myint Aung on 21 January held a meeting with Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing, departmental officials, members of Township Development Supporting Committee, local militia troops and local authorities at Thuwunna Hall in Thaton, Mon State.

The minister explained arrangements being made for ensuring rule of law and security measures in Mon State, cooperation of local authorities with people and undertakings of development tasks.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Star turtles released into Minsontaung sanctuary

MYINGYAN, 22 Jan — A ceremony to release 300 star turtles into Shauktawyo farm in Natogyi Township was held at the Shauktawyo star turtle farm in the township, Mandalay Region, on 21 January.

Lawkananda farm breeds 300 star turtles in

Bagan NyaungU Township. The turtles are being bred at three farms of a five-acre land plot. The Lawkananda farm has released star turtles into the sanctuary three times.

The turtles were installed with modern devices before releasing them into Shauktawyo farm of Minsontaung wildlife.

The ceremony was attended by township level officials and local authorities.

Htay Myint Maung

Star turtles being nurtured at Shauktawyo wildlife farm in Natogyi Township.

U.S. higher education programmes introduced at 1st education show in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 22 Jan — The first education show took place Wednesday here, aiming at introducing American's higher education programmes to Myanmar students, according to the U.S. Embassy's

cultural diplomat.

At the show, a wide range of course information on academics and entrance to over 20 universities in the United States was presented to the audiences from upper Myanmar, with

the explanation of agents from the U.S. universities how to pursue a career education and meet the scholarship qualifications.

The cultural diplomat said students who want to attend the U.S. institutes may contact the embassy but they need to have good command in English language to enjoy the education opportunities in the U.S.

Hein Htwe Maung, a second year student from Chindwin College, said he got necessary information on overseas studies through the exhibition.

Aung Ye Thwin

Immigration staff share knowledge about issuance of CSC to villagers

DAWEI, 22 Jan — Staff Officer of Launglon Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung and staff joined

hands with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in giving talks on issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration to local peo-

ple in Khamaungtaung, Taungminpyaung, Myohaung and Sakhangyi village-tracts in Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region, on 18 January.

The staff officer said that the department has implement Moe Pwint plans from July 2011 to December 2014. Moe Pwint Special Plan is being implemented from January to June 2015 for issuance of the cards to the eligible people, he said.

It was attended by local people from four villages, local authorities and staff of Education Department and Health Department.

Po Shwe Thun



Mandalarians join invitational volleyball tourney

MANDALAY, 22 Jan — The 2015 Mandalay invitational men's and women's volleyball tournament kicked off at the volleyball ground of the provost unit in the Royal City of Mandalay on 21 January.

Chairman of the region volleyball subcom-

mittee commander of No 161 provost unit Major Win Zaw Naing made a speech and launched the tournament.

Provost men's team played against Mandalay City Development Committee men's team in the debut.

Township teams, Central Command team, Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay), MCDC and former selected player team are taking part in the tournament till 23 January.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Yingluck delivers closing statement for impeachment

BANGKOK, 22 Jan — Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Thursday gave her closing statement for an impeachment trial over a rice-pledging scheme, calling for a fair verdict.

The impeachment against her is illegal as it has no constitutional basis and violates her fundamental rights, Yingluck told the National Legislative Assembly (NLA), which is set to vote on Friday.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) filed the case with the NLA, accusing Yingluck of dereliction of duty in overseeing a controversial rice-pledging scheme and thus incurring great losses. The rice scheme had been far more beneficial

than detrimental, helping low-income earners and liberating the rice market rather than distorting the market mechanism as alleged, Yingluck said.

She added that the NACC had never given her enough time to fight the charges, while listening to biased witnesses and dismissing witnesses she had offered. The former premier asked NLA members to be fair in the upcoming vote.

In his closing statement, NACC member Wicha Mahakhun urged the NLA to find Yingluck guilty.

The negative impact of the rice scheme will linger on for years to come, Wicha said, adding that the impeachment would teach

politicians in power about being responsible for the Thai people.

About 500 police and 300 military personnel were reportedly deployed around the parliament to maintain order.

If Yingluck is impeached, which will require three-fifths of NLA members' support, or 132 votes, she will be banned from politics for five years and thus be unable to contest the next general election expected in 2016.

On Wednesday, the impeachment trial against former Senate Speaker Nikhom Wairatpanich and former House Speaker Somsak Kiatsuranon was wrapped up, with the final verdict also expected on Friday. The case against



Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (C) arrives at the parliament building in Bangkok on 22 Jan, 2015. Thailand's military-appointed legislature is to vote on impeachment against Yingluck over a government rice subsidy scheme on Friday. —XINHUA

the two politicians was also filed by the NACC for their role in passing a charter amendment to change the composition of the Senate in September 2013. The amendment was later ruled unconstitutional by the

Constitutional Court.

In his closing statement, Nikhom defended himself against accusations of power abuse and malfeasance, insisting that he had no interests in the charter change. Somsak, however,

waived his right to give a closing statement either in a verbal or written form.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha earlier denied giving any indication to the NLA about the impeachment ruling.—Xinhua

Australian authorities call for tenders for potential MH370 recovery



A combination photo shows drawings with messages of hope for passengers of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) outside Kuala Lumpur on 14 June, 2014. — REUTERS

SYDNEY, 22 Jan — The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) on Thursday called for expressions of interest in the recovery of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 from the bottom of the Indian Ocean — should the aircraft be found.

Months of searches have failed to turn up any trace of the Boeing 777 aircraft, which disappeared on 8 March, carrying 239 passengers and crew shortly after taking off from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing.

The ATSB said preliminary tenders would allow it to assess which organizations are able to supply the equipment and expertise required. Any

recovery of the aircraft is likely to cost millions of dollars and be technically difficult given the remoteness and depths of the Indian Ocean.

The current phase of the search is focusing on a previously unmapped 60,000-sq-km (23,000-sq-mile) patch of sea floor some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) west of the Australian city of Perth.

Expressions of interest are due by 18 February. The ATSB will use those to draw up a shortlist. A final decision on any recovery operation will be made jointly by the Australian, Malaysian and Chinese governments.

Depths in the search area range from around

600 metres to 6,000 metres, which is at the limit of technological capabilities for both search and recovery operations.

France's Alcatel Lucent SA operates the "Ile de Sein" salvage ship, which can drop cables to a depth of 6,000 metres and lift up to 10 tonnes at a time. US naval contractor Phoenix International is the manufacturer of the Remora 6000 robot, which lifted the wreckage of an Air France airliner from a depth of 3,900 metres in the Atlantic Ocean.

Dutch engineering firm Fugro is carrying out the current search, using four vessels and sophisticated underwater drones.

Reuters

Indonesia rejects clemency for two of Australian 'Bali Nine' drug offenders

DENPASAR, (Indonesia), 22 Jan — Indonesia on Thursday rejected pleas for clemency for two Australians convicted of drug offences and is expected to go ahead with their executions, a move bound to strain already fragile ties between the two countries.

Australia had sought clemency for two members of the so-called Bali Nine, who were arrested in 2005 at Bali airport for attempting to smuggle 8 kg (18 lb) of heroin into Australia.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who took office in October, has pledged no clemency for drug offenders, drawing criticism from rights activists at home and abroad.

Indonesia executed six

convicted drug traffickers, including five foreigners, by firing squad last week.

"It's very upsetting to hear the rejection from the president, especially because there was no explanation, no reason given," Todung Mulya Lubis, a lawyer for one of the defendants, told Reuters. "This is hurting the country's image."

Brazil and the Netherlands recalled their ambassadors from Jakarta and Nigeria summoned the Indonesian ambassador in Abuja to protest last week's execution of their citizens.

Indonesia has a record of imposing severe penalties for drug trafficking, resuming executions in 2013

after a five-year gap.

It was not immediately clear when the executions would take place.

Relations between Indonesia and Australia hit a low in late 2013 after reports that Australia had spied on top Indonesian officials, including then-president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife.

Indonesia froze military and intelligence cooperation with Australia and restored relations in May 2014.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said this week that she would not rule out recalling the Australian ambassador should the executions be carried out.—Reuters

Singapore smoker fined \$15,000 for throwing butts out of window

SINGAPORE, 22 Jan — Singapore has fined a smoker S\$19,800 (\$15,000) for throwing cigarette butts out of his flat window, the National Environment Agency said, the highest ever such fine. The man was fined S\$600 per cigarette for the first 33 offences, and ordered to do community service for the 34th, all committed within

four days, the agency said.

The 38-year-old smoker, who was caught on surveillance camera, will have to clean a public area for five hours wearing a bright vest bearing the words "Corrective Work Order".

Singapore, famous for its cleanliness, cracks down hard on even minor crimes like littering and vandalism, which is punishable by

caning, and bans the import of chewing gum, in part to keep its public areas spotless. The agency said on its website it deployed surveillance cameras at nearly 600 locations and took 206 enforcement actions against offenders for high-rise littering in 2014.

It did not say which floor the smoker lived on.

Reuters

Historic US-Cuba talks shift to restoring diplomatic ties

HAVANA, 22 Jan— The United States and Cuba launch talks on Thursday on restoring diplomatic relations after a contentious session on immigration accentuated the difficulties in overcoming half a century of hostilities.

The highest-level US delegation in 35 years will conclude two-day talks in Havana on Thursday, with both sides cautioning an immediate breakthrough was unlikely.

Senior US officials say they hope Cuba will agree to reopen embassies and appoint ambassadors in each other's capitals in coming months.

The United States also wants travel curbs on its diplomats lifted and unimpeded shipments to its mission in Havana.

During talks on Wednesday, the Americans vowed to continue granting safe haven to Cubans with

special protections denied to other nationalities.

Cuba complained the US law promotes dangerous illegal immigration and protested against a separate US programme that encourages Cuban doctors to defect, calling it a "reprehensible brain drain practice."

As her deputy sparred with the Cuban officials over immigration policy, the lead US negotiator in the diplomatic talks, Roberta Jacobson, arrived in Havana aboard a commercial charter from Miami.

She became the first US assistant secretary of state to travel to the communist-led island in 38 years and the highest-ranking visitor in 35 years.

Her Cuban counterpart will be Josefina Vidal, director of the foreign ministry's US affairs, who also participated in the immigration talks.

The meetings are the



Director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's North American affairs office Josefina Vidal (2nd R) takes part in negotiations to restore diplomatic ties with the US in Havana on 21 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

first since US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced on 17 December they would work to restore diplomatic ties snapped by

Washington in 1961.

Despite resistance from some in Congress, Obama has set the United States on a path toward removing economic sanctions

and a 53-year-old trade embargo against Cuba.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Wednesday he looked forward to formally opening a

US Embassy in Cuba.

Kerry also said he was prepared, when the time was right, to meet his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez, with whom he has only talked by telephone.

"And when it is timely, when it is appropriate, I look forward to travelling to Cuba in order to formally open an embassy and begin to move forward," Kerry told reporters in Washington.

In his annual State of the Union speech on Tuesday, Obama urged Congress to start work on ending the embargo but critics say Obama first needs to win concessions on Cuban political prisoners and democratic rights, the claims of US citizens whose property was nationalized after Cuba's 1959 revolution, and US fugitives who have received asylum in Cuba.

Reuters

Kalashnikov group approves of intention to produce AK-47 rifles in US



Kalashnikov machine guns

Moscow, 22 Jan — The Kalashnikov Concern isn't against the intentions of the US-based Russian Weapon Company to begin manufacturing of the world-famous Kalashnikov automatic assault rifles in the US. The corporation sees such a move as a logical one, TASS was told by the press service of the group.

A story on the RWC's plans was revealed earlier by the CNN saying the gun company found a way around the anti-Russian sanctions that have banned the imports of the Kalash-

nikov assault rifles.

The story said the guns manufactured in America would have the same name as the original: AK-47.

According to the CNN version, the RWC, which is the official importer and distributor of the Kalashnikov assault rifles in the US, had to stop importing them after the US imposed sanctions against Russia last July.

"RWC, based in Tul-lytown, Pennsylvania, has the rights to the AK-47 Kalashnikov brand of guns," the report said.

In the meantime, fam-

ily members of weapons designed Mikhail Kalashnikov, who died in December 2013, told TASS in the city of Izhevsk, western Urals, that they were astonished by the RWC's plans to launch the manufacturing of AK-47s under the 'Made in the USA' brand.

"I don't know if it's bad or good, or just a total shame," Mikhail Kalashnikov's daughter Tatiana, the president of a foundation in her father's name said. "I don't really know how to describe this. Most obviously, it's quite astonishing."

She said she did not know on what grounds anyone in the US can start the manufacturing of the legendary assault rifles.

"These are very complicated things," Tatiana Kalashnikova said. "What's the corporation doing at present? We don't know what relations it has had and who the partners were and who promised what whom to and who made arrangements."

"We (the relatives) don't know anything at all about it," she said.

Still Kalashnikova believes that the brand of the assault rifle created by her celebrated father should belong to the Russian Defence Ministry, since the creation of the guns was sponsored by that ministry.

Kalashnikov corporation is Russia's largest producer of combat automatic guns and sniping equipment, as well as guided artillery projectiles and a broad spectrum of civilian products from hunting guns to sports rifles to industrial processing units to bench-work tools. Its produce is exported to the US, Britain, Germany, Norway, Canada, Kazakhstan, Thailand and another twenty countries.

Itar-Tass

Shell explosion incident occurs in S Korean Navy battleship

SEOUL, 22 Jan — A shell explosion incident happened in a South Korean Navy battleship, leaving one soldier injured, local media reported on Thursday.

The patrol killer guided missile boat (PKG) of the Second Fleet was sailing on Wednesday afternoon to conduct a live fire exercise in the country's western waters.

While chambering a bombshell into the 76-mm naval gun, it failed to operate for unidentified reasons.

After canceling the

exercise, the patrol boat returned to the Pyeongtaek port where the Second Fleet Command is located.

While returning to the port, the naval gun was fired and exploded by itself at about 6:20 pm on Wednesday for unidentified reasons. A 21-year-old seaman suffered a serious injury on his head from the incident. He was taken to a hospital to have a surgery but he was in a serious condition. The exact cause of the incident is still under investigation.—Xinhua

Police reopen Sydney Harbor after bomb scare

SYDNEY, 22 Jan — Police on Thursday have reopened a popular tourist area in Sydney Harbor which was shut down earlier after a suspicious object, appearing to be a bomb, was found on a ferry. Hundreds of police and members of the Australian Navy were sent to Circular Quay after a bottle with wires hanging out was found on the ferry at 1:30 pm.

However, the Circu-

lar Quay area, which is a transport hub for ferries, buses and trains, has been reopened after the item found on the Sydney ferry was deemed not suspicious, police said. A police source said the suspicious package was a bottle with liquid and nails inside with wires hanging out.

Passengers have been warned to allow extra travel time and motorists are asked to avoid the area.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 January, 2015

What true leaders are for

By Myint Win Thein

Not all animals have leaders, although some animal groups are led by the strongest. There are some animals who lead solitary lives by solving their own problems by themselves. However, man does choose his leaders geographically, socially, politically, religiously and so on. For example, man chooses household group heads, village heads, mayors, commissioners, national leaders, regional leaders, global leaders, moral leaders, religious leaders, just to name a few of them.

Man chooses leaders because his world is full of conflicts of every kind, including political conflicts, racial conflicts, religious conflicts, territorial conflicts, business conflicts and so on. As these conflicts are beyond one's control, man has to live in societies and chooses leaders to deal with the conflicts. Therefore, man always looks for someone who can deal with the conflicts man faces. As man looks for leaders, there are many people who want to be leaders. However, not every one of them becomes a real leader. This is because they don't have the ability to stop the conflicts. Some of them create more virulent conflicts and become notorious villains in history such as the Nazi leader Adolph Hitler.

Conflicts are always based on interests. When one group takes more than it should, a conflict begins because there are many other groups that suffer. Some conflicts are open while others are dormant. It doesn't mean that dormant ones are

not as serious as open ones. Some dormant conflicts can be more virulent than open ones. Almost all conflicts can be stopped by doing what one is supposed to do, by taking what one should, demanding what one deserves, giving others what they ought to own and not allowing anyone to take more than they should. Real leaders never create or fuel conflicts. They put an end to conflicts that troublemakers have started.

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.

National University of Singapore: A University stands and shines top in Asia

By Sayar Mya

A charming air hostess with sweet and smiling face asked me what I would like to have as breakfast, chicken curry with rice or prawn fried rice. I was on the comfortable seat of Myanmar Airways International Aircraft 8M 231 flying from Yangon to Singapore on Monday 12 January 2015. The weather was fine on a day of soft cool winter.

The airline was founded by the government before independence in 1946 as Union of Burma Airways (UBA). It initially operated domestic services only. International services were added in 1950. The name was changed to Burma Airways in December 1972, and then to Myanma Airways on 1 April 1989, following the renaming of the country from Burma to Myanmar. International services were transferred to Myanmar Airways International, which was set up in 1993.

I have noticed that MAI is changing fast and also rising rapidly in her overall services offered to the passengers.

I and my better-half landed at Singapore Changi Airport at 10:30 am local time. The weather was partly cloudy.

Changi Airport has three passenger terminals with a total annual handling capacity of 66 million passengers. Terminal 1 opened in 1981, followed by Terminal 2 in 1990 and

Terminal 3 in 2008. The Budget Terminal was opened on 26 March 2006 and closed on 25 September 2012. It will make way for Terminal 4 which will be ready by 2017. Changi Airport Terminal 5 is set to be ready in mid-2020s which will be able to handle 50 million passenger movements per annum.

Our purpose of visiting Singapore is to have fun with our grand kids coming from Campbelltown of New South Wales in Australia during their school holidays. Travelling a long way to Australia is quite expensive for pensioners like us, and that we arranged to meet them in Singapore. We stayed at the condominium of our daughter who is working in Singapore.

On the following day of our arrival, I had visited the expo fair ground and written an article entitled [Significant features of "Singapore Expo" and "John Little Mega Expo Sale" in Singapore: January 2015]. The article was already printed on The Global New Light of Myanmar English daily newspapers.

Over the past few months back in my beloved country Myanmar, the talk of the major cities and towns is "Educational Reform" and many people from all walks of life are uttering the buzz word with the great expectation for the creation of "Good Education System".

During the quiet dinner at home one evening,

my daughter told me and my better-half briefly about Singapore politics, economics, social, environment, institutions and annual events which included that of the NUS which is ranked as the top university in Asia.

Coincidentally, I have had the opportunity in visiting the prestigious National University of Singapore in January 2015. My purpose was merely to see the NUS in person. Luckily, I met a friend at the cafeteria who is working at the university. I was casually explained an overall picture of the institution, but my curiosity went deep. The NUS is an object that arouses interest, as by being novel or extraordinary. I asked the web portal of the NUS and jotted down in my small note book. I have already decided to write an article for the Global New Light of Myanmar English dailies in my country.

The moment I arrived back home of my daughter, I browsed the Google search machine and NUS website immediately.

It was established in 1980 as a national university, public and autonomous type of institution. Its endowment was US\$1.79 billion. The statistics of 1980 showed that it had 2,196 academic staff and 27,216 undergraduates.

The National University of Singapore is a comprehensive research university and the flagship tertiary institution of the country which has a global approach to education and re-



NUS University Culture (Photo from Wikipedia)

search. Founded in 1905, it is the oldest higher learning institute in Singapore, as well as the largest university in the country in terms of student enrolment and curriculum offered. It was ranked as the best university in Asia by QS University Rankings in 2014.

QS World University Rankings are annual university rankings published by British Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The publisher originally released its rankings in publication with Times Higher Education (THE) from 2004 to 2009 as the THE-QS World University Rankings. However, such collaboration was terminated in 2010, with the resumption of publishing by QS using the pre-existing methodology. It was only in the aftermath of new cooperation between Times Higher Edu-

cation and Thomson Reuters releasing Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Today, the QS rankings comprise both world and regional league tables which are independent of and different from each other owing to differences in the criteria and weightings used to generate them. The publication is one of the three most influential and widely observed international university rankings, alongside the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The university's main campus is located in southwest Singapore at Kent Ridge, with an area of approximately (0.71 sq mi).

The Bukit Timah campus houses the Faculty of Law, Lee Kuan Yew

School of Public Policy and research institutes.

The Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore is located at the Outram campus.

There are (16) faculties and schools namely: 1 Arts and Social Sciences; 2 Business School; 3 Computing; 4 Dentistry; 5 Design and Environment; 6 Engineering; 7 Law; 8 Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine; 9 Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore; 10 Science; 11 Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; 12 Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum; 13 NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering; 14 Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music; 15 Research institutes and centers; 16 Major research facilities.

(To be continued)

Myanmar, Republic of Korea pledge to further promote bilateral ties

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Exchange of visits between the two army chiefs of the two countries will bring bilateral friendship to a new level, the commander-in-chief of defence services of Myanmar told the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Republic of Korea here on Tuesday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the two countries share a similar history in their struggle for reconciliation, adding that South Korea is making efforts for the reunification of South and North Korea while Myanmar is striving to strengthen unity among eight major ethnic groups.

Lack of modern armed forces had caused Myanmar to be colonized, with the senior general saying that Myanmar's endeavor to improve its defence power is aimed at national defence.

He attributed Republic of Korea's success to its advanced technology and hardwork, despite the country's climate and scarce resources, welcoming further civil and military cooperation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Republic of Korea Admiral Choi Yoon-hee.—MYAWADY

on all fronts.

He pledged Myanmar's assistance to the reunification of the two Koreas, expressing ardent desires for seeing the Korea Peninsula as a nuclear-free zone, as well as for non-proliferation and destruction of nuclear weapons and the constructive use of nuclear energy in public interests.

Admiral Choi Yoon-hee expressed his delight of

Myanmar's successful rotating chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, appreciating the country for its assistance to his country when in difficulty.

He pledged more aid to Myanmar and greater cooperation between the two armed forces, expressing his belief that the host country had potential to enjoy bigger prosperity than

ever before.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a dinner in honour of Admiral Choi Yoon-hee at his residence.—Myawady

National Objectives of 68th Anniversary Union Day

- To uphold Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- To ensure that all national races strive for eternal peace of the Union
- To perpetuate national reconciliation already achieved forever
- To ensure that all national races live in the union through thick and thin
- To ensure that all national people join hands in building a new modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Union Minister for Home Affairs holds talks with DDG of JCG

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received Deputy Director-General Lt-Gen Satoshi Takeda of Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and party at his office, here, on Thursday.

They focused on co-operation between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials of Myanmar Police Force.

MNA

41st Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — The 41st Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations of the ASEAN Tourism Forum-2015 took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-I, here, on Thursday.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung extended greetings.

Director-General U Tint Thwin of Directorate

of Hotels and Tourism Development and Under Secretary of the Philippines' Tourism Department Hon Bentio Bengzon, Jr presided over the meeting.

The director-general in his address said that over three million of tourists visited Myanmar in 2014. He quoted an estimate of World Tourism Federation that the number of tourist visiting across the world

would raise from 4 percent to 4.5 percent in 2014.

The second-day meeting will be held tomorrow.

The 26th ASEAN+China, Japan and Korean NTOs Meeting, the 13th ASEAN+India NTOs Meeting, the 18th ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Meeting and the 14th ASEAN+3 Tourism Ministers Meeting will be held on the schedules.—MNA

Attorney-General of the Union arrives back from Sri Lanka



Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin poses for documentary photo with delegates to conference of Attorneys-General from South, South-East and East Asia in Colombo, Sri Lanka.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and party Wednesday arrived back here, after attending the 5-day conference of Attorneys-General from South, South-East and East Asia in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The conference was hosted by the Attorney General's Department of Sri Lanka in conjunction with the 130th anniversary of the creation of the office of the Attorney General of the Democratic Socialist

Republic of Sri Lanka from 16 to 20 January.

Dr Tun Shin participated in the discussion on the role of attorney-general in legal affairs in Asia, environmental conservation, climate change and human security and others.

Dr Tun Shin said Myanmar accepts the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Rules and the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign

Arbitration Award, (New York Convention, 1985) as best arbitration machinery in the market-oriented economic system of the nation in accordance with the constitution.

While in Sri Lanka, Dr Tun Shin held several discussions with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, Attorney-General The Honorable Mr Yuvana Wijayatilake and the President Council, and the deputy attorney-general.

MNA

Murder of two school teachers under investigation

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Two female teachers were found dead of stab wounds and head injuries in their house in Kaungkha village of Muse district, Shan State, on 20 January, reports said.

The bodies of Ma Ramnuja (a) Ma Ramlura, 19, and Ma Rambawnkawn Nawn Sam (a) Ma Khong Sam, 21, were found when students

visited their house because the teachers had failed to take their morning classes. Neighbours said they heard screams coming from their house at around 1am and knocked on the door but received no respond from the young teachers.

Their house is in the school compound of the Kachin Baptist Church in

Kaungkha village, Muse district in Shan State.

Collected from the crime scene were a blood-stained steel blade, a firewood and other clues. Currently, the local government has formed a tribunal to investigate into the case in cooperation with a special investigation body, following a lawsuit.—MNA

After defiant speech, Obama brings message to Republican heartland



US President Barack Obama waves to the audience after speaking during a visit to Boise State University in Idaho on 21 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

BOISE, (Idaho), 22 Jan — A day after delivering a defiant State of the Union speech to the Republican-led US Congress, President Barack Obama headed to the conservative heartland on Wednesday to promote his plans for bolstering the middle class.

Obama left Washington for a two-day trip to Idaho and Kansas to push his message that everyone should stand to gain from an economy that has all but recovered from years in the doldrums.

No longer restrained by having to face an election again, Obama struck a confident tone in his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, saying, “the shadow of crisis has passed.”

Despite losing control of the Senate to Republicans in November’s mid-term elections, Obama has taken an active role setting the agenda on policy from immigration reform to

improving relations with Cuba, as he seeks to shape his legacy.

Polls show Obama has reason to be upbeat. Reuters/Ipsos polling data on Wednesday put his approval at 41 percent this week, up four points from a month ago. But 52 percent of Americans still disapprove of his performance. To a crowd of more than 6,000 in a stadium at Boise State University, Obama continued to chide Republicans and noted that their limited applause during his speech on Tuesday made clear that they did not back his ideas.

“I know there are Republicans who disagree with my approach. I could see that from their body language yesterday,” he said to laughter from the crowd.

“My job is to put forward what I think is best for America. The job of Congress, then, is to put forward alternative ideas, but

they’ve got to be specific. They can’t just be, ‘no.’ ... Tell me how we’re going to do the things that need to be done. Tell me how we get to ‘yes.’”

Republicans have not warmed to Obama’s proposals to finance free community college or raise taxes on wealthy individuals, and they are not pleased by his veto threats.

Obama pledged to veto Republican efforts to overturn his signature health-care law, executive action loosening rules for undocumented immigrants, and efforts to force the White House to approve the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline. Republicans called for Obama to be more humble, given that they took control of both chambers of Congress this month after winning the midterms handsomely. “We’ve only been here 2-1/2 weeks, and he’s put seven veto threats. I think that’s probably not the best start.

Let us work the legislation before you decide something’s going to be vetoed,” House of Representatives Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said on the CBS “This Morning” programme. One area where Obama might win support from Republicans is on trade. He called in his speech for Congress to give him so-called fast-track authority to help complete major trade pacts such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal being negotiated with Asia.

He warned that China would be the winner if that deal falters. “The president made very clear last night that TPA (Trade Promotion Authority) and TPP is now a top presidential priority and now is the time to get it done,” said Evan Medeiros, the top White House aide on Asia.

While some conservative Republicans oppose giving Obama fast-track authority, the heaviest resistance might be from fellow Democrats who worry that trade deals could hurt American workers.

McCarthy said Republicans are also willing to work with Obama on tax reform. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said on Wednesday that after recent talks with Republicans he was confident a business tax reform plan can make it through Congress. Lew put the chances of passage at “better than 50-50.”

The tax plan includes a lower top corporate rate, ensuring more taxes are paid on foreign earnings, and closing a host of loopholes.—Reuters

German PEGIDA leader resigns after Hitler pose prompts investigation

BERLIN, 22 Jan — The leader of the fast-growing German anti-Muslim movement PEGIDA resigned on Wednesday after a photo of him posing as Hitler, and reports that he called refugees “scumbags”, prompted prosecutors to investigate him for inciting hatred.

Lutz Bachmann, a 41-year-old convicted burglar, had appeared on the front page of top-selling daily newspaper *Bild* on Wednesday sporting a Hitler moustache and haircut.

Bild and another paper said he had called asylum-seekers “animals” and “scumbags”.

The news came just as supporters of PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West), which is based in Dresden, staged a march in another east German city, Leipzig. However, the so-called LEGIDA rally attracted only around 15,000 people — far fewer than the originally estimated 40,000 — and they were outnumbered by more than 20,000 people who joined several counter-demonstrations, officials said. PEGIDA has forced itself onto the political agenda with its anti-immigrant slogans that have attracted tens of thousands to regular rallies in Dresden.

Bachmann, who denies he is a racist, had heard on Wednesday that he faces a criminal investigation for incitement to racial hatred. State prosecutors in Dresden said preliminary proceedings had been launched following the *Bild* report.

Kathrin Oertel, another PEGIDA co-founder, said Bachmann’s resignation had nothing to do with the Hit-



Lutz Bachmann

ler photo, but was linked to his comments on refugees posted on the internet. “Yes, I can confirm that Lutz Bachmann has offered his resignation and it was accepted,” Oertel told Reuters. She added: “PEGIDA will go on.”

Bild quoted Bachmann as saying the Hitler photo had been taken as a joke, prompted by a recent satirical book about the Nazi dictator called “Er ist wieder da” (“Look Who’s Back”). The *Dresdner Morgenpost* newspaper also quoted what it said were Facebook messages from Bachmann saying asylum seekers acted like “scumbags” at the welfare office and that extra security was needed “to protect employees from the animals”.

Deputy Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, the Social Democrat leader, said the real face of PEGIDA had been exposed: “Anyone who puts on a Hitler disguise is either an idiot or a Nazi.” In an interview with Reuters last week, Bachmann played down a ribald comment made in 2013, seized on by the media, that “eco-terrorist” Greens, first and foremost former party leader Claudia Roth, should be “summarily executed”. “I am an impulsive person...I regret I didn’t resist my impulsiveness.”—Reuters

Britain to unveil new powers for Scotland, edges towards federalism

LONDON / STIRLING, 22 Jan — The British government will publish a draft law on Thursday underpinning the biggest transfer of powers to Scotland in over a decade, keeping a promise it gave to Scots to encourage them to reject independence last year.

The law, to be enacted after a 7 May general election, will further dismantle Britain’s highly centralized system of government, a move critics fear could trigger the beginning of the end of the United Kingdom.

It has already spurred demands from some poli-

ticians for similar moves in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, teeing up political uncertainty and heralding an eventual redistribution of power in the world’s sixth largest economy.

Under the law, Scotland, which voted to reject full-blown independence in September, will be able to set income tax rates, have some influence over welfare spending, and be given the authority to decide how the Scottish parliament and other structures are elected and run.

The draft law will be formally unveiled at the

British parliament in London on Thursday, with Prime Minister David Cameron set to visit Scotland, which already enjoys a large measure of autonomy, to promote the bill.

Britain’s main political parties have agreed to pass the legislation regardless of who wins the forthcoming election.

“The leaders of the other main political parties and I promised extensive new powers for the Scottish Parliament — a vow — with a clear process and timetable,” Cameron will say, according to advance extracts released by his

office. “We said draft legislation would be published by Burns Night (25 January) —and here we are, three days before the celebrations start, with those clauses before us.”

Although the law is backed by the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP), it has also complained that it doesn’t go far enough.

It has also questioned if it will reach the statute book, despite assurances from London-based parties. “A big issue in the (election) campaign will be making sure it’s delivered, because unfortunately

Scotland’s been round and round here before,” Steven Paterson, an SNP candidate for Stirling, told Reuters.

The September independence referendum, which saw Scots reject a breakaway by 55-45 percent, exposed scepticism about promises made by politicians like Cameron, something the SNP has since capitalised on, surging in opinion polls.

The new law is part of an effort by Britain’s established parties to neutralise the SNP threat. The opposition Labour party is hoping, but cannot be sure, that it will revive its own flag-

ging fortunes in Scotland before May’s election.

“I think we’ll get something, but I don’t think it’ll be what we’re asking for,” said Glasgow-based retail executive Donnie Campbell, 50, a former Labour supporter who says he will now vote SNP.

Scots nationalists have suggested they may push for another independence referendum if British voters choose to leave the European Union in a 2017 referendum that Cameron, a Conservative, has said he will call if he returns to office.—Reuters

WORLD

Iraq 'months off' major IS offensive, says UK's Hammond before London meeting



British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond

LONDON, 22 Jan — Iraqi forces are months away from being able to launch proper combat operations

against Islamic State (IS), Britain's foreign minister warned on Thursday, hours before hosting a London meeting of the US-led coalition against the militant group.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond is hosting senior officials from 21 countries to discuss how they can step up their campaign against IS in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere by doing more militarily, more to cut off the extremist

group's finances, and more to stem the flow of foreign fighters.

US Secretary of State John Kerry is attending as is Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who was due to meet British Prime Minister David Cameron beforehand. Abadi will tell delegates how his government's fight against IS is progressing.

He wants more training and equipment for his soldiers beyond the air

strikes which the coalition is already conducting. Hammond praised Iraqi forces on Thursday, saying the coalition was helping rebuild them so they could launch a sustained ground offensive against IS. But he warned it was a slow process.

"It will be months yet before they are ready to start significant combat operations," Hammond told BBC Radio.

Reuters

Houthi official says Yemen presidential statement acceptable

SANAA, 22 Jan — A senior official of Yemen's Houthi movement said on Thursday that a statement by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi aimed at defusing a political crisis was acceptable because it confirmed the terms of a power-sharing agreement signed in September.

Witnesses said Houthi fighters remained in position outside the presidential palace and Hadi's private residence, where the head of state actually lives. Hadi in his statement said the Houthis had agreed to remove their men from those places.

But Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi politburo, told *Reuters* the withdrawals of the gunmen, and the release of Hadi's office director, Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, from Houthi detention could happen in one, two or three days, if the authorities committed to implementing the remaining items.

"The latest agreement is a series of timed

measures to implement the peace and partnership accord, which shows that Ansarullah were not planning to undermine the political process," Bukhaiti told *Reuters*, referring to an accord signed in September after the Sanaa takeover that brought the Houthi group into the government. Ansarullah is the Houthi group's official name.

"The agreement is satisfactory because it confirms what is most important in the partnership agreement," he added.

Hadi's statement confirmed that the draft constitution was subject to amendments and said that all sides agreed that government and state institutions, schools and universities should rapidly return to work.

In the first sign that the government was returning to work, officials in the southern city of Aden said the air and sea ports had resumed work after a one day suspension due to the crisis in Sanaa.—*Reuters*

Libyan rival parliament suspends UN-sponsored peace talks

TRIPOLI, 22 Jan — A parliament set up in Libya to rival the elected assembly has suspended UN-sponsored peace talks because of what it called fresh violence from the country's recognized government, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

Last week, the United Nations launched a new round of talks in Geneva aimed at defusing the oil producer's violent struggle between two governments and parliaments vying for control four years after the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi.

The rival assembly, known as the General National Congress (GNC), was set up after an armed group called Libya Dawn seized the capital, Tripoli, last summer. The internationally recognized prime minister, Abdullah al-Thinni, transferred his government to the east.

However, GNC spokesman Omar Hmeidan said representatives of the Trip-



Members of the Libyan pro-government forces, backed by locals, gather on a tank outside the Central Bank, near Benghazi port on 21 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

oli assembly would not now take part in any UN-sponsored talks, accusing troops allied to the opposing government of storming a central bank branch in the eastern city of Benghazi and other acts of violence.

Both sides, which are allied to armed factions, have been fighting over territory and oil ports and have sought to take charge of the central bank to control vital oil revenues.

Troops loyal to Thinni took over the central bank branch in Benghazi after expelling Islamist fighters from the area, a commander told *Reuters*.

"The army has controlled the central bank (in Benghazi) for some time, not just today. The central bank is now safe," said Colonel Farraj al-Barasi, an army commander running a military sector in eastern Benghazi.

"We've moved out the technical equipment. The cash is still in the safes," he said, adding that a committee would decide what to do with the money.

A *Reuters* reporter saw damage to the central bank building, which is located near Benghazi port — the scene of heavy battles for weeks between Thinni's troops and Islamists such as Ansar al-Sharia.

On Sunday, the GNC had accepted the UN dialogue so long as the meetings took place in Libya, not Geneva. But Hmeidan made clear that the Tripoli assembly no longer had any intention of taking part in the talks, regardless of where they were held.

"There has been an escalation of fighting in the past two days by troops of the wanted Khalifa Haftar," the GNC said in a statement, referring to an army general allied to Thinni.

Reuters



Houthi fighters ride a truck while patrolling a street in Sanaa on 21 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

African states to seek UN mandate to fight Boko Haram



People displaced as a result of Boko Haram attacks in the northeast region of Nigeria, are seen near their tents at a faith-based camp for internally displaced people (IDP) in Yola, Adamawa State on 14 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

NIAMEY, 22 Jan — African nations threatened by Nigeria's Boko Haram will seek UN Security Council authorisation for a multinational force to take on the Islamist militants, Niger's foreign minister said on Wednesday. Mohamed Bazoum said the countries of the Lake Chad region had

agreed during a meeting in Niger's capital Niamey on Tuesday that the resolution would be presented to the UN by the African Union. He did not specify when this would be done.

Boko Haram, which is fighting to create an Islamic emirate in northern Nigeria, has increasingly made incursions into neighbouring Cameroon and is also threatening the stability of the region that includes Niger and Chad. Mistrust and disagreements between the states has however hampered attempts to pool military resources. The countries had agreed to create a multinational force

to tackle the insurgents by last November but failed to contribute the troops.

"Contrary to what happened in the past, we agreed with our partners that a resolution should be passed by the Security Council that will allow the establishment of the Joint Multinational Force," Bazoum told a television channel in Niamey.

The countries also agreed to move the headquarters of the proposed multinational force from the Nigerian town of Baga to the Chadian capital N'Djamena after Baga was seized and ransacked by Boko Haram fighters, he said.—*Reuters*

UK aims to pass law to ban branding on cigarette packs before May

LONDON, 22 Jan — The British government said on Wednesday it would try to pass a law to force tobacco firms to sell cigarettes in plain packets without branding in England before May, ending years of debate and lobbying over the issue.

The move, aimed at improving public health and cutting the number of child smokers, is likely to crimp tobacco firms' profits and would see Britain follow in the footsteps of Australia, which two years ago enacted a groundbreaking law forcing cigarettes to be sold in plain olive green packaging with images showing the damaging effects of smoking.

Cigarette sales have dropped in Australia since plain packaging was introduced on 1 December, 2012, prompting Britain to move ahead even as Australia continues to battle international legal challenges from other countries and manufacturers.

Jane Ellison, a junior minister in Britain's health



A shopkeeper reaches for a packet of cigarettes in a newsagent in London on 9 March, 2011.—REUTERS

ministry, said introducing plain packaging was "a proportionate and justified response" because of the health risks associated with smoking.

"In doing so we would be bringing the prospect of our first smoke-free generation one step closer," she said in a statement.

The government previ-

ously said it wanted to ban cigarette branding but that it wanted to conduct a final consultation to make sure it was the right thing to do, stirring suspicion it wanted to further delay legislation.

The opposition Labour Party welcomed the move, but criticised the government for moving too slowly after MPs voted

in its favour almost a year ago. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will need to consent to legislation introduced in England.

Tobacco firms have fiercely resisted the new law, arguing that plain packs infringe on intellectual property rights covering brands and that they will only increase cigarette

Chile to reopen investigation into poet Neruda's death

SANTIAGO, 22 Jan — Chile will reopen an investigation into the death of Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda to determine if the poet was poisoned more than 40 years ago by a military dictatorship, after tests on his exhumed body in 2013 found no evidence to back the claims.

Neruda, famed for his passionate love poems and staunch communist views, is presumed to have died from prostate cancer just days after the 11 September, 1973, coup that ushered in the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. "There is initial evidence that he was poisoned and in that sense the signs point to the intervention of specific agents ... that could constitute a crime against humanity," Francisco Ugas, the head of the government's humans rights department, said on Wednesday.

The poet's chauffeur has said Pinochet's agents took advantage of Neruda's illness to inject poison into his stomach while he was bedridden at the Santa Maria clinic in Santiago.—Reuters

counterfeiting and smuggling. Around 3.4 percent fewer cigarettes were sold in Australia in 2013, compared with 2012, according to Treasury Department data. The government had previously withheld data on sales to protect commercially sensitive information, and is yet to release the figures for 2014.

A quintet of tobacco-producing nations — Indonesia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Ukraine — are challenging the Australian law at the World Trade Organization. Hearings are due to begin in May with a decision unlikely before 2016.

Philip Morris Asia Ltd is contesting the packaging in the international Permanent Court of Arbitration under Australia's bilateral investment treaty with Hong Kong. The court ruled last year Australia could challenge Philip Morris' right to contest the laws on the grounds the company only bought shares in its Australian arm to bring the case.—Reuters

El Salvador police free to shoot gang members if threatened

SAN SALVADOR, 22 Jan — El Salvador's vice president said on Wednesday that police should respond with force "without any fear of suffering consequences" if threatened by gang members, following the killing of seven officers in ambushes so far this year.

Vice President Oscar Ortiz, acting as president while President Salvador Sanchez Ceren receives medical care in Cuba, said the government endorsed the decision of the federal police director last week to authorize the new policy.

Previously, police who used deadly force would be investigated and sometimes fired.

Ortiz added that the government will no longer tolerate attacks on the country's police, military, prosecutors or judges.

"We support ... any member of the police, our police, who in fulfillment of his duties and

the defense of the safety of citizens, uses his gun and should use it without any fear of suffering consequences," said Ortiz in a statement.

Last year, 39 police officers were executed by suspected gang members in the Central American country, or more than three times the number of officers killed in 2013, according to official figures.

The killing of police is just part of the violence that grips El Salvador, where gangs battle over lucrative

drug transit routes and other criminal enterprises.

The number of murders last year jumped by nearly 60 percent to an average of 12 killings a day as a truce between the country's most powerful gangs collapsed.

The pact between the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and its rival Barrio 18 helped reduce the murder rate in mid-2013 to around five per day — a 10-year low.

Reuters



A member of the police stands guard, due to threats from the 18th Street gang for the residents at the San Valentin apartments, in the town of Mejicanos, on the outskirts of San Salvador on 21 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Good morning India! Obama, Modi plan radio show to reach out to masses

NEW DELHI, 22 Jan — The leaders of the world's largest democracies will next week take to India's radio airwaves, the main source of news and information for many in the country, to get their message out.

US President Barack Obama, who will be the chief guest at New Delhi's showpiece Republic Day military parade on 26 January, will join Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a special edition of the latter's radio programme next Tuesday.

Listeners have been asked to pre-submit questions by Sunday to the leaders on the programme

"Mann Ki Baat," or "Talking from the Heart".

"This month's 'Mann Ki Baat' episode will be a special one, where our Republic Day guest @BarackObama & I will share our thoughts together," Modi tweeted on Thursday.

Modi makes radio speeches at least every month to communicate with two-thirds of India's 1.2 billion people who regularly listen to the radio. He had talked about a cleanliness drive, tax evasion, and drug abuse among others on his show.

Obama's decision to appear on the show during his visit is a sign of the bond the two leaders share.

In a unique departure from protocol, Obama accompanied Modi on a motorcade drive from the White House to the memorial honouring slain US civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr during the leader's visit to Washington last year. Modi and Obama also issued a joint editorial before that trip, a first for an Indian leader, according to the Indian media. It is not clear whether Modi will speak in English or in Hindi, as he usually does during his broadcast. Modi's radio show is recorded at Race Course Road, the official residence of the Indian prime minister.

Reuters

European Parliament committee backs then rejects 2021 start to carbon reforms

BRUSSELS, 22 Jan — The European Parliament industry committee in a surprise vote rejected an earlier amendment on Thursday in which it had backed a 2021 start to reforms to the EU

carbon market.

Having also voted to reject a 2017 start, members of the European Parliament called an adjournment. Then in a final vote less than 30 minutes later, they rejected

all the votes that had preceded. This gives more weight to an environment committee vote next month which is widely expected to back the 2017 start date, parliamentary sources said.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BAIK VOY NO (428N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BAIK VOY NO (428N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 SAMUDERA
SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (045)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2015 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (128)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (128) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO (1002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO (1002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN-905)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN-905) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FU XIN SHAN VOY NO (119)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU XIN SHAN VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2015 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 COSCO SHIPPING
CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY NO (1002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY NO (1002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ID BLACK SEA VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ID BLACK SEA VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 COSCO SHIPPING
CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT has received the Grant from the International Development Association for National Community Driven Development Project and wishes to purchase for National Community Driven Development Project the following Tablets by Shopping method as defined in the World Bank Procurement Guidelines:

Reference No. G1.3c: Tablets **300 units**
Sealed Quotations shall be submitted to U Khant Zaw, Deputy Chief Engineer, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw, not later than (5.2.2015) 12:30 hour, after which no request for quotation will be accepted.
For detail information please contact U Kyaw Swar Aung, Deputy Director
Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409413
Website: www.drdmyanmar.org
Email: drdmyanmar@gmail.com

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 23rd January, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady Region and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

Japanese Shinkansen line between Tokyo, Osaka halted for 3 hours

OSAKA, 22 Jan — Bullet train operations were suspended for about three hours early on Thursday morning on the Japanese Tokaido Shinkansen Line between Tokyo and Osaka due to a warehouse fire in Kyoto prefecture, local media reported.

The fire happened at 4:30 am local time on Thursday morning in a

warehouse storing construction materials in Nagaokakyo city, Kyoto prefecture, and was put out an hour later. As the warehouse is close to the railway, the operations of bullet trains between Tokyo and Osaka fell into disorder, with 16 trains suspended, 94 trains running late, and about 62,000 people affected.

Normal operations were resumed until 9:00 am local time, said the railway operator JR Central.

The Tokaido Shinkansen is a Japanese high-speed rail line opened in 1964 between Tokyo and Osaka. It is one of the busiest high-speed rail route in the world, with average ridership of over 400,000 passengers every day.—Xinhua

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Meghan Trainor steals Swift's spot atop Billboard album chart

LOS ANGELES, 22 Jan — Pop singer Meghan Trainor's debut album "Title" knocked Taylor Swift from her three-week perch atop the weekly Billboard album chart on Wednesday.

"Title," which has been buoyed by Trainor's No 1 single "All About That Bass" and follow-up hit "Lips Are Movin," sold 195,000 albums, 377,000 song downloads and nearly 8 million streams, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan.

Under the revamped Billboard chart, that counted for 238,000 total sales units, besting the 131,000 in sales for Swift's "1989," which dropped to No 2 on the chart. "1989" has been the top album for nine of its 12 weeks in release.

Trainor's debut — an expansion on her 2014 EP of the same name —

comes three weeks ahead of the Grammy Awards where the 21-year-old singer-songwriter is nominated for song and record of the year for "All About That Bass," a 1960s-in-flected pop song about female body types.

The song spent eight consecutive weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 song chart last year. Other new releases in the top 10 include "Kidz Bop 27," a collection of pop hits sung by children, at No 3 and pop producer Mark Ronson's "Uptown Special" at No 5.

Ronson and singer Bruno Mars' hit "Uptown Funk!" was the top down-



Singer Meghan Trainor

loaded song on the digital songs chart for the third consecutive week with 400,000 in sales, a rise of 60,000 downloads from last week.

Reuters



'Batman vs Robin' first trailer released

LONDON, 22 Jan — DC Entertainment and Warner Bros Animation have released the first trailer for 'Batman vs Robin'. The trailer offers a first look at the animated feature, which sees the on-screen debut of the villainous Court of Owls, reported *Digital Spy*.

Director Jay Oliva's film features the voices of Jason O'Mara (Batman), Stuart Allen (Robin/Damian Wayne), Sean Maher (Nightwing), David McCallum (Alfred), Jeremy Sisto (Talon), Weird Al

Yankovic (The Dollmaker), Grey Griffin (Samantha), Robin Atkin Downes (Grandmaster) and Peter Onorati (Draco).

The story centres around the fractious relationship between Bruce Wayne and his son Damian, who was raised in secret by his mother Talia al Ghul and the League of Assassins.

It is based loosely on Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo's opening Batman storylines 'The Court of Owls'/'Night of the Owls'.

'Batman vs Robin' will premiere at WonderCon, Anaheim, in April.—PTI



I am nervous for Super Bowl: Katy Perry

LOS ANGELES, 22 Jan — Singer Katy Perry says she feels jittery about performing at the upcoming Super Bowl, which is the annual championship game of the National Football League.

The 30-year-old singer said it will be a dream come true to headline Super Bowl XLIX half-time stage on 1 February, reported *People* magazine.

"Honestly? I feel like I've out dreamt my dream. I don't get nervous about much, but I'll definitely be a little tingly inside that day," she said in an interview for the ESPN The Magazine's music issue.

Last year, singer Bruno Mars took centre stage in front of 115 million viewers during the half-time gig.

Perry will be joined by veteran rocker Lenny Kravitz on the stage. Fellow songstress Idina Menzel will be performing the US National Anthem.—PTI

Musical messiah Yanni to enthral audience at Vadfest

VADODARA, 22 Jan — World famous music composer and instrumentalist Yanni, who will be performing in India after almost two decades at the Vadodara Art and Cultural International Festival (VADFEST) beginning tomorrow here, says that Mahatma Gandhi has been one of his biggest inspirations in life.

"I feel that Gandhiji has been a major influence on what I am today," he told reporters here ahead of his performance on the opening day of the Fest at the Laxmi Vilas Palace compound here. Yanni popularised the combination of synthesisers with full scale symphony orchestra and is known as the world's "True Global Artist".

He has held live concerts all over the world including Beijing and has

since gained a massive following in China and overseas. Now the 60-year-old music producer wants to hold a concert in South Africa.

"I am producing concerts at all the places including historic monuments. I use musicians and instruments from other cultures and will think over on using Indian musicians and instruments in my songs," he said. On his genre of music, Yanni said, "I never believed that my music fits into any genre or category. It is simply music and it encompasses a wide variety of cultural and musical style influences."

"I do not like labels for art and in particular my music.. so I have never found a genre that fits," he added.

Yanni is known to blend Jazz, classical, soft, rock and world music ele-



Music composer & instrumentalist Yanni

ments to create instrumental magic, which transcends mere notes and melodies to become a soul-stirring experience. On what would be his advice to budding musicians, he said, "Simply to follow your dreams and passion. Music is a great pursuit.. even if you do not have a professional career in music, it will be a friend for life."—PTI

Nazi code breaker Alan Turing's notebook to be sold at auction

NEW YORK, 22 Jan — A notebook about mathematics and computer science written by Nazi-code breaker Alan Turing, played by actor Benedict Cumberbatch in the Oscar-nominated film "The Imitation Game," will be sold at auction, Bonhams auction house said on

Wednesday. The 56-page manuscript is expected to fetch at least seven figures, with a portion of the proceeds going to charity, when it goes up for sale on 13 April in New York.

Turing was a British genius mathematician and a pioneer in computer science who hastened the end of World War Two by

cracking Germany's war-time communications code.

In the notebook, which has never been seen in public and dates from 1942, Turing works on the foundations of computer science and mathematics.

"This manuscript dates from the time when Turing was engaged in the crucial task of breaking the Enig-

ma Code," said Cassandra Hatton, senior specialist in fine books and manuscripts at Bonhams.

"Its mathematical content gives an extraordinary insight into the working mind of one of the greatest luminaries of the 20th Century," she added in a statement.

Reuters



Benedict Cumberbatch & Keira Knightley

GENERAL

Juventus say have won appeal against Chelsea over Mutu

MILAN, 22 Jan — Juventus have won an appeal against a FIFA ruling which ordered them to pay Chelsea compensation in the decade-long case involving Romanian forward Adrian Mutu, the Turin club said on Wednesday.

“Juventus confirms that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne has today issued an arbitration award on the claim brought by Chelsea FC against Juventus in regard to the registration of Adrian Mutu,” said Juventus in a statement.

“The arbitration award has wholly rejected the demands brought by Chelsea FC, ordering it to pay the legal fees for the case.”

Mutu was fired by Chelsea in 2004 following a positive test for cocaine and, four years later, was instructed by FIFA to pay 17 million euros (\$19.69 million) in damages to the London club, a decision confirmed by CAS one year later.

Mutu joined Juventus in 2005, while he was serving a seven-month ban in England, and was then placed with Livorno to get around a limit on non-European Union players.

In 2013, FIFA’s dispute resolution chamber issued a further ruling which made Juventus and Livorno jointly responsible with Mutu for the money due to

Chelsea, and both appealed to CAS. Mutu, 36, was most recently with Petrolul Ploiesti in his homeland and left them in September.

Reuters



Romania’s captain Adrian Mutu celebrates after scoring against Bosnia and Herzegovina during their Euro 2012 Group D qualifying soccer match at Giulesti stadium in Bucharest on 3 Jun, 2011.—REUTERS

Israeli arrested in Madonna song leak probe



Singer Madonna walks on stage during Amnesty International’s “Bringing Human Rights Home” concert in the Brooklyn borough of New York on 5 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 22 Jan — An Israeli man was arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of hacking into the computers of singers including pop star Madonna and selling their songs online, according to Israeli and US law enforcement sources.

An Israeli police spokesman said a 39-year-old Israeli had been detained, but de-

clined to name him, citing a court-issued gag order.

US Federal Bureau of Investigation spokesman Joshua Campbell said the arrest of the Tel Aviv resident was the result of an ongoing investigation by the FBI and Israeli authorities.

“This case highlights the international scope of online criminal activity

and the need for close cooperation between nations as we collectively identify and bring to justice those who pose a threat in cyberspace,” Campbell said. Madonna said she was grateful to the FBI, Israeli police investigators and anyone who helped in the arrest of the hacker. “Like any citizen, I have the right to privacy. This invasion into my life — creatively, professionally and personally remains a deeply devastating and hurtful experience, as it must be for all artists who are victims of this type of crime,” she said in a statement.

In December, unfinished tracks were leaked before the release of Madonna’s “Rebel Heart” album.

Israeli private investigator Asher Wizman said Madonna’s team contacted his company several weeks ago to look into the matter after rumours of an Israeli connection to the leak.

Madonna, a devotee of Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism, has visited Israel several times and chose Tel

Aviv to kick off her 2012 world tour.

“Our investigator found her computers, at home and at a studio, were broken into from a computer in Israel,” Wizman said. “We tracked down the computer, and the man behind it. After gathering enough evidence, we turned to the police and he was arrested today.”

Israeli police said they launched the investigation with the FBI following a complaint from a Madonna representative in Israel.

Israeli media said the man taken into custody was a former contestant on a popular singing contest on Israel television.

“He is suspected of computer hacking, copyright violation and fraudulent receipt of goods,” a police spokesman said. “During the investigation it appeared the suspect had broken into the computers of a number of international artists, stolen unreleased demos and final tracks and sold them over the internet,” the spokesman said.—Reuters

Messi strikes to give Barca edge over Atletico

BARCELONA, 22 Jan — Barcelona seized control of their King’s Cup quarter-final tie against Atletico Madrid when Lionel Messi followed up his saved penalty to score and secure a 1-0 first-leg victory at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

Barca dominated possession against the La Liga champions but Atletico defended stoutly and held the record Cup winners at bay until Juanfran fouled Spain team

mate Sergio Busquets in the area six minutes from time. Messi’s effort from the spot was well saved by Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak, but the ball fell kindly for the Argentina captain and he tapped it into the net to give Barca the advantage ahead of next Wednesday’s return in Madrid.

“It’s a good result but the second leg is still to come and they are going to be 90 very intense min-

utes,” Barca captain Andres Iniesta said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus.

“We performed extremely well against an opponent which is very tough to overcome,” added the Spain international.

“Not conceding a goal is an important achievement but it does not guarantee anything. We will try to do things well again in the return.”—Reuters



Barcelona’s Lionel Messi kicks to score a goal during their King’s Cup quarter-final first leg soccer match against Atletico Madrid at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, on 21 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-1-15 07:00 am~
24-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
- * World News
- * Swensen’s (Ice Cream)
- * Local News
- * Caves of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar
- * Local News
- * ANANDA GU PHAYA
- * World News
- * Art Students: Sculpture
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- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Black Gold (P - II)
- * World News
- * A Glance At A Naga Family Life
- * Local News
- * A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man

MRTV News Channel

(23-1-2015, Friday)

6:00 am

- Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

- Physical Exercise

7:00 am

- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am

- One Vision (Myanmar)

10:00 am

- People’s Talks

12:00 noon

- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm

- Hluttaw Image

1:20 pm

- Talk on Old Film (Part-3)

3:30 pm

- Head Line News

4:35 pm

- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Oriental)

5:35 pm

- Current Affairs

6:00 pm

- News / Weather Report

6:35 pm

- Hyper Sports

7:00 pm

- News

7:35 pm

- People Talks

8:00 pm

- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm

- News
- Hluttaw Image
- Amazing World
- Talk on Old Film (Part-4)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(23-1-2015, Friday)

6:00 am

- Travelogue Programme

6:30 am

- A-1 Soe Myint Musics

6:50 am

- TV Drama Series

7:15 am

- Documentary

7:45 am

- TV Drama Series

8:30 am

- TV Drama Series

9:15 am

- Musical Programme

9:25 am

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:45 am

- China in Myanmar Cultural Show

10:05 am

- Myanmar Video

12:00 noon

- Close Down

S Korea reaches Asian Cup semis by defeating Uzbekistan in extra time



South Korea's Lee Keun-ho (R) and Kwak Tae-hwi (2nd R) jump to head the ball clear past Uzbekistan's Timur Kapadze as team mate Cha Du-ri watches during their Asian Cup quarter-final soccer match at the Rectangular stadium in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — South Korea became the first team to advance into the Asian Cup semi-finals by beating Uzbekistan through two goals in the extra time here on Thursday.

The opening quarter-final match of AFC Asian Cup was expected to be a clash between a lean and mean defence and a fluent attack. South Korea has registered three clean sheets in the group stage, while in contrast Uzbekistan has scored in 16 of their last 17 Asian Cup finals matches. But the strikers of both sides were disappointing, instead the goalkeepers, Kim Jin-hyeon and Ignatiy Nesterov, caught the eyeballs by de-

living fantastic saves.

In the 17th minute, Kim Jin-hyeon won in one-on-one with Lutfula Turaev, Turaev did not stop the ball well and gave enough time for Kim to react; Seven minutes later, Son Heung-min let off a bullet shot in the box, Nesterov's save let his teammates relieved.

The other players seemed not have found the feeling of shot. Turaev spurned the best chance for Uzbeks to win the game in the second half. He was free in the box but his header went wide. Several minutes later, Nam Tae-hee missed Ki Sung-yueng's accurate pass when he faced the open net.

In the 14th minute of

the extra time, South Korea's midfielder Son Heung-min broke the deadlock by a flying header in the box. Nesterov touched the ball but too late to save it; 15 minutes later, Son's volley shot through Cha Du-ri's pass sealed victory for the Taeguk Tigers.

These two sides have met just once before in an AFC Asian Cup Finals game — at Qatar 2011 when South Korea defeated Uzbekistan 3-2 in the third-place playoff.

South Korea will face the winner of Friday's quarterfinal clash between Iran and Iraq.

Xinhua

Djokovic, Serena rush through at Melbourne Park

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — Top seeds Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams barely moved out of second gear but still underlined their superior skills with thumping second round victories over Russian opponents at the Australian Open on Thursday.

Four-times champion Djokovic only needed to up his game after an hour of his 6-0, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Andrey Kuznetsov, while Serena clicked into action a little sooner following some early resistance from Vera Zvonareva.

Once the 18-times grand slam singles champion got up to speed, however, she cruised away from the Russian with a

7-5, 6-0 victory in warm conditions.

"Things really clicked. I had no other option but for things to click," the American told reporters.

"I had to get my mind 'Serena, this girl has been ranked as high as number two in the world, she's been on the tour and she's a very quality player, she knows what to do. She knows how to win'.

"I had to kind of snap into that."

Djokovic had been battling illness before the tournament and suffered a slow start in his first round win over Slovenian qualifier Aljaz Bedene.

His foot was flat on the floor from the first serve on

Thursday, however, as he ran through the opening two sets in 51 minutes with the rallies short and sharp and Kuznetsov restricted to just 26 points.

"Much better. I was wishing two days ago after I was done with my first round to have a performance like today," Djokovic said in a courtside interview.

"Hopefully I can continue to play like this."

Men's champion Stan Wawrinka also advanced to a third round clash with Finland's Jarkko Nieminen after a 7-6(4), 7-6(4), 6-3 victory over Romanian qualifier Marius Copil, the lowest ranked player in the second round at 194.

While the main focus for the early session was on the respective top seeds and the progress of Wawrinka, many were awaiting the late clash between twice champion Victoria Azarenka and eighth seed Caroline Wozniacki.

Azarenka's ranking plummeted last year after she was restricted to just nine appearances with foot and knee injuries and is considered the ultimate dark horse in the draw.

Zvonareva also could have been considered something of a dark horse for the world number one, with early signs of an upset when the 30-year-old Russian, a twice grand slam finalist who was ranked as high as number two in



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Andrey Kuznetsov of Russia during their men's singles second round match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

2010, served for the first set.

Shoulder surgery in February 2013 has restricted the world number 203 to just five tournament appearances in two years, though, and her bright sparks of play quickly disintegrated once Serena flicked the switch.

Serena's victory came

about 90 minutes after older sister Venus hammered American compatriot Lauren Davis 6-2, 6-3, while sixth seed Agnieszka Radwanska also made short work of Sweden's Johanna Larsson in a 6-0, 6-1 victory that took 44 minutes.

"It's really hot today," Radwanska said. "So I'm really happy that I play

short and good and I closed that match pretty quickly."

US Open finalist Kei Nishikori was forced to dig himself out of a small hole when he lost the first set to Ivan Dodig, but once he got warmed up, and the temperatures continued to rise past 32 Celsius, the Croatian wilted.

Dodig, who withdrew with injury from all three of his grand slam appearances last year, had seized the early advantage against the world number five, but the Japanese broke in the final game of the second set and the momentum shifted.

"I thought he was playing really well, especially first couple sets," Nishikori said.

"He was really aggressive, returning well ... but (by the) end of the third and fourth set I was start playing more aggressive and better tennis."

Reuters



Serena Williams of the US casts a shadow as she hits a return to Vera Zvonareva of Russia during their women's singles second round match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS



Asian Cup Australia 2015

	13:00 MST (23.1.2015)	
Iran		Iraq
	16:00 MST (23.1.2015)	
Japan		UAE

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

Korea Republic	2 - 0	Uzbekistan
China PR	0 - 2	Australia