

Government will use international loan assistances in transparent way for public interest

President U Thein Sein's speech through radio programmes to the entire people far and wide the nation on 1-2-2013.



Esteemed people,

I convey our government message as I promised in my New Year message on government's policies and undertakings occasionally through radio.

Looking back to the current position we have, our government could make a series of political reforms during two-year term. Through these reforms, measures are being

taken to implement people-centered economic reforms that could bring the benefits to people at grass root level.

The day (27 January, 1947) on which Aung San-Attlee Agreement could be signed for regaining Independence, is a red letter day. Surprisingly, Myanmar could reduce foreign debts on 27 January, 2013. This day is coincided with signing of Aung San-Attlee

Agreement. It is an important day in the history of Myanmar's economy.

Because Myanmar could take an important step towards re-entering into international monetary market and economic community. In the past, almost all developed countries had to take cash assistances of dollars in billions from international banks and organizations like World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). China, India, South Korea, ASEAN countries like Thailand and Malaysia took cash assistances as well. It would be very difficult for an isolated country to get such helps and move forward. Myanmar did not get international loan assistances due to many decade-long economic sanctions.

Thanks to the efforts of government and people, Myanmar sees more progress. For international loan assistances, our government could be made successful coordination

with major donor countries apart from WB/ IMF and ADB. Here I would like to convey a good message to people that Myanmar could reduce international debts of over six billion dollars. Here I also would like to recognize the help of Paris Club member countries including Norway and Japan. Now our country can get international loans. Funds of dollars in millions will be used for standing tall as a responsible country, poverty alleviation for country development, construction of schools, hospitals, roads and bridges, power generation and supply of potable water.

This progress is a first step to take Myanmar out of LDC list as I said at first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session. Our government would use international loan assistances in a transparent manner for public interest and make effort for public interest opening a new economic era.

Plans are under way

for development of SMEs which is crucial for economic development and poverty alleviation. For encouragement of SMEs, Central Committee and Work Committee for Small and Medium Enterprises Development have been formed. And Myanmar now starts making connections with international enterprises for necessary technologies, capital and advices. Necessary loans are being disbursed by Small and Medium Industry Bank. Efforts will be made for providing more and more assistances. For the development of livestock sector, cash and necessary assistances would be provided.

On 19-1-2013, Myanmar could hold First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum including international organizations, foreign investors, local scholars and entrepreneurs. Economic and social development framework could be discussed. The Nay Pyi Taw

Accord could be signed for effective development cooperation.

In addition, our government is implementing the tasks pertaining to poverty alleviation. Majority of our citizens have to earn their livings from hand to mouth for their whole life. But they do not own even a house. To overcome it, low-cost housing projects are being implemented in Yangon. We will continue to implement affordable housing projects in other states and townships. In addition, we could increase the amount of agricultural loan for farmland from present level of K 80,000 per acre to K 100,000 per acre. Likewise, we could increase the amount for cropland from K 10,000 to K 20,000 per acre. Despite this, we notice the increase still does not meet the required amount. As farmland ownership has been legal under existing laws, we are undertaking farmland ownership (See page 8)

President's radio speech four times a day on air

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—The President's radio speech will be broadcast four times a day on 1-3 February through Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawaddy FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamyia FM, FM Bagan and Thazin at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm. Padaukmyay will broadcast it at 5.30 am, 7 am, 6 am and 8 pm.—MNA

Weather forecast for first dekad of February 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay, partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy condition

Rainy days are expected about 2 to 3 days in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Night temperature

Night temperature will be above February average temperatures in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon and Kayin States and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.

Fog condition

Fog days are expected about 5 to 7 days in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and 4 days in the remaining Regions and States.

NLM

Saput Creek Bridge in Minbu Township to be completed later in 2013

About 10 decades ago in the colonial era, a bridge was built over Saput creek in Minbu Township. The bridge was subject to the ravage of time and could no more withstand vehicles of heavy loads. The government started construction of a new bridge beside the old one on 1 June, 2012.

The construction of the

new bridge on the road linking Minbu and Magway in Shwetabin village in Minbu Township in Minbu District of Magway Region is being undertaken by bridge construction special group (4) of Public Works.

The old bridge has the width of 14 ft and the length of 470 ft with one-lane motorway. It could

only withstand 13 tons of loads. It would no more be used when the new bridge is completed.

The new bridge will have the length of 510 ft and the width of 24 ft. Its clearance area will have the width of 54 ft and the height of 6 ft and 6 inches. The RC bridge would withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle.



Photo show construction site of Saput creek bridge project in Minbu Township.

Without calculating the cost of the approach roads, the estimated construction cost is K 1400 million. It would be completed by the end of 2013.

In parallel with development of road networks, the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River is no more isolated and starting to enjoy fruits of better transport. The Saput creek bridge under construction would become a key transport facility in the region linking towns on the eastern bank of the River with Minbu District.

Myanma Alinn: 29-1-13

Trs: HKA

Corrigendum

Please read production sharing contracts instead of profit sharing contracts on headline, third line of first paragraph and caption on page 1 of this newspaper issued on 31-1-2013.

NLM

LOCAL NEWS

Region government meets township administrators



NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win on 25 January morning delivered an address at the meeting of Bago Region Government, District and Township Administrators at the hall of the region government. At first, Township administrators from Pyay, Thayawady, Toungoo and Bago districts

submitted reports. Deputy commissioners gave supplementary reports. The region chief minister made a concluding remark.

MNA

Fire drill demonstrated at CITC



MEIKTILA, 31 Jan—The talks on fire preventive measures and the fire drill were held at Central Institute of Transport and Communication of the Ministry of Rail Transportation in Meiktila on 25 January afternoon.

Head of District Fire

Services Department U Kyaw Hsan gave talks on danger of fire. Members of Fire Brigade demonstrated fire fighting with the use of fire extinguishers.

It was attended by the Principle of the institute and 155 family members of the staff.—Kyemon



New archway under construction at ancient Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 31 Jan—A new archway of Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda is under construction near the head of the Karaweik at Meiktila Lake in Meiktila.

“The pagoda was built in the period of King Alaungsithu in Bagan era.

Ancient ancestors have been preserving the pagoda. In the past, the pagoda was decorated with lime in white colour. Later, Buddhist Myanmar people throughout the nation generously donated gold foils for gilding the pagoda.

Moreover, the pagoda was renovated with a greater structure on Karaweik Barge on a grander scale. We set an aim to attract wellwishers and pilgrims across the nation to be able to make more donations to the pagoda by building a new



2013 66th Anniversary Union Day

Customs Department opens relations section

YANGON, 31 Jan—The relations section was opened at Customs Department on Strand Road, here, recently so as to solve the matters related to custom, according to the chairman of the information group of the department.

The section is kept open from 9 am to 6.30 pm daily on office days.

Two officers are assigned duty at the section for solving difficulties of people regarding the rules and regulations, procedures,

orders and instructions on customs department.

The chairman of the group said that if the officers assigned at the section cannot solve anything, arrangements have been made to solve the problems with the assistance of deputy directors and directors.

The section accepts complaints and suggestions. So far, the section has accepted 41 complaints from companies and 81 from persons.

Kyemon

Myanmar selected athletes under training

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Selected athletes are under training at the Sports Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw for securing success

in the XXVII SEA Games.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik inspected training of athletes at the sports centre on 23 January morning and gave instructions.

At the meeting hall of the centre, the deputy minister met managers and coaches and gave instructions on observing progress of each athlete.

Later, he viewed training of athletes in the volleyball, boxing, Taekwondo and Sepak Takraw sports.

MNA

New school buildings handed over to Kyaukmyaung BEHS

SAGAING, 31 Jan—A ceremony to drive stake for reconstruction of the two-storey school building that collapsed in the recent earthquake was held at Basic Education High School in Kyaukmyaung of Sagaing Region in conjunction with the ceremony to hand over the renovated buildings to the school on 26 January.

Wellwisher Chairman of Shwedaung Development Co Ltd U Aik Tun explained the purpose of donations and handed over documents related to the school to Headmaster U Tin Kyaw.

Next, wellwishers U Aung Thaung-Dr Aye Aye Thein (OG specialist) donated 500 dozens of exercise books, Ears of Paddy Tyre Factory 10 sets of computer, Mr Barbu two sets of computer, U Nay Win (Taing Chit Swe Brokerage), U Nay Min Tun

(Myanma Ahla Camera and Handset Sales Centre) and U Kyaw Khaing (Myanma Ahla Construction) one set each of computer to the school.

The wellwisher for new school building and officials sprinkled scented water on the places for stakes.

School buildings at the school collapsed in the earthquake that hit on 11 November 2012.

The company reconstructed three school buildings namely Tharaphi, Sagawah and multimudia spending K 34.039 million.

Shwedaung Development Company Ltd rebuilt three school buildings worth K 3.9 million.

The new school building to be constructed will be 220 feet long and 30 feet wide, comprising 12 classrooms worth K 125 million.

Kyemon



Respects paid to teachers

YAMETHIN, 31 Jan—A ceremony to pay respects to older teachers was held at Okshitpin Basic Education Middle School in

Model Theingon Village of Yamethin Township.

At the ceremony, Ma Sar U demonstrated traditional cane ball skills.—Kyemon

WORLD

Pakistani girl shot by Taliban to have skull reconstructed

LONDON, 31 Jan—A Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban for advocating girls' education is to return to a specialist hospital in Britain for surgery to reconstruct her skull.

Fifteen-year-old Malala Yousufzai, who was shot in October and brought to Britain for treatment, was discharged from the hospital earlier this month to spend time with her family after her initial treatment phase.

Her doctors said on Wednesday she would return to hospital within the next 10 days to undergo surgery known as titanium cranioplasty to repair a missing area of her skull with a specially molded titanium plate.

The shooting of Yousufzai, in the head at point blank range as she left school in the Swat valley, drew widespread international condemnation.

She has become an internationally recognized

symbol of resistance to the Taliban's efforts to deny women education and other rights, and more than 250,000 people have signed online petitions calling for her to be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for her activism.

British doctors who treated Yousufzai say the bullet hit her left brow but instead of penetrating her skull, traveled underneath the skin along the side of her head and into her shoulder.—Reuters



Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousufzai (C) waves with nurses as she is discharged from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in this handout photograph released on 4 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Two killed in clashes near Egypt's Tahrir Square

CAIRO, 31 Jan—Two persons were killed in clashes near Egypt's iconic square of Tahrir by cartouche shots, official Ahram online reported on Wednesday.

The first victim was killed by a birdshot in the head and transferred to Kaser El Aany hospital, while the corpse of the second victim was found thrown in Abdel Moniem Reyad Square, near Tahrir, by a protestor.

The security forces are investigating the incident, the report said.

During the ongoing clashes between the security forces and the protesters early on Wednesday, some unknown assailants shot cartouche and caused deadly injuries to others in the square, preliminary investigation showed.

The death toll in Cairo since the second anniversary of the 25 January uprising is three, while the total casualties across the country are more than 60 dead and almost 2,000 injured.

Xinhua

Libya receives 26,000 applicants for police training

TRIPOLI, 31 Jan—More than 26,000 members of Libya's Supreme Security Committee (SSC) have applied to join the police, Interior Minister Ashour Shwail said on Wednesday.

The interior ministry has been working to integrate SSC members to the national police through a merger programme launched at the end of last year, Shwail told a Press conference. Police headquarters are under maintenance.

Shwail, a former professor of law, was tasked with collecting weapons, enhancing security and stability, and rehabilitating the national security forces when he took office in December.

After Muammar Gaddafi's overthrow in 2011, Libya's transitional authorities set up the SSC composed of militiamen who would try to curb others defying law enforcement in the belief it remained under control of the former strongman's loyalists.

Xinhua



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R front) waves to people during an inspection tour of the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's economic planner, in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

BEIJING, 31 Jan—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday stressed that issues regarding consumer prices should never be

underestimated, though the country's inflation has remained moderate.

China should better address relations between

Chinese Premier underscores inflation, agriculture

economic growth, structural reform and inflation to keep the economy expanding at a reasonable level, Wen said during an inspection tour of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner.

He also noted that the country should improve the quality and efficiency of its economic growth, while fending off and defusing financial risks.

China's consumer prices expanded 2.6 percent year on year in 2012, well below the government's annual target of keeping inflation under 4 percent.

However, inflation picked up steam in December to grow 2.5 percent, the fastest pace recorded in six months, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, Wen said China should never slacken agricultural production, urging more policies to strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas.

It took years of efforts for China's good agricultural situation to come into being, but reversing the trend won't take a very much long time, he cautioned.—Xinhua

Former Finnish MPs sentenced after campaign financing scandal

HELSINKI, 31 Jan—The Helsinki District Court on Wednesday sentenced two former members of the Finnish Parliament to suspended imprisonment for a campaign financing scandal. Antti Kaikkonen was sentenced 5 months of suspended imprisonment for dereliction of duty when chairing the Finnish Youth Foundation, the Finnish broadcasting company YLE reported.

Jukka Vihriala, former

chairman of the Finnish Slot Machine Association RAY, was given an 18-month suspended prison sentence for receiving bribes.

The two defendants, both from the influential Centre Party, were prosecuted early last year, months after the police began to investigate the scandal.

According to Helsinki News, during Kaikkonen's 12-year tenure as chairman, the Finnish Youth Foundation bought

campaign boards and seminar tickets for Centre Party candidates in their election campaigns, including Kaikkonen's.

The foundation also bribed Vihriala in order to obtain more state support. Vihriala was alleged to have accepted a total of bribes of 42,000 euros (57,000 US dollars), among which 35,000 euros were from the Youth Foundation in the period from 2001 to 2007.—Xinhua



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (R) shakes hands with Mexican Foreign Secretary Jose Antonio Meade at the Department of State in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 30 Jan, 2013. It was the last bilateral meeting for Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State.—XINHUA

Russia envoy signals readiness to seek solution to territorial row

TOKYO, 31 Jan—Russian Ambassador to Japan Evgeny Afanasiev on Wednesday signaled Moscow's readiness to seek a "mutually acceptable" solution to a long-running bilateral territorial dispute.

The remarks at a Press event in Tokyo came ahead of former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's planned visit to Russia in late February to discuss with President Vladimir Putin the ownership of the Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, which are

claimed by Japan.

"We are ready to discuss and search for solutions on any issue" in bilateral relations, Afanasiev said. "We decided, together with Japanese leaders, that we should discuss this issue... to create conditions for some formula that can be acceptable to both."

The dispute over the islands, which were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in World War II on 15 Aug, 1945, has prevented the two countries from concluding

a peace treaty that would formally end the war.

The ambassador said that while Japan and Russia should not be in haste, "We need a peace treaty that will finally resolve all historical issues between us."

But as to a possible framework that would resolve the dispute, he declined to comment.

The Japanese and Russian governments are arranging for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to go to Russia this year, possibly sometime between April and May, to

have a summit with Putin.

As long as Russia acknowledges Japanese ownership of the islands, Tokyo has taken the position it is flexible about when the islands may be returned.

The islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan as well as the Habomai islet group off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido are called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.

Kyodo News



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (R) meets with President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud at EU headquarters in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 30 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Rocket blasts off with new NASA communications satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, 31 Jan—An unmanned *Atlas 5* rocket blasted off on Wednesday to put the first of a new generation of NASA communications satellites into orbit, where it will support the International Space Station, the Hubble Space Telescope and other spacecraft. The 191-foot (58-metre) rocket lifted off at 8:48 pm (0148 GMT Thursday), the first



of 13 planned launches in 2013 from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station just south of NASA's Kennedy Space Centre.

Once in position 22,300 miles above the planet, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite, known as TDRS and built by Boeing Co, will join a seven-member network that tracks rocket launches and relays communications to and

from the space station, the Hubble observatory and other spacecraft circling Earth. Two other TDRS spacecraft were decommissioned in 2009 and 2011 respectively and shifted into higher "graveyard" orbits. A third satellite was lost in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger accident.

NASA used its space shuttle fleet for launching the satellites until 1995, then switched in 2000 to unmanned *Atlas* rockets, manufactured by United Space Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin and Boeing. With six operational satellites and a seventh spare, NASA can track and communicate with spacecraft in lower orbits, such as the space station, which flies about 250 miles above Earth. Before 1983 when the first TDRS was

launched, NASA relied on ground-based communications, occasionally supplemented with airplanes and ships, which was expensive to maintain and provided only a fraction of the coverage of an orbiting network.

Three second-generation TDRS spacecraft were launched from 2000 to 2002. Wednesday's launch was the first of three planned third-generation satellites needed to replace aging members of the constellation."

Reuters



Newly-born koalas tightly hold their mothers as feeders and koalas pose for group photos at Chimelong Safari Park in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 30 Jan, 2013. The park has successfully bred more than 20 koalas since it imported six koalas from Australia in 2006.—XINHUA

Electronic Arts slashes 2013 outlook as industry struggles

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 Jan — Electronic Arts Inc slashed its fiscal 2013 earnings forecast after a weaker-than-expected holiday quarter marked by disappointing sales of its "Medal of Honour" title, as the industry struggles with flagging demand. The games maker forecast non-GAAP revenue for the year to end-March of \$3.8 billion to \$3.9 billion and earnings of \$0.86 to \$1.00 per share from \$1.00 to \$1.15 per share previously, down

about 13 percent at the midpoint. Chief Financial Officer Blake Jorgensen said the earnings forecast had been adjusted downward, to take into account uncertainties in the seasonally weaker March quarter.

"The economy hasn't gotten any stronger," he told *Reuters* in an interview. "It's a little early for me to know how strong the market's going to be, so based on that we widened our range for revenue for the fourth quarter and brought

our guidance down slightly just to make sure we're prudent." Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said Electronic Arts was being "overly conservative" with its guidance after its big holiday release "Medal of Honour: Warfighter" underperformed.

"They were a little shell-shocked by how bad holiday demand was, and I think at the low end they're probably assuming demand is down 20 percent or so," Pachter said.—*Reuters*

First Chinese company joins WWF emission reduction programme

SHIJIAZHUANG, 31 Jan — The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on Tuesday announced that a north China company has become the first Chinese company and also the first photovoltaic (PV) manufacturer to join the WWF's Climate Savers programme. Yingli Green Energy Holding Co, Ltd, a leading solar energy company based in the city of Baoding in north China's Hebei province, is the first Chinese company to set a specific renewable electricity consumption target, the WWF said.

Yingli has agreed to reduce the intensity of its

greenhouse gas emissions per megawatt (MW) of PV module production by 13 percent by the end of 2015 in comparison to 2010 levels. The company also plans to reduce emissions from purchased goods and services per MW of PV module production by 7 percent and to reduce emissions from upstream transportation by 10 percent by the end of 2015. The Climate Savers programme, initiated by the WWF in 1999, now features the participation of 30 member companies that have set targets for emission reduction and are working with other companies, suppliers and partners to implement solutions for a clean, low carbon economy.

Peter Beaudoin, head of WWF's China office, said it is "very demanding" for companies to join the programme. "Companies that agree to set emission-cutting

goals and actively promote the application of renewable energy can become member companies," Beaudoin said. More Chinese companies have launched campaigns to combat climate change, Beaudoin added. "We are very glad to become the first Chinese company and the first solar manufacturer to join the program," said Miao Liansheng, chairman and CEO of Yingli. "Yingli is working to provide affordable, green energy to ordinary people while carrying out our company's social and environmental responsibilities to reduce energy consumption and emissions in our production and operations," Miao said. Yingli also pledged that at least 4 percent of the electricity the company consumes will come from renewable sources, especially solar energy, by the end of 2015.

Reuters



Top US firms open to voluntary cybersecurity rules: Senate

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — Many Fortune 500 companies support the creation of federal cybersecurity standards to protect them from Internet threats like hacking as long as they are voluntary, according to a Senate survey of top US chief executives released on Wednesday.

The report resulted from letters sent to Fortune 500 companies in September by Senator Jay Rockefeller, the Democrat from

West Virginia who last year authored a now-expired cybersecurity bill and is now renewing his push for such legislation.

Better protection from cyber threats has taken on growing urgency in Washington, with top officials warning of the potentially devastating impact of cyber attacks that could undermine key infrastructure, which is mostly privately owned. Some 300 top companies in a variety of indus-

tries responded to the survey, according to the report compiled by the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which Rockefeller chairs.

Reflecting that growing interest in better securing networks, computers and data from cyber attacks, the survey showed broad support of the effort to pass new cybersecurity laws and collaborate with the federal government.—*Reuters*



People experience the new BlackBerry smartphone Z10 at a press event in Toronto, Canada, on 30 Jan, 2013. Research In Motion Ltd (RIM) on Wednesday launched its long-awaited BlackBerry 10 OS and smartphones. XINHUA

Science cafes offer a sip of learning

ORLANDO, 31 Jan — Americans may be turning away from the hard sciences at universities, but they are increasingly showing up at "science cafes" in local bars and restaurants to listen to scientific talks over a drink or a meal. Want a beer with that biology? Or perhaps a burger with the works to complement the theory of everything? Science cafes have sprouted in almost every state including a tapas restaurant near downtown Orlando where Sean Walsh, 27, a graphic designer, describes himself and his friends as some of the laymen in the crowd.

"We just want to learn and whatever we take in, we take in. But we're also socializing and having a nice time," said Walsh, who a drank beer, ate Tater Tots

and learned a little about asteroids and radiation at two recent events. Others in the crowd come with scientific credentials to hear particular scientists lecture on a narrowly focused field of interest. But the typical participant brings at least some college-level education or at least a lively curiosity, said Edward Haddad, executive director of the Florida Academy of Sciences, which helped start up Orlando's original cafe and organizes the events.

"You're going to engage the (National Public Radio) crowd very easily here," said Linda Walters, a marine conservation biologist from the University of Central Florida who has lectured twice at the Orlando-area science cafes. Haddad said the current national push to increase the number of US graduates in science, technology, engineering and math, or the STEM fields, is driving up the number of science cafes.—*Reuters*



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Yoga may aid people with irregular heart rhythm

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—Regular yoga classes could help people with a common heart rhythm problem manage their symptoms while also improving their state of mind, a new study suggests.

According to the American Heart Association, about 2.7 million people in the US have atrial fibrillation (AF), in which the heart's upper chambers

quiver chaotically instead of contracting normally. People with AF are often prescribed drugs such as beta blockers to help control their heart rate and rhythm. But the medicines don't alleviate symptoms for all patients, researchers noted—which is where add-ons like yoga could come in.

"This may be something they should consider," said

W Todd Cade, a physical therapy researcher from Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis. "Yoga could be a beneficial treatment for people with atrial fibrillation.

Obviously they should talk to their doctor before they start a programme," Cade, who wasn't involved in the new research, told Reuters Health. "There are a lot of other benefits of yoga, and there aren't a lot of negatives," he added. The new study included 49 people who'd had AF for an average of five years.

For three months, researchers led by Dr Dhanunjaya Lakkireddy from the University of Kansas Medical Centre in Kansas City tracked study volunteers' heart symptoms and their blood pressure and heart rate, as well as their anxiety, depression and general quality of life.

Reuters



People practice yoga on the morning of the summer solstice in New York's Times Square on 20 June, 2012.

REUTERS

France decides to suspend sales of acne pill Diane 35

PARIS, 31 Jan—French health watchdog on Wednesday called for a stop to the sale of Diane 35, an anti-acne pill but also being widely used as contraceptive that has left four deaths in the country.

The National Agency for Safety of Drug and Health Products (ANSM) made the decision after it found that Diane 35, as a drug used in the treatment

of acne exposed the pill takers to "the risk of venous thromboembolism four times higher than those women who do not take these treatments" against acne, according to a statement released by the agency.

Last Sunday, the health regulator criticized the drug responsible for 125 cases of thrombosis and at least four deaths since

its launch on the French market in 1987. According to the agency, Diane 35, which is manufactured by the German pharmaceutical company Bayer, has been prescribed to 315,000 women in France as a contraceptive.

"This drug is not licensed for use as a contraceptive," ANSM's chief Dominique Maraninchi told a Press conference

Obesity in girls tied to higher MS risk: study

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—Obese children, adolescent girls in particular, are more likely to be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) than normal-weight youth—with extreme obesity tied to a three- to four-fold higher risk of MS. The study didn't prove that carrying around some extra eight in childhood causes MS, a neurological disease in which the protective coating around nerve fibers breaks down, slowing signals traveling between the brain and the body, said researchers whose work appeared in the journal *Neurology*.

But it does suggest that rising levels of obesity in young people could mean more MS diagnoses than in the past, according to lead study author Annette Langer-Gould from Kaiser Permanente of Southern California and her colleagues. For the study, Langer-Gould and her colleagues compared the heights and weights of 75 young people with pediatric MS and its possible



precursor, a condition called clinically isolated syndrome (CIS), and more than 900,000 without the disease. "Our findings suggest the childhood obesity epidemic is likely to lead to increased morbidity from MS/CIS, particularly in adolescent girls," Langer-Gould and her colleagues wrote.

Just over half of the children and teens with MS were overweight or obese, compared to 37 percent of other youth. Being overweight or moderately obese was tied to a slightly higher chance of MS in adolescent girls, but the

results were based on a small number of cases and could have been due to chance. Extreme obesity, on the other hand, was linked more clearly with a three-to four-fold higher risk of MS. A 12-year-old girl who stands 1.52 metres (5 feet) tall and weighs 51 kilograms (112 pounds) is considered overweight and extremely obese at over 70 kg (155 pounds). There was no clear pattern between boys' weights and how likely they were to be diagnosed with MS, Langer-Gould's team found.—Reuters

Facebook's mobile ad revenue doubles in fourth quarter

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 Jan—Facebook Inc doubled its mobile advertising revenue in the fourth quarter, a sign that the No1 social network is seeing early success in expanding onto handheld devices as more of its users migrate to smartphones and tablets. Investors want to see evidence that CEO Mark Zuckerberg's 8-year-old company is delivering on promises to develop a full-fledged mobile advertising business, a challenge facing many of today's technology leaders including Google Inc.

released. Mobile revenue estimates among some analysts and investors were unreasonably high, said Sterne, Agee & Leach analyst Arvind Bhatia.

"As a result the stock was set up for disappointment," he said. Overall, he said, Facebook's results were encouraging. The company's overall advertising business grew at its fastest clip since before its May initial public offering, helping the company's revenue expand 40 percent and surpass Wall Street targets. Facebook has



on Wednesday. The agency expected pill users to find another alternative to replace Diane 35 with a period of three-month before the it is out of the market. It has launch a new study into the pill and the result is expected in a week.—Xinhua

GDP unexpectedly shrinks, decline seen temporary

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—The economy unexpectedly contracted in the fourth quarter, but analysts said there was no reason for panic given that consumer spending and business investment picked up. Gross domestic product fell at a 0.1 percent annual rate,

its weakest performance since the economy emerged from recession in 2009, the Commerce Department said on Wednesday.

If it were not for the hit from slower inventory growth and the deepest plunge in defense spending in 40 years, the economy

would have grown at a respectable 2.5 percent rate. In addition, economists said Superstorm Sandy, which struck the East Coast in late October may have reduced GDP by about half a point. "Obviously, the headline number is a bit jarring, but the underlying details of the report, by and large, are consistent with an economy that is growing probably at a trend basis of about two percent," said Michael Hanson, a senior economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in New York.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected GDP to rise at a 1.1 percent rate and none had predicted a contraction. While many were surprised by the drop in output, they were heartened by the acceleration in consumer spending and rebound

in business investment, which pointed to some fundamental economic strength. A second report, from payroll processor ADP, showed private-sector payrolls expanded by 192,000 jobs in January after increasing 185,000 in December, which also suggested the recovery's fundamentals were sound.

Faster jobs growth could help the economy weather the headwind of higher taxes and possible spending cuts. A payroll tax cut expired on 1 January and big automatic spending cuts are set to take hold in March unless Congress acts. Federal Reserve officials, at the end of a two-day meeting, noted economic activity had "paused" due to weather-related disruptions and other "transitory factors."

Reuters



Containers await departure as crews load and unload consumer products at the Port of New Orleans along the Mississippi River in New Orleans, Louisiana in this file photo taken on 23 June, 2010.—REUTERS



The Facebook logo is pictured at the Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

But the growth trailed some of Wall Street's most aggressive estimates. Shares of Facebook were down roughly 3 percent at \$30.21 in after-hours trading on Wednesday, regaining ground after falling more than 8 percent immediately after the numbers were

rolled out a wide variety of new services in recent months as the company seeks to stay ahead in the fast-moving Web market and to convince Wall Street that it can turn its audience of more than 1 billion users into a sustainable business.

Reuters

WORLD

Nicaragua makes progress in fighting hunger: FAO

MANAGUA, 31 Jan—Nicaragua has advanced most in overcoming hunger in Latin American countries, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said here on Wednesday. Except for an increase of chronic malnutrition in 1998, “extreme poverty and hunger are visibly decreased in the country,” the FAO said in a statement. The Latin American country reduced hunger prevalence from 55 percent in 1990-1992 to 20 percent of its 5.8-million population in the 2010-2012 period, the statement said.

“The progress is a clear

proof that we can eradicate hunger if the countries have a purposeful action,” said FAO General Director Jose Graziano da Silva.

He discussed with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega the joint efforts to boost family agriculture production to improve food and nutrition security, on the sidelines of a summit between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union in Santiago, Chile.

The FAO chief invited Ortega to participate the upcoming session of the FAO General Council on 26 April in Rome.—Xinhua

Resona Holdings to promote Vice President Higashi to President in April

TOKYO, 31 Jan—Resona Holdings Inc. will promote Vice President Kazuhiro Higashi in April to replace Seiji Higaki as President in a major management reshuffle, as its completion of public fund repayments has come into sight, sources familiar with the matter said on Thurs-

day.

Higashi, 55, will be the youngest leader of a major Japanese banking group. Higaki, 61, will become a board member after being succeeded by Higashi on 1 April and step down at a shareholders’ meeting slated for June, the sources said.

Together with former

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—Police were hunting for a suspect on Wednesday after three people were shot and injured in Phoenix, the US state of Arizona.

The shooting happened at 10:30 am local time on Wednesday at a three-story office building on 16th Street near Glendale Avenue, Azcentral.com reported on its website, quoting local officials.

Authorities believed a lone suspect was responsible for the shooting, Sergeant Tommy Thompson of the Phoenix Police Department said. The shooter, whom police refused to

identify, was described as a white male between 50 and 70 years old and was believed to be armed.

The suspect fired multiple rounds, hitting several people after an altercation, CBS affiliate KPHO reported.

In addition to the three individuals who were shot, three others were also sent to area hospitals for treatment. They are believed to be wounded by flying glass and debris, according to reports.

At least one of the victims was reported to be out of surgery and in stable condition.—Xinhua

vacant following the death of Hosoya, according to the sources.

Higashi, a graduate of Sophia University in Tokyo and a native of Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, entered the predecessor of Resona Holdings in 1982 and became vice president in June 2009.—Kyodo News



Two traffic policewomen with masks work in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 30 Jan, 2013. The local traffic policemen used masks to protect their health in hazy days.—XINHUA

Chile, Finland to cooperate on mining, energy

SANTIAGO, 31 Jan—Chilean President Sebastian Pinera and visiting Finland's Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen signed agreements on co-operation in the mining and energy sectors, the Chilean government said on Wednesday. Finland will provide Chile with technology and fund to develop innovative mining machinery and clean energy equipments, according to the agreements signed on Tuesday.

“Chile is a mining country and we have many things to learn from you (Finland),” Pinera said. He said Chile has “huge potential in clean and renewable energy,” as

its deserts have high level of solar radiation. “We have 25 percent of the world's volcanoes for geothermal energy, and we have more than 6,000 kilometres of coast for marine energy,” Pinera added.

Finland is among the best in the world in the use of renewable energy such as bioenergy, wind and hydropower, which accounts for 25 percent of its whole energy consumption. With geothermal energy as an important source in its green energy plan, the Northern European country has developed state-of-arts expertise in solar and geothermal energy utilization.—Xinhua

Wang Xiankui re-elected governor of Heilongjiang Province



Wang Xiankui

HARBIN, 31 Jan—Wang Xiankui was re-

elected governor of north-east China's Heilongjiang Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People's Congress, the local legislature.

Wang, 60, is a native of Cangxian County in north China's Hebei Province. He joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1974.

Wang served as deputy CPC chief of northwest China's Gansu Province between April 2003 and October 2006. He was dep-

uty CPC chief of the east China's Jiangxi Province from October 2006 to August 2010.

He was first elected governor of Heilongjiang in November 2010.

At the same session, Ji Bingxuan was re-elected chairman of the Standing Committee of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Congress. He is also secretary of the CPC Heilongjiang Provincial Committee.—Xinhua

Chen Zhenggao re-elected governor of Liaoning Province

SHENYANG, 31 Jan—Chen Zhenggao was re-elected governor of north-east China's Liaoning Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People's Congress, the local legislature.

Chen, born in 1952, is a native of Liaoning's city of Haicheng. He joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1972.

He was first elected governor of Liaoning in January 2008.

At the same session, Wang Min was re-elected chairman of the Standing



Chen Zhenggao

Committee of the Liaoning Provincial People's Congress. Wang is also secre-

tary of the CPC Liaoning Provincial Committee.

Xinhua

Zhang Qingwei re-elected Hebei Province governor



Zhang Qingwei

SHIJIAZHUANG, 31 Jan—Zhang Qingwei was re-elected governor of north China's Hebei Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial

People's Congress, the local legislature.

Zhang, born in November 1961, was first elected governor of Hebei in January of 2012.

He was appointed Hebei's vice governor and acting governor in August of 2011 after the local legislature approved the resignation of his predecessor, Chen Quanguo.

A native of Laoting County in Hebei, Zhang had long worked in the country's aerospace industry. He served as board chairman of the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd from 3 March, 2008 to August of 2011.

At the same session, Zhang Qingli was also elected chairman of the Standing Committee of the Hebei Provincial People's Congress. He is also secretary of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee.

Xinhua

Chen Min'er elected governor of Guizhou Province

GUIYANG, 31 Jan—Chen Min'er was elected governor of southwest China's Guizhou Province on Wednesday at the first session of the 12th provincial People's Congress, the

local legislature.

Chen was born in the city of Zhuji in east China's Zhejiang Province in September 1960. He was appointed as the acting governor and vice governor of

Guizhou on 18 December.

At the same session, Zhao Kezhi was elected chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guizhou Provincial People's Congress.—Xinhua

WORLD

Seven dead in N China traffic accident

SHIJIAZHUANG, 31 Jan—Seven people were killed after a heavy truck rolled over and crushed a smaller vehicle on Wednesday night in north China's Hebei Province, local police said on Thursday.

The accident occurred on the No 331 provincial highway at 10:40 pm on Wednesday, when a heavy truck rolled over and crushed a small bus.

Seven people were rushed to a local hospital, where they died on early Thursday morning despite medical efforts.

An initial investigation found that slippery roads as a result of snow and rain were to blame for the accident, police from the city of Hejian said, adding that the accident is still being investigated.

Xinhua



Xi Jinping (R, front), general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and also chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, extends Spring Festival greetings to military veterans and ex-officers at a festive art performance in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Xi extends festival greetings to veterans

BEIJING, 31 Jan—Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Wednesday extended Spring Festival greetings to military veterans.

As a festive art performance was held for the veterans and ex-officers in Beijing, Xi, also chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC),

attended the gathering and expressed his best wishes to the participants.

The veterans expressed their appreciation for the achievements China has made over the last year and said they will carefully study the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress. This year's Spring Festival, or the Lunar New Year, falls on 10 February.—Xinhua

Magnitude 6.8 quake shakes Chile, but no serious damage

SANTAGO, 31 Jan—A strong magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit central-northern Chile on Wednesday, shaking buildings as far away as the capital Santiago, and possibly leading a woman to die minutes later of an apparent heart attack, the US Geological Survey and local officials said.

There were no reports of serious damage.

The quake, initially reported as a magnitude 6.7, struck at a depth of 28.4 miles, 63 miles southwest of the mining town Copiapo and 364 miles north of Santiago at 5:15 pm (2015 GMT), the US Geological Survey said.

A 50-year-old woman in Copiapo died after presumably suffering a heart attack following the quake, Chile's Onemi emergency office said.

The earthquake hit well south of large mines in the world's top copper producer and Chile's emer-

gency office said there were no preliminary reports of significant damage.

"Mining companies have reported some minor rock falls on auxiliary roads ... the companies' personnel are fine and there are no structural damages to speak of," said Copiapo's regional mining authority Mauricio Pino.

The navy said the

quake did not meet the conditions needed to generate a tsunami off the country's Pacific coastline.

Nearly three years ago, a massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake and ensuing tsunami ravaged central-southern Chile, killing hundreds of people and causing billions of dollars worth of damage.

Reuters



A building suffers structural damage after an earthquake at Copiapo City, Atacama, Chile, on 30 Jan, 2013. A 6.7-magnitude earthquake hit Chile at 4:15 am Thursday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. The epicenter was monitored at 28.1 degrees south latitude and 70.8 degrees west longitude with a depth of 30 km.—XINHUA

Chinese Navy depart for West Pacific training

MISSILE DESTROYER QINGDAO, 31 Jan—A fleet of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has set off from a



A Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy fleet has set off from a military port in east China's Qingdao City.—XINHUA

military port in east China's Qingdao City for regular open-sea training in the West Pacific Ocean, military sources revealed on

Wednesday.

Departing on Tuesday morning, the fleet comprises three ships—missile destroyer Qingdao, and missile frigates Yantai and Yancheng—carrying three helicopters, all from the North China Sea Fleet under the PLA Navy.

During the voyage, the fleet is scheduled to conduct multi-program training sessions in the sea area where China has been carrying out regular patrols, according to the sources.

The training area will include the Yellow, East China and South China

seas, the Miyako Strait, the Bashi Channel and the sea area east of Taiwan.

The fleet will carry out more than 20 types of exercises, including maritime confrontation, open-sea mobile combat, law enforcement missions and open-sea naval commanding.

As part of the ongoing open-sea training, the fleet held a four-hour maritime confrontation drill in the Yellow Sea on Tuesday with another PLA Navy fleet which is to depart for escort missions in the sea area off Somali.—Xinhua

Carbon monoxide kills 12 in NE China mine

HARBIN, 31 Jan—Carbon monoxide has been blamed for the Tuesday deaths of 12 workers in a coal mine in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, a local official said on Thursday. Three workers entered the Yongsheng mine in Dongning County to pump out water before passing out from carbon monoxide poisoning around 10:30 am Tuesday, said Zhang Fuguang, deputy head of the county government.

Zhang said an initial investigation showed that a dense buildup of carbon monoxide in the mine was caused by self-igniting coal

in an old mine located adjacent to the Yongsheng mine.

The mine's managers organized volunteer rescue efforts to locate the workers, but the rescuers were also poisoned, as they had no equipment to detect the carbon monoxide.

More than 30 professional rescuers arrived on Tuesday afternoon and pulled 20 people out of the mine, including the trapped workers. Twelve of the people, including the head of the mine, died despite medical treatment. The other eight are being treated at local hospitals, where they are in stable condition.—Xinhua

Strong storms knock out power in parts of Arkansas

HOUSTON, 31 Jan—A line of strong storms have downed trees and knocked out power to thousands of people in the US state of Arkansas, local media reported on Wednesday.

Energy Arkansas Inc reported about 7,400 customers without power at 8:30 am on Wednesday, as a result of Tuesday night's storms in different parts of the state, and more than 10,000 were in the dark two-and-a-half hours earlier, according to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

There were also doz-

ens of reports of tree and building damage tied to the Tuesday night storms, which were also said to pack strong straight-line winds.

Survey crews from the National Weather Service (NWS) reportedly headed to southeast Arkansas on Wednesday to examine damage where several tornado warnings were issued when the storms moved through the state. Much of Arkansas is under a wind or lake wind advisory on Wednesday, according to the report.—Xinhua

6.2-magnitude quake hits Santa Cruz: CENC

BEIJING, 31 Jan—A 6.2-magnitude quake jolted Santa Cruz Islands at 11:33 am on Thursday Beijing Time, the China Earthquake Networks Centre said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 50 km, was determined to be 10.7 degrees south latitude and 166.4 degrees east longitude, the centre said.

Xinhua

S Korea launches Naro space rocket

SEOUL, 31 Jan—South Korea on Wednesday successfully launched its space rocket in its third attempt to put a satellite into space.

The Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1), also known as Naro, blasted off at 4 pm local time from the Naro Space Center, located 480 kilometers south of Seoul. The rocket, with a Russian-built first stage and a South Korean-developed second stage, appears to have reached its target altitude and deployed its payload satellite, local media reported.

"The launch of the rocket itself succeeded. Whether the entire mission of deploying the satellite into proper orbit was suc-

cessful will be determined later in the day," an official from the Korea Aerospace Research Institute was quoted by Yonhap news agency saying.

The launch marked

the country's third attempt to put a satellite into space from its own soil. Two previous attempts in 2009 and 2010 failed due to technical problems.

Xinhua



The Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1), also known as Naro, blasts off from the Naro Space Centre, located 480 kilometres south of Seoul, on 30 Jan, 2013. XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 1 February, 2013

Affordable housing

Yangon sees an increasing population and needs more apartments. People from four corners of the country are flocking into the commercial city. Because Yangon has more job opportunities and has easy access to other places compared with any other place across the country. Majority of people are in no position to have houses and apartments. As estate prices are skyrocketing forcing the majority away from buying a house or an apartment. Buying a house or an apartment is only a dream for staff and those from grass root level.

We all know that how difficult to own a house or an apartment. They have to spend their low salaries on food, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses. They are expecting the emergence of more and more government's low-cost housing projects as quickly as possible. Recently, a news come out that the government is going to implement low-cost housing projects in 2013-2014 financial year. It is a good news for them. But the prices of low-cost housings are very high.

The prices should be affordable for people who earn low-salary. The sale and allotment of low-cost units should be transparent. Authority concerned should supervise the quality of units. Yangon is expected to see increased population in the future. It needs to implement low-cost housing projects one after another to accommodate the ever increasing population.

Union Defence Minister holds talks with EU Advisor

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin met with a delegation led by Mr Robert Cooper, Advisor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security

Policy, at his office, here this morning and made discussions on Tatmadaw affairs. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Commodore Aung Thaw and officials concerned.

MNA

Government will use...

(from page 1)

registration process in order that farmers can obtain working capitals by putting up their farmland as securities when necessary. I would like to urge the peasantry to grasp new financial management methods and opportunities compatible with the opening market. I would also like you to reclaim your farmland to increase the value of your farmland, your major capital. Meanwhile, we need to shift toward modernized farming which can facilitate agricultural development in line with market economy.

It is undeniable that the present political achievements are attributable to collaboration of the government, the parliament, the Armed Forces, civil society organizations and the entire people. Democracy

can't be practiced just by holding elections. It means the knowledgeable entire people can make their own choices without suppression and restrictions. Here, well-organized and disciplined civil society organizations are of crucial importance.

Our government intends to resurrect the civil society organizations that took an important part in successive eras. At the same time, the onus rests on each and every citizen to strengthen civil society organizations. I met community-centered civil society organizations at Yangon Region Hluttaw on 20 January, 2013 to help develop participatory State-building process. On 27 January, 2013, respective ministers from our cabinet could enter round-table discussions with civil society organizations concerned. This I believe would

develop into participatory administration process at all levels of administrative mechanism including region/state level and Union level.

Meanwhile, we need to place special focus on political stability, internal stability and national unity to make success of our reform efforts. Losses as the consequences of ongoing conflicts and the trauma locals from conflict regions suffer are also the losses of our society. We are taking steps to offer effective humanitarian assistance to national brethren in conflict regions and are cooperating with appropriate international organizations. It is high time we entered negotiation table to find a solution to stop losses and damages and establish genuine peace aspired by the people. I therefore in all seriousness would like to urge all the leaders of respective

organizations to come round the table and negotiate for a solution. One point I would like to stress here is only when the stakeholders and the entire national people strive in unity with magnanimity, we would be able to overcome this crisis as the ongoing peace process has reached delicate and sensitive stage.

To make the long story short, at the same time we are facing difficulties and challenges, we are also having opportunities that we didn't get in over sixty years. I would like to urge the entire national people to surmount those challenges together with us. I would like to urge every one of you to arouse Union spirit with which we could get united on the upcoming 66th Anniversary Union Day and to take part in State-building endeavors.

I wish all of you physical and mental well-being.

UEC Chairman discusses electoral process with EU Advisor

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye held talks with Mr Robert Cooper, Advisor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and party at his office, here, this morning.

Also present at the call were Members of the Commission U Myint Naing, U Aung Myint, Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin and U Win Ko, Secretary of the Commission U Tin Tun and responsible persons.

Both sides focused on mutual sending representatives so as for success of electoral process, accepting EU's assistance for successfully holding the free and fair election in 2015, for giving talks on electoral process to national races and exchanging views on ideas on electoral affairs.

MNA

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye greets Mr Robert Cooper, Advisor to High Representative of EU.—MNA



Myanmar, Thai MPs in sports, culture, information talks



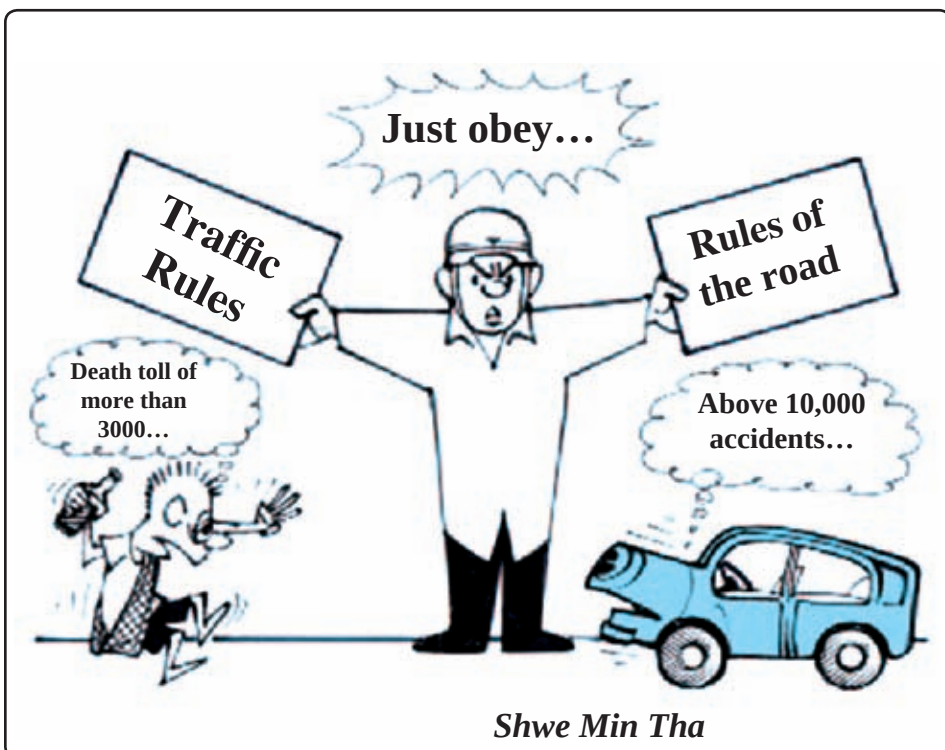
NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint received Mr Santsak Jaroon Ngampiches,

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Religion, Arts and Culture House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand and party at I-1 Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee, here,

yesterday.

They exchanged views on development of sports between the two countries and cultural and information exchange.

MNA



NATIONAL

Hluttaws mark Second Anniversary with gala lunch



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann deliver addresses at second anniversary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw celebrated second anniversary at the banquet hall of Hluttaw Complex, here this noon.

Present on the ceremony were Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, the Deputy Speakers of Pyithu and

Amyotha Hluttaws, chairs of Hluttaw Committees and Commissions, secretaries and Hluttaw representatives. The Speakers of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw delivered speeches.

During the lunch, artistes of the Ministry of Culture entertained those present with songs and the two Speakers presented a bouquet and cash to the performers.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw IRC Chairman meets EU Advisor

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan— On behalf of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the EU's Foreign Policy, at the Hall No. 1 of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

The meeting focused on matters related to legislative affairs being undertaken by the Hluttaws and the discussions on economic growth and national reconciliation in the Hluttaws, and bilateral cooperation between the Hluttaws and the parliaments of EU.

It was also attended by Secretaries of Pyithu

Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin, Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe and International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun,

member of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Tun Aung Kyaw, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and

Special Cases Assessment Commission U Than Tun and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA



Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo receives Mr. Robert Cooper, Head of the department for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Advisor to Chief of the EU's Foreign Policy.—MNA

VISA launches international payment systems

YANGON, 31 Jan— Visa has brought international payment systems to Myanmar, launching the first Visa payment service for point-of-sale (POS) transactions in Myanmar today.

Visa, which established a nationwide ATM network in December last year, has made the first international payment service for POS transactions in cooperation with Myanmar Oriental Bank (MOB), heralding

the next stage in the development of electronic payment systems in the country.

In its press release, the global payments technology company says this milestone brings new opportunities for local merchants and banks to participate in the global electronic payments system and marks the first time international cardholders can make a payment directly to a local merchant

with their Visa card.

Visa credit, debit and prepaid cards will be able to use as from today to pay for transactions at select merchants in Myanmar through traditional point of sale terminals.

Myanmar merchants will leverage point of sale terminals enabled with EMV technology, offering Visa cardholders a highly secure and convenient way to make payments throughout the country.

Daw Kyi Kyi Than, Managing Director of Myanmar Oriental Bank said, "This is a significant landmark in the development of financial services in Myanmar as POS transactions offer greater flexibility for both merchants and consumers."

Myanmar Oriental Bank was the first bank in Myanmar to issue credit cards in 1995 and has become the first Visa POS acquiring bank in the country. Somboon Krobeteeranon, Visa Country Manager,

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has reshuffled the following departmental heads to the departments shown against each other as of the date on which they assume their new duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Thein Aung Director-General Myanma Radio and Television Ministry of Information	Managing Director Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise Ministry of Information
(b) U Tint Swe Director-General Information and Public Relations Department Ministry of Information	Director-General Myanma Radio and Television Ministry of Information
(c) U Ye Tint Managing Director Printing and Publishing Enterprise Ministry of Information	Managing Director Information and Public Relations Department Ministry of Information
(d) U Aung Myo Myint Managing Director Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise Ministry of Information	Managing Director Printing and Publishing Enterprise Ministry of Information

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Director-General U Kyaw Soe of Hluttaw Office on expiry of one year probationary period.

Aunglan lit with lamp-posts

AUNGLAN, 31 Jan— Under the supervision of the deputy commissioner of Thayet District in Magway Region and assistance of Township Administrator and ward administrators, electricians from the township electrical office erected 120 lamp-posts along the roads in Aunglan on 14 January.

Administrators from

nine wards contributed K 1440000 for installation of 65 watts bulbs for lighting along the roads. Township Electrical Engineer U Kyaw Min Oo and electricians carried out installation works of power lines and bulbs. Township Development Affairs Committee will pay charge of electricity for lamp posts.

Myanma Alinn

Poverty alleviation discussed in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 31 Jan—A coordination meeting on election of ward/village-tract administrators and poverty alleviation was held at the hall of Kachin State Government in Myitkyina on 21 January, with an address by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai. Deputy commissioners

from Myitkyina, Mohnyin, Bhamo and Putao districts reported on progress of election of ward/village-tract administrators and poverty alleviation.

State ministers and the secretary of the State Government gave supplementary reports.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar and Thailand, said "We believe that Visa's first POS payment transaction in Myanmar is an important

step in helping Myanmar develop its electronic payments infrastructure."

By Aye Min Soe



Chinese millionaire fights pollution with thin air



Chinese multimillionaire Chen Guangbiao (R) gives a can of fresh air to a man wearing a mask on a hazy day in central Beijing, on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 31 Jan—China's foulest fortnight for air pollution in memory has rekindled a tongue-in-cheek campaign by a multimillionaire with a streak of showmanship who is selling canned fresh air.

Chen Guangbiao, who made his fortune in the recycling business and is a high-profile philanthropist, on Wednesday handed out soda pop-sized cans of air, purportedly from far-flung, pristine regions of China

such as Xinjiang in the northwest to Taiwan, the southeast coast.

"I want to tell mayors, county chiefs and heads of big companies: don't just chase GDP growth, don't chase the biggest profits at the expense of our children and grandchildren and at the cost of sacrificing our ecological environment", Chen said.

China's air quality is closely watched as it fluctuates dramatically from day

to day but in recent weeks has registered far into the unhealthy zone.

Air pollution is measured in terms of PM2.5, or particulate matter 2.5 micrometers in diameter, which are absorbed by the lungs and can cause heart and lung disease. The World Health Organisation recommends a daily PM2.5 level of 20 and says that levels greater than 300 are serious health hazards.

Beijing's air quality frequently surges past a level of 500, and on 12 January soared to 755, the highest in memory.

The 44-year-old entrepreneur, whose wealth is estimated at \$740 million according to last year's Hurun Rich List of China's super-wealthy, is an ebullient and tireless self-promoter.

He is something of a celebrity in China, with more than 4 million followers on Sina Weibo, China's most popular Twitter-like microblogging platform.

Reuters

Car drivers in China exceeds 200 mln

BEIJING, 31 Jan—The number of people licensed to drive cars in China has exceeded 200 million, an increase of 26.47 million year on year, according to the Ministry of Public Security statistics on Wednesday.

The statistics showed that there were 240 million automobiles on the roads by

the end of 2012, and a total of 260 million license holders of all types of vehicles, including motorcycles.

Meanwhile, the number of road accidents involving deaths or injuries dropped by 3.1 percent in 2012, and the death toll by 3.8 percent. The number of accidents claiming more than three lives de-

creased by 15 percent.

There were 25 severe road accidents in 2012, two fewer than in 2011. Eight of the accidents last year took place on expressways and seven in the countryside. The ministry said the number of deaths on countryside roads increased by 13.9 percent year on year.—Xinhua



Demonstrators on a protest march walk to a police station in Port Said, Egypt, on 29 Jan, 2013. Kyodo News

WikiLeaks founder to run for Senate in Australian election

CANBERRA, 31 Jan—Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks website, will run for a Senate seat in the 2013 Australian federal election, his mother Christine Assange confirmed with local

media on Wednesday.

"He will be awesome," she told *Australian Associated Press*. "In the House of Representatives we get to choose between US lackey party number one and US lackey party number two—between the major parties. So it will be great to 'Assange' the Senate for some Aussie oversight," the mother said.

Assange, born in Australian state of Queensland, announced his Senate ambition last December from Ecuador's London embassy. He sought refuge there since last

June in a bid to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he faces rape allegations.

Assange, who founded the secret-leaking website WikiLeaks, fears if he goes to Sweden to be questioned over rape allegations, authorities will allow him to be extradited to the United States. WikiLeaks has published thousands of US diplomatic cables on its website.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced Wednesday that the federal election will be held on 14 September.—Xinhua

War journalists to return to Cambodia for Sihanouk's funeral

PHNOM PENH, 31 Jan—At least 30 war correspondents and photographers will come to Cambodia this week for the funeral of former King Norodom Sihanouk, Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said on Wednesday.

The funeral and cremation ceremonies from Friday through Monday will be the biggest of their kind to be held in Cambodia in half-a-century and are expected to be attended by at least 1 million Cambodians. Sihanouk died at 89 in Bei-

jing last October.

During their visit, a memorial dedicated to 37 foreign and Cambodian correspondents and journalists who died or went missing while covering the civil war in Cambodia between 1970 and 1975 will be inaugurated, the government spokesman said.

Those to be honoured by the memorial include Koki Ishiyama, a *Kyodo News* correspondent who died in 1974 in a Khmer Rouge-controlled zone some 100 kilometers west

of Phnom Penh. His wife Yoko is among the confirmed participants.

Some veteran journalists will also pay their respects to Ishiyama at a Buddhist stupa built in his honor at Unaloam Pagoda, some 2 km away from the joint memorial.

The memorial was built in front of the five-star Le Royal Hotel, which was a meeting place for foreign correspondents in the 1970s, in central Phnom Penh.

Among foreign jour-

nalists who died during the Cambodian conflicts were 10 Japanese, eight French nationals, seven Americans, and others from Switzerland, West Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, India, Laos and Australia.

Among the veteran journalists who will arrive in Cambodia are those who worked for *The New York Times*, *The Associated Press*, *Agence France-Presse*, *United Press International*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and *CBS* news.—Kyodo News

Sea Shepherd finds Japan's whaling research fleet in Antarctic Ocean

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—Anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd Conservation Society said it has found Japan's whaling research fleet in the Antarctic Ocean, prompting observers to speculate that the hard-line conservationist group may disrupt Japanese whaling activities again.

Sea Shepherd said it found vessels of the Japanese fleet earlier this week and proceeded to pursue them.

"All four Sea Shepherd ships were guarding the approaches to the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary and interception was made before the Japanese

fleet could enter the killing area," according to a statement issued by the body on Tuesday.

Late last month, a Japanese whaling ship and two other vessels left Japan for the Antarctic Ocean to hunt whales for scientific research. A US appeals court issued last month an order banning Sea Shepherd from disrupting Japanese whaling activities.

The anti-whaling group in the past obstructed Japanese research whaling by such actions as hurling a rope around a whaling ship's propeller and shooting bottles containing substances that emit strong

odors.

The Japanese Fisheries Agency declined to confirm Sea Shepherd's announcement.

Kyodo News

Benin moves closer to eliminating leprosy

COTONOU, 31 Jan—In 2012, Benin detected 243 cases of leprosy out of an estimated population of 9 million, an equivalent of 0.26 people in every 10,000 inhabitants, according to the coordinator for the national programme for the fight against leprosy.

Dr Didier Agossadou told *Xinhua* on Tuesday

that with this low rate of detection, Benin was moving towards the elimination of leprosy throughout the West African country.

The coordinator said the encouraging results came from a therapeutic revolution launched in the 1980s against leprosy. "Benin was among the first Francophone countries in

West Africa to adopt the new therapeutic method known as Polychemotherapy (PCT)," he revealed.

He attributed the good results also to a national anti-leprosy programme, the training of medical staff; improved treatment services and the financial support from both national and international NGOs.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 7 Jan, 2013, shows a temporary dome covering the mausoleum of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin in Red Square in Moscow. The dome keeps temperatures inside warmer and allows repair works on the mausoleum to continue even during winter to finish them by the end-of-April deadline. KYODO NEWS



British photographer Paul Goldstein captured the hilarious photo of two apparently headless penguins, who were bending their heads back, at St Andrews Bay in South Georgia.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Time to reflect upon what Gandhiji stood for: T K A Nair

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—Noting that most people are consumed by their own little priorities, Prime Minister's Advisor T K A Nair yesterday stressed on the need for imbibing Gandhian principle of trusteeship while managing state firms.

"Those who are good in the company, those who are looking after one or the other

aspects of the economy of the country, they do that in trusteeship.

"You are not owners of what you manage but you hold that in trust...The concept of trusteeship is so relevant for the management of the PSUs," Nair said at a function here to mark the 65th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Though it has become "inevitable" to look after one's own priorities in the present circumstances, he said, there was a need to reflect upon Gandhi's sacrifices. "We are living now in such circumstances that most of the time, most of us are consumed by our own little

priorities, our own problems in life. "Needless to say, it is inevitable. But on occasions like this, we have the time to reflect upon what Mahatma Gandhi stood for. Not the supreme sacrifices that he made but also the example that he set," the senior bureaucrat said.

Noted Gandhian Shobhana Radhakrishna highlighted areas, which the Father of the Nation had followed and practised each and every moment of his life, where corporate India can take a cue from and make it a better world for everyone.

She also talked about Gandhi's ethical leadership, values and sterling qualities by co-relating them with the core values of the companies for increasing efficiency and performance in global business environment.—PTI



Indian President Pranab Mukherjee (C, front) salutes as he offers tributes at the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary in New Delhi, India, on 30 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Japan noodle chain to open first restaurant in Russia

MOSCOW, 31 Jan — A Kobe-based food service company is set to open Friday a Japanese udon noodle restaurant named Marugame Seimen in Moscow as the chain's first store in Europe. The move by Toridoll Corp, which has seen success with the restaurant chain's business in Japan, has already entered China, South Korea, Thailand and the United States.

Although Russia is said to be a tough market to crack for foreign companies because of bureaucratic red tape and business practices unique to the country, To-

ridoll says it aims to open 100 outlets in Russia by the end of 2017.

Masahiro Ikemitsu, president of Toridoll LLC (Russia), points to Moscow's population, which is the largest among major European cities, and Russia's relatively high economic growth in Europe.

The 46-year-old company chief said that after the sushi boom in Russia, consumers there are expected to embrace noodles. "I hope Russians will enjoy the authentic taste of udon noodles," he said.

At Marugame Seimen

restaurants in Japan, the outlet in Moscow will be a self-service store and customers will be able to watch the cooks make and boil the noodles.

To suit the taste of locals, it will also serve dishes not on its menus in Japan such as sushi rolls, tonkatsu fried pork cutlets, and curry and rice. Prices will be set at around the same level charged at common fast food restaurants.

The restaurant will mainly target younger generations and businesspeople, according to Toridoll.

Kyodo News

Mother and baby doing fine after risky surgery

BEIJING, 31 Jan—A woman with spinal muscular atrophy gave birth to a premature boy in Beijing on Wednesday. The mother and the son remain in the hospital under close observation.

Lu Yuanfang, 31, was transferred to the operating room at about 8:30 am to have a Caesarean section under general anesthesia. Surgeons delivered the baby an hour later. The baby, who does not have the gene defect that causes SMA, was less than 36 weeks old, and weighed 2.85 kilograms, because the mother had gestational diabetes, according to Gao Guolan, chief surgeon for Lu and president of the Aviation General Hospital where Lu is a patient.

The hospital did the surgery early because Lu's amniotic fluid had been decreasing, and she had been



Lu Yuanfang (centre) during the prenatal examination at the Aviation General Hospital in Beijing on Wednesday. Lu and her son are currently under close observation at the hospital.—XINHUA

suffering serious breathing problems due to the size of the baby, said Gao.

"Right now, the baby is OK. But we need to watch him closely for any lung problems due to his premature birth," she said.

Before Lu, there was no academic report of women with muscular atrophy giving birth in China. Doctors

had made plans for every risk they could anticipate, according to Gao. "We were concerned that her uterus may not be able to contract during the surgery, because she has SMA. If such a thing had happened and led to a hemorrhage, we would have had to remove her womb. But fortunately her womb was fine," she said.—Xinhua

Australians start clean up after New South Wales floods

SYDNEY, 31 Jan—Hundreds of flood affected people are returning home to start the long task of cleaning up as the swollen Clarence River begins to recede in northern New South Wales of Australia, local media reported on Thursday.

Nearly 23,000 people have been isolated by flood waters across the state, most of them living downstream from Lismore and Grafton, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Most schools in the region remain closed while power suppliers are working to restore electricity in the region.

Emergency food and medical supplies have been arranged for delivery to those isolated areas by the State Emergency Service (SES), the ABC reported.

SES Commissioner Murray Kear says cleaning up flood damage is a hard task. "That clean up will be a huge job with councils, with NSW SES volunteers, really all agencies across Government coming into these towns making sure that not only that the environment's cleaned, but also that people are recovering and trying to get back to normal as soon as possible," he told the ABC on Thursday.—Xinhua

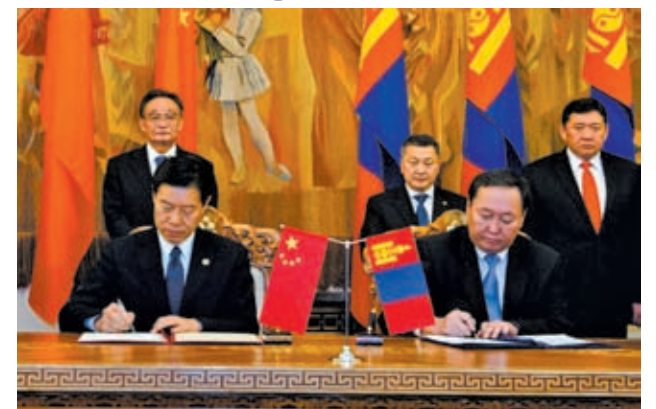
Chinese top legislator pledges to further ties with Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, 31 Jan—China's top legislator, Wu Bangguo, on Wednesday pledged to further develop ties with Mongolia during a meeting with his Mongolian counterpart Zandaakhuu Enkhbold.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, said bilateral relations have entered a new stage of development since China and Mongolia established a strategic partnership in 2011.

He put forward a four-point proposal to further ties: Politically, Wu said China and Mongolia should strengthen their strategic mutual trust, continue to support each other on issues concerning their core interests, and carry out close cooperation in law enforcement and in the field of non-traditional security.

Economically, Wu said, the two countries should



Wu Bangguo (L, back), chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, attends a signing ceremony of a economic and technology cooperation agreement with Zandaakhuu Enkhbold, chairman of the Mongolian State Great Hural (parliament), in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, 30 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas as mining, infrastructure construction and finance.

Culturally, the two countries, Wu said, should intensify people-to-people exchanges in a bid to strengthen mutual understanding and consolidate their traditional

friendship.

China and Mongolia also should beef up their cooperation on multilateral issues, Wu said, and support each other in global and regional issues while safeguarding their common interests.

Xinhua

Indonesia seeks increasing economic relations with Middle East countries

JAKARTA, 31 Jan—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said that Indonesia is seeking closer economic relations with countries in the Middle East, particularly in the investment sector, local media reported here on Thursday.

Speaking before departing for a visit to four countries in Africa and the Middle East, President Yudhoyono said that he would encourage improve-

ment of economic relations with Middle East countries with investment being the most expected sector.

"There would be an important event namely a business forum to be held in Jeddah where we would seek potential economic cooperation with the Middle East. As a member of G8 and with regard to global investment we can make more concrete cooperation with the Middle East. Therefore we would use the forum for

the benefit of our national economy," the president said, quoted by the Antara news agency.

The president's aide for development and economic affairs, Firmansyah, said that the president would invite Middle East investors to take part in massive infrastructure projects in the country. "The government has set a target to create 1 million jobs that would certainly require investment," he said.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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MV ER TURKU VOY NO (010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (010) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-2-2013 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (533)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (533) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MVMOROTAI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-2-2013 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (066)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVESM CREMONA VOY NO (066) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-2-2013 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 ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Singapore intercepts huge shipment of ivory from Africa

SINGAPORE, 31 Jan—Singapore authorities have intercepted the 1.8 ton of illegal raw ivory tusks from Africa estimated to be worth about S\$2.5 million (US\$2.0 million), the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority and Singapore Customs said on Wednesday.

They seized 1,099 pieces of raw ivory tusks packed in 65 sacks when they conducted a joint inspection on a shipment 23 Jan that was declared as waste paper.

The ivory was being shipped from Africa through the city-state.

It was the second largest seizure by authorities here since 2002.

The AVA is working with local and international agencies to investigate this case, a joint statement by the two agencies said.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, of which Singapore is a signatory, all African and Asian elephants are endangered species.

International trade in ivory has been banned under the Convention since 1989.

"The Singapore government will not condone such illegal activities going through our country," the statement said.

Kyodo News



A 29 Jan, 2013, photo shows a vehicle destroyed by a French air attack in Diabaly, Mali. KYODO NEWS

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)29/MR(MC)	- Taper & Roller Bearing	3 - Items
	2012-2013	- Axle Steel	250 - Nos
	Closing Date & Time	- 8.3.2013(Friday)(12:00)Hour.	

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 4.2.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994,

Ministry of Information

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Invitation to Tender for Purchase of Newsprint Paper

1. Newsprint papers for News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be purchased as follows:-

(a) Newsprint Paper (48.8 Gsm) (30") High Bright 9775 tons

2. Open tender forms may be drawn from the following addresses from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr daily during the period from 4-2-2013 to 14-2-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 15-2-2013. The overdue forms will not be considered.

4. For further information, may dial 067-412123 and 067-412128 during the office hours.

Address to draw out tender forms

News and Periodicals Enterprise
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-412123; 067-412128

Address to submit tender forms

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-412327

Israel carries out airstrike on science facility near Damascus

BEIJING, 31 Jan—Israel has conducted a rare airstrike on a military target inside Syria near the border with Lebanon. It happened amid fears President Bashar Assad's government could provide powerful weapons to the Islamic militant group Hezbollah.

The Syrian military confirmed the strike, but

it said the jets bombed a military research centre in a Damascus suburb, about 15 kilometres from the border with Lebanon. However, a US official said the strike hit a convoy of trucks but did not give an exact location.

The Syrian army denied that the strike had targeted a convoy. Regional

security officials said Israel had been planning in the days leading up to the airstrike to hit a shipment of weapons bound for Hezbollah.

Top Israeli officials have recently expressed worries that Assad's government could pass chemical weapons to Hezbollah or other militant groups. The airstrike was the first inside Syria in more than five years.

Xinhua

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Dated 01 February, 2013.



Yokozuna Hakuho attends the funeral of former yokozuna Taiho in Tokyo on 31 Jan, 2013. Taiho, whose 32 tournament championships are the most in sumo history, died at the age of 72 of heart disease on 19 Jan, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Take Fire Preventive Measures

ENTERTAINMENT

Barbra Streisand to sing at Oscars for first time in decades

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—Actress, singer and director Barbra Streisand may be a familiar figure at Hollywood's Oscars, but she has only sung on the annual awards show once. Streisand will perform again at the Academy Awards on 24 February, producers said on Wednesday, without providing details about how her appearance would fit into the show or what she might sing.

Streisand, 70, has won two Oscars, one for best actress in "Funny Girl" and another for best original song, "Evergreen" from her 1976 vehicle "A Star Is Born." Her performance of the song at the 1977 Oscars show was her only previous onstage stint at Hollywood's biggest night.

"In an evening that celebrates the artistry of movies and music, how could the telecast be complete

without Barbra Streisand?" producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said in a statement.

"We are honoured that she has agreed to do a very special performance on this year's Oscars." Streisand has also been nominated for several Oscars, including for best actress in "The Way We Were" and as producer for best picture nominee "The Prince of Tides."

Reuters



Singer and actress Barbra Streisand reacts as she speaks on stage at the Public Counsel's 40th anniversary event in Beverly Hills, California on 18 March, 2011.—REUTERS

Beyonce has been rehearsing Super Bowl performance for three months

LONDON, 31 Jan—Beyonce has been rehearsing for the Super Bowl for three months. The Diva singer—who was criticised last week for miming the American national anthem at President Barack Obama's inauguration -- has reportedly been preparing to perform live at the high profile sporting event in New Orleans on Sunday (03.02.13) since the end of October.

A source close to the halftime show told EOnline.com: "Rehearsals typically go on for two to three months in advance" and explained that the 31-year-old singer was likely to have signed a deal to perform at the event last summer. Beyonce is not being paid to perform at the event but her production costs, which are estimated to be in the region of \$600,000,

will be covered and her show is being sponsored as part of her \$50 million deal with her.

The Halo hitmaker—who allegedly mimed The Star Spangled Banner in Washington DC immediately following the president's swearing-in and speech be-



Beyonce was criticised last week for miming the American national anthem at President Barack Obama's inauguration.—PTI

cause she only had one night to rehearse with the US Marine Corp Band before the performance—is reportedly feeling the pressure to wow next weekend despite believing she did nothing wrong.

A source close to the Diva singer said she was very disappointed and felt "a technicality which everybody does took away from the beauty of the moment." "She didn't think there was anything wrong with it. Pavarotti has done it! It was freezing out, and if she messed up just one note, that would have been the story." "Everybody uses these tracks, and the music director advised it. Any big outdoor live performance is almost always with some kind of track." "She did sing, but used a track."

PTI

Despite previous beating, Rihanna back with Chris Brown

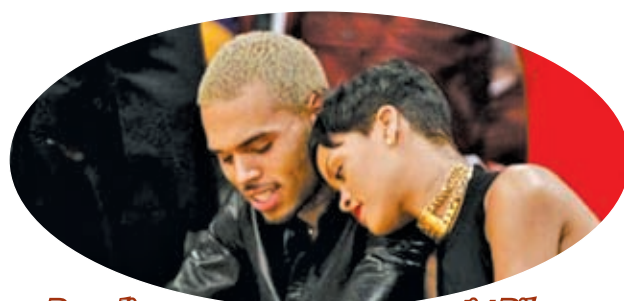
NEW YORK, 31 Jan — It's official: R&B diva Rihanna says she is back together with Chris Brown, who is still on probation for assaulting her in 2009, saying "It's different now." "I decided it was more important for me to be happy," Rihanna told *Rolling Stone* magazine in an interview published on Wednesday on its website. "I wasn't going to let anybody's opinion get in the way of that.

Even if it's a mistake, it's my mistake," she said of her renewed romance with singer Brown, 23, that has prompted consternation from fans and celebrity media because of their history.

"After being tormented for so many years, being angry and dark, I'd rather just live my truth and take the backlash," said Rihanna, 24, adding, "I can handle it." The couple's reconciliation had been

rumored for months, even before the pair unveiled a duet, "Nobody's Business," in November. That track was included on Rihanna's latest album "Unapologetic." Brown pleaded guilty in 2009 to beating and punching Rihanna. He was sentenced to community service, anger management classes, given a restraining order and is still on probation.

The Barbadian singer told Oprah Winfrey in an emotional interview in August that she and Brown now had a "very close friendship," and that she still loved him. "When you add up the pieces from the outside, it's not the cutest puzzle in the world," Rihanna admitted to *Rolling Stone*, which hits newsstands this week with her gracing the cover above the headline, "Rihanna Crazy In Love."—Reuters



Recording artist Rihanna leans her head on Chris Brown as they sit together courtside at the NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles on 25 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Want to show the world what Bollywood is: Priyanka Chopra

MUMBAI, 31 Jan—Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra who recently released the video of her first music single, In My City, said she wanted the world to see what Bollywood is. "I wanted to give it an Indian flavour in terms of dancing. I wanted the world to see what Bollywood is all about," Priyanka told reporters at the unveiling of the single In My City here.

"I wanted that the identity of the song should be Indian. I am very India-proud. When people see my video, they must feel that

Bollywood is like this," she said. Talking about her style, she said it's a fusion and amalgamation which will be enjoyed in west and India. "I showed the video to my dad first. He is not well and has been in the hospital for a while now. He really liked it, especially the Namaste which I do," she said. Priyanka also revealed she would like to sing for her own films. "This is just the beginning. I am waiting for the entire album to come out," she said.—PTI

Priyanka revealed she would like to sing for her own films. PTI



Spielberg seen winning director Oscar for "Lincoln"

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—American filmmaker Steven Spielberg is clear favorite among the public to win the best director award for his film about President Abraham Lincoln at the Academy Awards this year, a *Reuters* poll showed on Wednesday. While the race to win best film at the 24 February ceremony was shaken up by "Argo" stealing the thunder of "Lincoln" at two award ceremonies last weekend, the best director statuette was deemed destined for one man.

Spielberg, 66, who has been nominated seven times for best director at the

Oscars and won twice—for the World War Two dramas "Schindler's List" in 1993 and "Saving Private Ryan" in 1998—was seen as far ahead in the all-male field of five. A *Reuters* Ipsos poll of 1,641 Americans found 41 percent thought Spielberg should win and 38 percent said he was most likely to win for his US Civil War-era drama in which British actor Daniel Day-Lewis plays Lincoln. Almost half of the respondents to the survey conducted Friday through Tuesday were unsure who should or was most likely to be voted best director.—Reuters



"Lincoln" director Steven Spielberg (C) and cast members Daniel Day-Lewis and Sally Field pose during a photocall to promote the movie in Madrid on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold Schwarzenegger concerned about ageing

LONDON, 31 Jan—Arnold Schwarzenegger's says his comeback to action movies has been restricted by his age and deteriorating muscles.

The 65-year-old former California Governor returned to Hollywood with action movie "The Last Stand" and he said it was difficult to keep up the energy level, reported Contactmusic.—PTI



Actor Bradley Cooper

Bradley Cooper to star in 'The Man From Primrose Lane'

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—Actor Bradley Cooper has sealed to star in as the lead in new movie "The Man From Primrose Lane".

The film is based on James Renner's novel of the same name and is developed at Warner Bros Pictures with Cooper and Kevin McCormick serving as the producers, reported Acshowbiz.

PTI

SPORTS

Coaches satisfied after 1-1 leaves Cup Clasico evenly balanced



MADRID, 31 Jan—FC Barcelona assistant coach, Jodi Roura accepted his side's 1-1 draw away to Real Madrid in the first leg of their Copa del Rey semi-final clash. Cesc Fabrigas had put Barca ahead five minutes into the second half and although Madrid had chances, Barca were looking comfortable and saw Cesc and Pedro Rodriguez waste chances to have sealed the tie before Rafael Varenne levelled the game for Madrid with nine minutes remaining. The

away goal gives Barca an advantage for the return leg on 27 February, but if he was feeling disappointed at seeing his side fail to win, Roura, who was standing in for Tito Vilanova, who is undergoing treatment for cancer, was not showing it. "A draw in the Bernabeu is a good result and it is a very good result to take back home," he said, adding that the match had gone more or less as he had expected.

"I said before the game that the tie would have to be resolved in Barcelona, and that's the way it is. Maybe we lost the ball more than normal in the first half, but in the second half we had the game as controlled as you

can do against Real Madrid," he said. Meanwhile goalscorer Cesc Fabrigas thought his side had improved as the game progressed. It was an intense game: maybe we were a bit off the ball in the opening minutes, and it was hard to get the ball, but then we were much more involved," said the midfielder.

Cesc refused to be drawn on whether a 1-1 draw in the always difficult Santiago Bernabeu stadium was a good result. "We'll see if it



s a good result, but it's always hard in the Bernabeu and we have the return leg in front of our fans, although there is a month to go. We are playing well and having a spectacular season, but anything can happen in this sort of game," said Cesc. Meanwhile Madrid coach Jose Mourinho again failed to appear in front of the Press leaving his assistant Aitor Karanka to do the talking. Karanka said Real Madrid had worked hard and they were very pleased with their performance. He also highlighted the performance of goalkeeper Diego Lopez who was making his first appearance since returning to the club from Sevilla last Saturday.—Xinhua



Teenage Dinamo Zagreb midfielder Mateo Kovacic

Inter signs Croatian teenager Kovacic

MILAN, 31 Jan—Inter have officially signed teenage Dinamo Zagreb midfielder Mateo Kovacic with a fee of about 11 million euros plus a further four million euros in performance-related bonuses.

The 18-year-old is nicknamed "the new Luka Modric" in Croatia and is expected in Milan tomorrow to complete the transfer, as confirmed by Dinamo Zagreb. It is a big investment for the Nerazzurri, but he already has four caps for the Croatian Under-21 side and has been called up to the senior squad. Attacking midfielder Kovacic was born in Austria and has been at Dinamo Zagreb since 2007.

Xinhua



New York Rangers right wing Ryan Callahan (24) celebrates in front of Philadelphia Flyers left wing Ruslan Fedotenko (26) and goalie Ilya Bryzgalov (30) after he scored in the second period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Hot and cold kickers could decide Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS, 31 Jan—With four of the last five Super Bowls decided by less than a touchdown, Sunday's title clash could come down to a kicking contest between Baltimore's red-hot Justin Tucker and San Francisco's ice cold David Akers. "I think special teams can have an impact on every NFL game because games are so close," Baltimore Ravens special teams coordinator Jerry Rosburg told Reuters on Wednesday. "We think it's going to be a great matchup and the special teams will be a big part of the game."

Both teams have excelled on kick returns and coverage, but the two special team players most likely to put points on the scoreboard, or cost their team points, are the kickers. Tucker, 23, comes into the game off an outstanding rookie campaign having connected on 30-of-33 field goal attempts in the regular season and both of his tries in the postseason. Akers, 38, has missed the most field goals of any NFL

kicker this season, hitting on just 29-of-42 opportunities during the regular season and 1-of-2 in the playoffs.

The strong left-footed Akers, who a year ago

by much. We're doing great in practice, doing great in pre-game. "It's just one of those things that if I had the answer I would have fixed it a long time ago." Confidence in Akers sank



San Francisco 49ers kicker David Akers (L) practices kicking with holder Andy Lee (R) during practice for the Super Bowl in New Orleans, on 30 Jan, 2013. The Super Bowl XLVII will be played between the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens on 3 February.—REUTERS

earned his sixth Pro Bowl selection after converting 44-of-52 attempts, was at a loss to explain his struggles. "An inch is a mile in this game," Akers told reporters about his frustrating season. "We're not missing

so low that the 49ers tried out other kickers during the postseason and considered a change. "It's not like I forgot how to kick, it's just that we've had issues that have come up," said Akers.

Reuters

Rangers captain Callahan out 10-14 days with shoulder injury

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—New York Rangers captain Ryan Callahan will be sidelined for up to two weeks with a partially dislocated shoulder suffered in Tuesday's game against Philadelphia, the team said on Wednesday.

Callahan, who was injured during a fight in the third period of the Rangers' 2-1 win, underwent an MRI earlier on Wednesday and

was examined by a doctor, the team said in a statement.

According to the Rangers' timetable, Callahan is likely to miss anywhere between four and seven games over 10-14 day period. Callahan, who is tied for second in the NHL with 27 hits and sixth among league forwards with nine blocked shots, has two goals in six games this season for the Rangers (3-3).—Reuters

Super Bowl is Father vs Son as well as Brother v Brother



San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh (R) and Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh are shown in this combo photo as they arrive for Media Day at the NFL's Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans, Louisiana on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW ORLEANS, 31 Jan—The Super Bowl has been dubbed the 'Har-Bowl' with sibling head coaches Jim and John Harbaugh going head to head but there is another family rivalry on the line—father versus son. San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim's eldest son Jay is a coaching intern with Sunday's rivals, the Baltimore Ravens, adding an extra family twist to the occasion.

Jay Harbaugh's role has not been referred to by either his father or uncle during the intense media build-up to the game but it was revealed by grandfather Jack at a press conference on Wednesday. The Press conference was held for Jack and his wife Jackie to discuss their feel-

ings as parents with two sons competing as coaches for American football's top prize. "One story I want to mention is Jay Harbaugh, how many know who Jay Harbaugh is? Anybody know Jay Harbaugh?" asked Jack.

"Jay Harbaugh is Jim's oldest son and he's on the coaching staff for the Ravens. He's doing the grunt work there as the assistant strength coach. "It's kind of an interesting story. He does video and works in the weight room ... so you've got father and son competing on Sunday night as well." Jay Harbaugh is not listed among the Ravens coaching staff but a team official confirmed he is a "coaching intern" with the club.—Reuters

Phelps a fish out of water at TPC Scottsdale's 'noisy' hole

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—Michael Phelps displayed ice-cool composure as a record-breaking Olympic swimmer but he was a bag of nerves on Wednesday when he played the "noisiest hole in golf" in the pro-am competition for this week's Phoenix Open. Phelps, who retired from swimming as the most decorated Olympian of all time after winning a record 22 medals including 18 gold, was paired with US Masters champion Bubba Watson when he stepped on to the 16th tee at the TPC Scottsdale.

Hugely popular with the fans, the infamous par-three

is a 162-yard hole widely regarded as the loudest in golf and is completely surrounded by massive grandstands where thousands of raucous spectators are crammed in to savor the action. "I was very nervous and my club was like shaking as I'm over the ball," Phelps told reporters about his tee shot on 16. "I felt my heart was going to jump out of my chest." I just pretty much had to try to swing the club as fast as I could." Phelps's tee shot landed on the green but rolled back off the front, sparking good-natured boos from rowdy spectators.

Reuters



Michael Phelps

GENERAL

Chinese S&T workers urged to show devotion

BEIJING, 31 Jan—Senior leader Liu Yunshan has urged science and technology (S&T) workers to show greater devotion to their professional research by learning from two Chinese experts.

Liu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks Wednesday while visiting experts Wu Liangyong and

Shi Changxu, who have both won the country's top science-and-technology award.

Wu, 90, an architect who won the State Top Scientific and Technological Award in 2012, earned his reputation for developing the science of human settlements in China and combining it with the country's urbanization.

Shi, 93, won the same award in 2011 for his research on superalloy and new alloy steel, which

has widely been used to produce turbine blades for Chinese fighter aircraft.

Liu praised the two S&T experts.

"All science and technology workers should learn from them and make contributions to building a well-off society and realizing the 'Chinese dream' with high ambitions, concrete steps and concentration on research work," Liu said.

Xinhua

Russia develops 10-year armament programme

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—Russia has started to develop an armament programme that will last until 2025, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said on Wednesday. "We are starting work on the new state armament programme for 2016-2025," Rogozin, head of the government's military-industrial commission, said in his Twitter account.

The programme

forecasts national security threats for Russia for a 30-year period. It also calculates the military-technical and economic environment for the next 10 years, according to the official.

Rogozin said that the military-industrial commission would work on such areas as equipping its soldiers with the newest weapons.

The commission would also focus on developing airplanes, exploring space, and establishing a robotic combat system.

The government will allocate over 20 trillion rubles (668 billion US dollars) for the programme until 2020 and an extra three trillion rubles (100 billion dollars) for modernizing the defence sector, Rogozin said.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-2-13 09:30 am ~ 2-2-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * "Insight Myanmar" Prisons Department (Part-1)
- * News
- * Music
- * True Image Art Exhibition
- * News
- * "Myanmar Movies Impact" Amy Aye Mi's Ko Ko
- * News
- * Fashionable and Beautiful Silk Fabric
- * Knowledge is the Treasure Trove
- * News
- * Art 13 Myanmar (Part-2)
- * Myanmar Tigers
- * News
- * Sightseeing around Mandalay (Mandalay)
- * Let's grow trees towards a Greener Planet
- * News
- * B.O.T System Precise and Speedy For the People Cooperate shall we...
- * (Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung-Nyaung Oo-Myingyan)
- * Preservation of Myanmar Star Tortoise
- * News
- * What makes a Man Perfect
- * Myanmar Movies "Matchmaking Wreath"

MYANMAR TV

(1-2-2013, Friday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7:00 am | 4:10 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta | 12. Musical Programme |
| 7:30 am | 4:20 pm |
| 2. Morning News | 13. Dance of National Races |
| 7:40 am | 4:30 pm |
| 3. Dhamma Puja Song | 14. Songs of Yester Year |
| 7:50 am | 5:15 pm |
| 4. Nice & Sweet Song | 15. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar) |
| 8:00 am | 5:15 pm |
| 5. Health Programme | 16. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 8:05 am | 5:20 pm |
| 6. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies | 17. 66 th Anniversary Union Day Programme |
| 8:15 am | 5:30 pm |
| 7. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 18. India Drama Series |
| 8:25 am | 6:20 pm |
| 8. Documentary | 19. Amazing World |
| 9:40 am | 6:50 pm |
| 9. International News | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 9:45 am | 7:00 pm |
| 10. Musical Programme | 21. News |
| 4:00 pm | 7:00 pm |
| 11. Martial Song | 22. TV Drama Series |
| | 23. International News |
| | 10:00 pm |
| | 24. News |
| | 25. Song Programme |



Hiromasa Yonekura, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, holds a Press conference in the city of Hiroshima on 30 Jan, 2013.
KYODO NEWS

14 face sentencing for violence against government

NANJING, 31 Jan—Fourteen people pled guilty on Wednesday for encouraging mass violence against government buildings and intentionally damaging property in Qidong City in eastern China's Jiangsu Province.

On the morning of 28 July, during a mass protest against a planned construction of a highly-polluting drainpipe project, Zhu Baosheng, Shen Yawei, Xu Jianjie and 11 others smashed office buildings and jumped on cars in the government compound, according to an open trial held in the local court.

Prosecutors said their violent behavior caused property losses, injured

police officers and severely disrupted public order, and that they should be held responsible for their actions.

The 14 defendants pled guilty in court but argued on the length of their penalties.

The court will announce the verdict at a later date.

On the day of the crime, thousands of people in east China's Jiangsu Province took to the streets to protest against the drainpipe project that would have discharged waste water from inland plant into the sea.

The local government canceled the project hours after the protest.

Xinhua

France to turn off office and shop lights at night

PARIS, 31 Jan—French shops and office buildings will have to turn off their lights at night to save energy and reduce light pollution, the French environment ministry said on Wednesday.

From 1 July, all non-residential buildings will have to switch off interior lights one hour after the last worker leaves the premises. All exterior and shop window lighting will have to be turned off by 1 am.

Local authorities will be able to allow exceptions

for Christmas lighting and other local events.

The new law will save about two terawatt/hours of electricity a year — the equivalent of the annual consumption of 750,000 households, the ministry said.

Environment Minister Delphine Batho said it would also make France a pioneer in Europe in preventing light pollution, which disrupts ecosystems and people's sleep patterns.

Reuters



Tsuyoshi Watanabe (C), who is suspected of being involved in the murders of a Swiss-based Japanese couple, arrives at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 30 Jan, 2013, after being arrested on Miyako Island in Okinawa Prefecture.—KYODO NEWS



Beauty therapist Yoshinori Okamoto performs massage therapy on 13 Dec, 2012 at a salon he opened in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, in May 2011.
KYODO NEWS

Police uncover more violations in Brazil club fire

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Jan—Brazilian police on Wednesday found more breaches in a nightclub blaze that killed more than 200 people over the weekend, including unauthorized renovations that may have contributed to the fire.

Jader Marques, the lawyer of the nightclub owners, said his clients renovated the building without informing local authorities and, in particular, installing sound-proofing foam on the ceiling after neighbors continued to complain about noise. The project was not approved by fire inspectors.

Sunday's fire appears to have started when the band lit a flare that ignited the flammable foam boards, releasing toxic smoke that

choked many of the victims.

That irregularity is among a long list of possible causes such as overcrowding, lack of an emergency exit and the malfunction of extinguishers.

Two band members and two club owners were detained on Monday on temporary arrest warrants. Police suspect the owners of attempting to tamper with evidence of their negligence, including security camera footage and the cash register, which could show how many people were inside the club at the time.

The fire at the Kiss nightclub in south Brazil's college town of Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul state, killed 235 people, according to the latest report from the authorities.—Xinhua

Joint Bill Committee: Hluttaw should approve the word “corruption and bribery”

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for its sixth day session. At the session, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker read out the President's message on allowing the resignations of Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thein Tun and Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung as of 16 January, 2013.

The Speaker also read out the President's message on appointment of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Sint as Religious Affairs Minister. And Hluttaw decided to approve the appointment.

Extended formation of

district/township/village/village-tract and messages on funds allotment from reserve fund under Union Budget Law (2012) were put on record.

Hluttaw decided to make necessary amendments to Region or State Hluttaw Bill approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Joint Bill Committee member U San Tun explained committee's findings and reports on Anti-Corruption Bill.

The Committee's report states that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should approve the word “corruption and bribery” with the majority vote of committee members as there is no changes in aims and objectives of the law and actions taken.—MNA



The sixth day Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session in progress.—MNA

IBTC Open Golf Championship continues third round

YANGON, 31 Jan—The 3rd round of Myanmar Golf Tour-2013 IBTC Open Golf Championship under the supervision of Myanmar Golf Federation mainly sponsored by IBTC Group of Companies was held at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club in Mingaladon Township this morning.

After the third round, Kyaw Thiha (KM Golf Centre) and Yan Myo Aye led the Professional Golfer level with 210 each.

Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) and Nay Bala Win Myint (Srixon) secured the second place with 211 each and Aung Win (Srixon) the fourth place with 212 and Aung San Win (I Win Golf Academy) the fifth place with 213.

At amateur level, Zin Min Thu took a first place with 214 when Ye Htet Aung and Aung Myo Win second with 215 and Ti Htan Lian the third with 236.

NLM

INRD does not expel French man

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan—Immigration and National Registration Department under the Ministry of Immigration and Population has denied some media reports saying that it will expel Mr Peburelde Chassey Christophel, a French globetrotter who accompanied peace marchers walking from

Yangon to Laiza of Kachin State.

While the 43-member group was lodging at the church in No. 7 Ward in Toungoo, personnel from Toungoo Township Authorities met Mr Peburelde Chassey Christophel, 44, holding tourist visa and passport PPN No. P 10 CT 52036 to

tell him that his actions had broken visa regulations and sent him back to Yangon.

Then, Deputy Head of Yangon Region Immigration and National Registration Department handed over the French man to Mr Xavier Arguever, counselor of French Embassy on 30 January

evening.

Although the French man was to be expelled for breaking visa regulations, he was just sent to embassy of his motherland without abolishing original rights embodied in entry visa in consideration of friendship between Myanmar and France.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (31-1-2013)

Haka	1°C
Loilem	2°C
Putao	3°C

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.—NLM

Mobile medical treatment for people

Nyaungbintha Village was packed with people, particularly the elderly, expectant mothers and

those with visual impairment and other general patients, at Basic Education High School No. 3 (branch) as

the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was giving mobile treatment and educative talks.

It was an eye-pleasing scene of people-centered free health care service where cereals, snacks and vitamin capsules were presented to the elderly persons. 172 oldsters aged above 65 from Nyaungbinthaa, Aleywa, Thaegyun, Htaukshabin, Ohinbinsu and Thayetkhon villages in Nyaungbintha Village-tract in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

They seemed to be quite happy with the stuff, not the things themselves make them smile, but the feeling of receiving presents almost out of the blue.

Personnel from Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Medic-in-charge of Mitta Spring

Clinic Dr San San Hlaing talked about what mobile medical team was offering and presented health care magazines to Chairperson of Pyinmana Township Maternal and Child Welfare Organization Daw Yi Yi Myint. They also gave talks on importance of pregnancy health care and birth spacing, disseminating health knowledge to women.

Informed a week earlier, those suffering visual impairment and toothache and general patients from surrounding villages gather there to receive free treatment. Firefighters from the township Fire Brigade and auxiliary members were helping the elderly persons

in receiving treatment.

Daw Thauang, 75 from Nyaungbintha said “I've got a terrible toothache. The mobile clinic is convenient for us. It is grateful.”

Dr Myo Min Oo, a member of the mobile medical team said “Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) would give educative talks on health care for elderly persons and organize medical treatment programme in Nay Pyi Taw in 2013 every month in different places. It is a people-centered health care programme.”

Trs: TKK

Myanma Alinn:
30-1-2013



Locals receiving medical treatment at Nyaungbintha Village.