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President U Thein Sein calls for cutting “red tape”

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec— President U Thein Sein delivered an address on reforms to improve the management and administrative capacity of the government at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 9:00 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers, Attorney-General of the Union, Auditor-General of the Union, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, Region/State Chief Ministers, deputy ministers, deputy attorney-general, deputy auditor-general, members of UCSB, Chairmen of Self-Administered division/zones and departmental heads.

At the ceremony, President U Thein Sein delivered a speech on reforms to improve the management and administrative capacity of the government. The full speech are as follow:

It has been one year and nine months since our government took over managing the affairs of the country. During this transition period, we have undertaken democratic reforms by establishing a new administrative system

both at the Union and the state/regional levels, by revising older laws that are not in line with reform processes, and by promulgating new laws. This institution-building process is a work in progress. Numerous consultations, seminars and workshops are ongoing across all sectors as we search for new modalities and paradigms for democratic state-building. Furthermore, reforms to some laws, rules and regulations are being honed to better accommodate both local conditions and modern needs.

In spite of both our government's and society's inexperience in promulgating such significant political reforms, as well as the range of time pressures and sectoral challenges that our entire country faces, the transition process in Myanmar has been remarkably smooth. **This is largely because of the positive contributions of the Hluttaw, various government agencies, the judiciary, the Tatmadaw, the citizenry and many supportive organizations from inside and outside the country, to the reform**

process. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all these stakeholders.

In the process of transitioning from one form of governance to another, Myanmar's previous government, following the wishes of the people, entrusted our new government with the duty to undertake democratic and market-oriented economic reforms. In the first stage of the reform process, our new government has undertaken several major political reforms within the mandate of the 2008 Constitution. Because the country will not be able to enjoy peace and development without national reconciliation, many political organizations and ethnic armed groups have set aside their differences with the government and began to work with us in the areas where we share common interests. In fact, such cooperation has made all the achievements we have had so far possible. However, we still have a lot of work to be done. In order to successfully complete all the remaining work, the government will take whatever actions are necessary, in consultation

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at the meeting on reform to improve management and administrative capacity of the government.

MNA



and cooperation with all stakeholders. In so doing, **I would like to request our ethnic brothers and sisters and the rest of the populace to work hand-in-hand with the government in undertaking all the necessary reforms in the country.**

While undertaking political reforms, **the government has adopted broadly socially-oriented economic reforms that are designed to ensure secure livelihoods and create job opportunities for the**

citizens, to improve the living standards, and social and economic status of the general public. Myanmar has lagged far behind its neighbouring countries both socially and economically. The scale of the challenges that remain are immense. The government will have to systematically formulate short-term and long-term economic policies in order to ensure that the reforms will truly benefit the country and the general public. Therefore, the National Economic and Social Advisory Council

has drafted **the framework for economic and social reforms**, which will be approved in this meeting of the national planning commission.

While the proposed framework for economic and social reforms was being drafted, line ministries and state/region governments openly sought advice and recommendations for **economic reform plans and regional development** by holding frank discussions in workshops with Hluttaw members, scholars and experts.

While holding these consultations, government leaders have revised several by-laws and regulations in light of the changes that have taken place in the country.

In undertaking the reforms, instead of a strictly linear approach of getting each task done one after another, we employ a multi-focal approach. Along the way, we, in recognition of the livelihood needs of the people, have repeatedly given priority to issuing licenses to businesses that can create jobs for ordinary citizens.

In the last year or so, we have undertaken monetary and exchange rate reforms in order to ensure greater macro-economic stability and relaxed restrictions on foreign investments.

(See page 8)



Union Ministers, officials of Union level organizations, Chairmen of Self-Administered division/zones and departmental heads at the meeting on reforms to improve the management and administrative capacity of the government.—MNA

Myanmar's oldest living trees



MEIKTILA, 26 Dec — The Myanmar's oldest recorded trees are 1216 years old Eugenia tree in the old Pinn Town in Natmauk Township.

They were planted by Gawdan hermit in 158 ME at the place, north of Bo Tree in Pinn Town. Each tree with a girth of 28 feet is over 100 feet tall. So they

are also the tallest trees. Now, both trees are being supported by heavy pipes by Myanma Post and Telecommunications under the arrangement of the Archaeological Department as they are the largest, oldest and tallest trees in Myanmar.

Kyemon

Cash and kind for 50-bed People's Hospital in Myanaung Township

MYANAUNG, 26 Dec — A ceremony to donate cash and kind to the 50-bed People's Hospital in Myanaung Township was held at the hospital on 23 December.

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of a monastery in California State of the United States of America Agga MahaSuddhammajotikadhaja Bhattanda Thondara presented medical equipment and K 1 million for the medical funds of the hospital to the head of Myanaung Township Health Department Dr Win Htain who presented the certificate of honour to the Sayadaw.

Next, township Administrator U Min Min Tun and Dr Win Htain accepted cash donations for the medical funds donated by townselders and presented certificates of honour to them.

At the ceremony, 27 wellwishers donated K 4 million for the medical funds

Construction of PyinOoLwin ring road nearing completion



PYIN OO LWIN, 26 Dec — Construction of ring road being built by PyinOoLwin Township Development Committee with the contribution of K 43.9 million from the committee's budget is nearing completion.

Upon completion of the 5480-foot ring road from Defence Services Administration School to Ward-7, local farmers from 10 villages will be able to

transport their agricultural produce to other parts of the region. — *Kyemon*

Literary talks held in Insein Township

YANGON, 26 Dec — Organized by a group of youths, a literary talks was held at 7 pm at Danyinkon ward in Insein Township of Yangon North District on 20 December. Writer Maung Sein Win (Padikon), Nu Nu Yi (Innwa) and Chit Oo Nyo gave talks on works of literature.

Kyemon

Publications for Alin Say Taman library in Indaw Township

INDAW, 26 Dec — On behalf of wellwisher Ma Thin Thin Myat of Thuwunna in Yangon Region, Ma Myat Mon Mon handed over magazines, journals and books worth about K 300,000 to Librarian Ma Tin Cho at Alin Say Taman library in Thithlataw village in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on 23 December.

Kyemon

National Objectives of 65th Anniversary Independence Day for 2013

1. All the national people to live together in the Union through thick and thin
2. All the national people to constantly safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
3. All the national people to participate in the tasks for bringing about genuine, eternal peace putting an end to the armed conflicts
4. To make relentless efforts, in building a modern, developed and democratic nation, in order to better serve public interest, to ensure poverty reduction and bring about righteous legislative, administrative and judicial pillars

Danubyu, Laymyethna Townships see infrastructural development in education, health sectors



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec — Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Region Minister for Planning and Economics U Hla Khaing, Head of Region Health Department Dr Aung Kyi Swe and wellwisher U Kyaw Min formally opened the new rural health centre for Hnekyo village in Danubyu Township of Ayeyawady Region on 22 December. Next, the region chief minister and party attended the ceremony to upgrade Hnekyo village Basic Education Middle School into Basic Education

High School (Branch) which is held in conjunction with opening of new school building donated by wellwishers for the school.

Then the chief minister proceeded to Kyaungsu Station Hospital in the township where he presented cash assistance to patients.

In meeting with locals at Kyaungsu village monastery in the afternoon, the chief minister accepted K 5.1 million donated by a wellwisher for the medical funds of the hospital.

On 23 December, the chief minister and party attended

the upgrading ceremony of Khamauksu village Basic Education High School (Branch) into Basic Education High School at Khamauksu village in Laymyethna Township.

Next, the chief minister oversaw the gymnasium being built by GGC Construction Company in the township. After meeting with locals and service personnel at meeting hall of the township General Administration Department, the chief minister inspected site chosen for construction of X-ray room at Laymyethna Township People's Hospital.

Kyemon

Electricity supply for Thedaw in Yesago Township

YESAGYO, 26 Dec — Energy development in rural region is one of eight tasks for rural region development and poverty alleviation task being implemented by the government.

Electricity supply in rural region can contribute towards improvement in cottage industries and socioeconomic statuses of local people. The use of electronics and electrical appliances will foster, better

living standard. Moreover, public fears about the possible danger of fire will decrease.

Thanks to collaborative efforts of dwellers of Thedaw village in the township and staff of Township Electrical Engineer's Office, availability of electricity is going to be realized in the village. Now, setting up of concrete pylons is in progress. Upon completion of installation of power lines,



service lines, transformers and electricity meters for supply of electricity, Thedaw

village will be able to enjoy electricity.

Kyemon

WORLD

New York gunman left note declaring plan to kill people

NEW YORK, 26 Dec— A gunman who killed two volunteer firefighters and wounded two others in a Christmas Eve ambush in upstate New York left a typewritten note saying he planned to burn down his neighbourhood and start “killing people,” authorities said on Tuesday. The gunman, William Spengler, 62, opened fire on volunteer fire-fighters who responded to a house fire he deliberately set early on Monday morning in Webster, New York, a suburb of Rochester, authorities said. Spengler shot and killed himself in an ensuing gunfight with police. He had spent 17 years in prison for beating his 92-year-old grandmother to death with a

hammer in 1981, authorities said.

Police said Spengler set the fire, laying a trap for the firefighters, and began shooting when they arrived.

He left a typewritten note describing his intent, Webster Police Chief Gerald Pickering said at a televised news conference.

Reuters



Boats anchor in the Xiuying harbor in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on 26 Dec, 2012. The Hainan Weather Service issued a blue alert for strong gales at sea and a tropical storm warning on Wednesday. Tropical Storm Wukong, the 25th tropical storm this year, is estimated to move to the southern South China Sea from Wednesday night to Thursday morning. Hainan experienced a persistent rainfall due to Tropical Storm Wukong.—XINHUA



A damaged vehicle is seen at the attack site in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 25 Dec, 2012. At least 6 people including 4 policemen were killed and a local religious leader was injured when their vehicle was ambushed by unknown gunmen in Karachi on Tuesday, local police said.—XINHUA

Iran navy says its subsurface capabilities enhanced

TEHRAN, 26 Dec — Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said on Tuesday that the country has experienced a leap in the expansion of its subsurface capabilities recently, semi-official *Fars* news agency reported.

“Iran’s subsurface power has been enhanced to a remarkable degree in recent months,” said Sayyari, adding that “Our surface and subsurface tactics, which used to be inspired by foreign tactics, have now become fully indigenized.”

“We have the capability to manufacture different types of submarines and we have shown this by building *Ghadir* submarines and overhauling heavy submarines,” he was quoted as saying. The *Ghadir*-class submarine was first unveiled in 2007.

The 120-ton vessel has shallow-depth performance

and can conduct prolonged coastal missions.

In September, Iran’s Navy announced that it launched the overhauled super-heavy Tareq 901 submarine which had been repaired by Iranian experts.

On Tuesday, Sayyari said that Iranian army will start a naval drill in the country’s southern waters on Friday, according to *Fars*.

The six-day drill, to be held in Strait of Hormuz, Sea of Oman and northern Indian Ocean, will cover an area of one million square km, Sayyari was quoted as saying. In the drill dubbed *Velayat 91*, or *Guardianship 91*, defensive and missile systems, combat vessels and submarines will be tested, said the commander, adding that naval exercises to confront the enemy’s threats and to enhance the battle preparedness are among the aims of the drill.—Xinhua

Military plane crashes in central Ukraine, killing five

KIEV, 26 Dec— At least five people were killed after a military helicopter crashed on Tuesday in Ukraine’s central Kirovograd region, authorities reported.

The *MI-8* helicopter crashed at around 4 pm local time (1400 GMT) shortly after taking off, the

press service of the Interior Ministry said.

The helicopter was carrying five people, including three crew members and two workers. All of them died on the spot, the press service said. An investigation into the crash is in the process.

Xinhua

Four killed as car bomb hits NATO base in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 Dec — At least four people were killed when a suicide car bomb hit a NATO military base in eastern Afghan province of Khost on Wednesday morning, officials said.

“A militant driving an explosive-laden minibus tried to approach the eastern entrance of Khost airport where the military base is located but the attacker set off the explosive after being intercepted by the police,” the provincial police chief Abdul Qayum Baqizai was

quoted by local media as saying. He said a policeman, two civilians and the bomber were killed in the attack which took place in the provincial capital of Khost city around 8 am local time.

Meanwhile, a security official told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity that seven people were also wounded in the explosion.

“According to our initial reports this morning insurgents detonated a vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in

the vicinity of a coalition base named Camp Chapman in Khost Province,” a spokesman with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) told *Xinhua* by phone. The Taliban insurgent group claimed responsibility for the incident. Zabihullah Mujahid, who purported to speak for the Taliban, told local media by phone that a man loyal to the Taliban carried out the attack inflicting on foreign and Afghan forces.—Xinhua



File photo taken on 30 Sept, 2005 shows Claudionor Viana Teles Velloso, known as “Dona Cano”. Teles Velloso, mother of Brazilian musicians Caetano Veloso and Maria Bethania, died on 25 Dec, 2012 at the age of 105 in her house in the city of Santo Amaro of Purificacao, Brazil, according to her relatives. XINHUA

Storm brings tornadoes, snow to US South; two dead

MOBILE, 26 Dec— A major winter storm system swept through the southern United States on Tuesday, spawning tornadoes in several states and killing two people in weather-related road accidents.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said a tornado struck Mobile, Alabama, home to about 200,000 people, at about 5 pm local time (2300 GMT). There were reports of damage

to trees and widespread power outages, along with some structural damage, but no injuries or fatalities. Tornadoes also touched down in Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana, flattening houses and causing some injuries, according to the NWS. The wild Christmas weather was expected to continue into early Wednesday — the NWS’ Storm Prediction Centre forecasted the development of “a few strong tornadoes and

thunderstorm wind damage over parts of the southeast” this evening and overnight.

It warned that tornadoes at night at this time of year can be particularly dangerous because they are usually fast-moving and obscured by rain and darkness. Areas mostly likely to be hit by strong storms include southern and eastern Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and southwest Georgia, the NWS warned.

Xinhua

Nearly 6,000 passengers stranded as tropical storm lands in Philippines

MANILA, 26 Dec— Due to the influence of tropical storm Wukong (local name Quinta), 5,748 passengers were stranded at a dozen of ports in central Philippines by 7 am on Wednesday, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

Most of the passengers were stranded at ports in Manila, estimated at 2,550 persons; Cebu with 939 persons; Maasin Leyte with 454, and etc.

Moreover, 40 vessels and 10 motor bancas were stuck on the said ports while 10 vessels took shelter in other ports.

Philippine Coast Guard Units in the affected area were on heightened alert and continuously monitoring development and effects of the weather disturbance to ensure preparedness and strictly banned operation of vessels.

Tropical Storm Wukong has slightly weakened after making landfall over Leyte in east Philippines last night and is now traversing toward Camotes Island. At 7:00 am on Wednesday, the centre of Wukong was estimated at Bantayan Island, Cebu, the state weather bureau PAGASA said.

Xinhua

All students rescued after boats capsized

TOKYO, 26 Dec— All 15 high school students who fell into water after their canoes capsized in a river in Japan’s Chiba Prefecture were rescued on Wednesday.

Those students were on 10 boats when all of their canoes capsized at around 10:30 am on Wednesday morning.

A total of 34 students from different high schools were on a joint training session. There were 15 students reported missing in the immediate aftermath of the accident, NHK quoted police as saying. All students have been found in good health, according to reports.

Xinhua



Krishna charity activists distribute free food to people in need in Budapest, Hungary, on 25 Dec, 2012. XINHUA

Long-lived bats offer clues on diseases, aging

Science

HONG KONG, 26 Dec—The bat, a reservoir for viruses like Ebola, SARS and Nipah, has for decades stumped scientists trying to figure out how it is immune to many deadly bugs but a recent study into its genes may finally shed some light, scientists said on Friday.

Studying the DNA of two distant bat species, the scientists discovered how genes dealing with the bats' immune system had undergone the most rapid change.

This may explain why

they are relatively free of disease and live exceptionally long lives compared with other mammals of similar size, such as the rat, said Professor Lin-Fa Wang, an infectious disease expert at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore who led the multi-centre study.

"We are not saying bats never get sick or never get infections. What we are saying is they handle infections a lot better," Wang said in a telephone interview.

What was missing from

both species of bats was a gene segment known to trigger extreme, and potentially fatal, immune reactions to infections, called the cytokine storm.

Cytokine storms end up killing not only offending viruses in the body, but the host's own cells and tissues too.

"Viruses rarely kill the host. The killing comes from the host's immune response. So it looks like what bats are doing is depress the inflammation (cytokine storm). If we can learn that,

we can design drugs to minimize the inflammation damage and control viral infection," Wang said.

The study, which saw the participation of researchers from China, Denmark, Australia and the United States, was published on Friday in the journal *Science*.

Compared with other mammals of similar size, bats live a long time, with lifespans of between 20 and 40 years. Rats live between 2 and 3 years, on average.

Reuters



Photo shows the deployment of Patriot PAC-2 anti-missile units being conducted by German Defence Forces in Warbelow, Germany, on 18 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Mundie, one of Gates' successors, to retire from Microsoft

Tech

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—Craig Mundie, one of two Microsoft Corp executives who took over Bill Gates' role at the company, has relinquished control of Microsoft's large research organization and is to retire from the company in 2014.

Mundie is taking on a new role as a senior adviser to Chief Executive Steve Ballmer, according to a memo circulated internally earlier this month but only made public on Monday.

Eric Rudder, another Microsoft veteran, is taking on responsibility for Microsoft Research, Trustworthy Computing, and the Technology Policy Group, which were all run

by Mundie.

A 20-year Microsoft veteran, Mundie was one of two men hand-picked by co-founder Gates to take over leadership of the technical side of Microsoft when he retired from day-to-day work at the company in 2008.

Mundie took over responsibility for the company's long-term research activities, while Ray Ozzie became chief software architect. Ozzie left Microsoft in 2010. According to Ballmer's memo, Mundie will retire from Microsoft in 2014, when he will be 65.

Mundie's new role was first reported on Monday by the All Things D tech blog.

Reuters



Microsoft's Craig Mundie speaks in an interview in Jakarta on 8 May, 2008. Microsoft has no plans to re-submit its \$47.5 billion bid for Yahoo Inc, which was pulled earlier this month, Mundie told Reuters on Thursday.—REUTERS



A man sits in front of a computer at a care centre in Shanghai on 14 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 27 Dec—China may require internet users to register with their real names when signing up to network providers, state media said on Tuesday, extending a policy already in force with microblogs in a bid to curb what officials call rumours

and vulgarity.

A law being discussed this week would mean people would have to present their government-issued identity cards when signing contracts for fixed line and mobile internet access, state-run newspapers said.

Science

Israeli archaeologists unearth "elite" Stone Age society

JERUSALEM, 26 Dec—An excavation of an ancient village in the north of Israel has unearthed hundreds of artifacts linking the residents' upper class to Mesopotamia and other distant civilizations.

Archaeologist Yair Milevski, who headed the excavation together with Nimrod Getzov at the Ein Tzipori site, near Nazareth, told *Xinhua* on Monday that this discovery helps understand Stone Age upper class society and commerce in the area.

"We discovered some kind of elite part of society that lived in this village and

who were in contact with other cities in the northern Levant — even in Anatolia and Mesopotamia," Milevski said.

The artifacts unearthed belong to the Calcolithic period, over seven millennia ago, and have been identified as a part of the local Wadi Rabah culture.

The find revealed that this culture had strong commercial ties with other cultures as distant as Mesopotamia and Anatolia, in current Turkey.

"This kind of commerce was not uncommon, but what's special is that we have a large collection of

items in the same place, and most probably they were conducting these exchanges through terrestrial means," Milevsky said.

"We think that they had barter deals, because they didn't have money, and sometimes this exchange was coming from faraway sites since we also found items made from Obsidian coming from Anatolia and other parts of Turkey, as well as other items from Syria and northern Levant region," the researcher stressed.

Archaeologists believe that the luxury items discovered in Ein Tzipori were for the upper class's

consumption and that the site was not a religious or affluent commercial settlement.

Among the artifacts are bowls containing hundreds of colored flint beads, engraved earthenware and palettes decorated with ostriches, showing influence from Mesopotamia and Syria.

"We know that there are few cases in the southern Levant with such patterns on palettes or other artifacts, even in the Near East. We believe there was a common background of ideas or beliefs that reflects continuous commercial activity," Milevsky said.

Xinhua

Internet grows to more than 246 million domain names

Tech

NEW DELHI, 27 Dec—More than five million domain names were added to the Internet in the third quarter of 2012, bringing the total number of registered domain names as of 30 September, 2012 to more than 246 million worldwide across all Top-Level Domains (TLDs), a report said on Monday.

According to Domain Name Industry Brief, published by VeriSign Inc, a provider of Internet infrastructure services for the networked world, the increase of 5.7 million domain names globally equates to a growth rate of 2.4 percent over the second quarter of 2012, and marks the seventh straight

quarter with greater than two percent growth. "Worldwide registrations have grown by 26.4 million, or 12 percent, since the third quarter of 2011", a VeriSign statement said. The .com and .net TLDs experienced aggregate growth in the third quarter of 2012, reaching a combined total of 119.9 million domain names in the adjusted zone

for .com and .net.

This represents 1 percent increase in the base over the second quarter of 2012 and a 7.1 percent increase over the third quarter of 2011.

As of 30 September, 2012, the base of registered names in .com equalled 105 million names, while .net equalled 14.9 million names, it was stated.—PTI



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Decline of listed firms on London's junior market slows

Business

LONDON, 26 Dec— A decline in the number of companies listed on London's junior stock market eased this year and around half the companies that did leave were bought up or transferred to bigger exchanges, a Deloitte report shows.

It said the number of companies listed on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market (AIM) had fallen every year since 2007, but

the fall in 2012 was just 4 percent, compared with 16 percent in 2009, its fastest year of contraction.

"During the time of the financial crisis... the principal reasons why companies were leaving the list were negative," said Richard Thornhill, capital markets partner at Deloitte.

"Either they no longer perceived that the market offered them value ... or the economic climate forced them

to de-list. The situation in 2012 has been very different, with the driving force behind companies leaving the list being transactions which have consistently realised value for shareholders."

Of the 113 companies who had left the market by the end of November, 41 were acquired, 17 were subject to reverse take-overs and three transferred to London's main market.

Those companies which were bought received an average premium of 53 percent to their closing share price on the day before the acquisition.

By the end of November, 65 companies had joined AIM, and the share prices of the 44 which raised money on admission had risen an average 26 percent since listing.

"There are good reasons to be confident about the market in 2013," said Thornhill.—Reuters



People walk through the lobby of the London Stock Exchange on 5 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

Jaguar Land Rover's China unit to recall cars over safety worries

BEIJING, 26 Dec—Jaguar Land Rover's Chinese subsidiary will recall 337 cars because of standard fixings in their brakes and steering boxes, China's national product quality watchdog said on Tuesday.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a statement on its website that Jaguar Land Rover's China unit is recalling 190 2012 Evoque and Freelander vehicles produced on 11 June this year.

The agency's statement

said the recall was prompted by concerns that standard fixings in the vehicles' rear brake calipers may lead to brakes failing and sudden tire deflation.

The agency said another 147 2012 Evoque and 2013 Evoque vehicles made between 20 October and 18 September will also be recalled due to problems in their steering boxes, which contain "security risks".

Jaguar Land Rover, the British luxury marque owned by India's Tata Motors (TAMO.NS), has relied on strong demand over the past



Customers look at a Range Rover Evoque car outside a dealership in Beijing on 17 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

year from emerging markets such as China for its luxury SUVs and sleek sedans to

offset sluggish growth in developed markets.

Reuters

Business

British retailers start online sales early

LONDON, 26 Dec— British retailers have brought forward their Christmas clearance sales online in the hope that shoppers will log on to buy bargains and offset lackluster spending in stores.

Marks & Spencer launched its sale online at midday on Monday, it said on its website, while department store John Lewis said it would cut online prices when its stores close at 1700 GMT. Debenhams has already started its online sale.

Retailers in recent years have started sales online on Christmas Day, ahead of the clearances in stores from Boxing Day, but are increasingly launching

their online offers before Christmas after delivery deadlines for the day have passed. Hard-pressed shoppers have been leaving it later to buy presents in the hope that retailers would slash prices, the British

Retail Consortium said.

It was forecasting that 5 billion pounds (\$8.1 billion) would be spent in the shops on Saturday and Sunday combined, the last weekend before Christmas.

Richard Dodd, the

BRC's head of Media and Campaigns, said weekend trading had met expectations.

"Christmas, ultimately once all the final sums are done, will turn out to be acceptable but not exceptional," he said.

He said the sector expected a modest increase in cash spending against a year go, but not necessarily any significant increase in real terms once inflation was stripped out.

Many British families' budgets are stretched, according to a survey from Markit that showed the biggest deterioration in household finances for seven months.—Reuters



Pedestrians walk past the Marble Arch branch of Marks and Spencer in central London on 8 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Sony China President Nobuki Kurita gestures as he gives a speech next to a Sony MDR-1R headset and a Sony mobile phone during a news conference at a Sony Store in Beijing on 25 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



Sony says China business has recovered, foresees growth

BEIJING, 26 Dec—Sony Corp's (6758.T) business in China has "more or less" returned to levels seen before recent protests against Japan's actions over a group of disputed islands, the Japanese company's China chief, Nobuki Kurita, told reporters on Tuesday.

Calls for boycotts of Japanese products broke out across China in September after Japan nationalized two of a group of disputed East China Sea islands, known as the Diaoyu in Chinese and the Senkaku in Japanese, by purchasing them from their private owners.

The spat plunged relations between Japan and China into a deep freeze and hit sales of Japanese goods in China. Kurita said, however, that Sony's China business would recover strongly in the coming three business years after a dip in the current one.

"My general impression is business conditions have more or less returned to the pre-crisis environment," he told a media briefing at a Sony store in eastern Beijing.

He saw sales in China falling 10 percent in the business year to next March from the previous year, but rebounding in the year to March 2013 and growing strongly in the two subsequent years.

Kurita declined to comment on what impact the election of the hawkish Shinzo Abe as Japan's new

prime minister could have on Japan-China relations.

Abe has vowed not to back down on the island dispute, but still must balance that stance with the need for stable relations with China. Japanese media have reported that he will send a special envoy to China to mend ties. "There's no market that has no risk," he said when asked about Japan-China relations. "Our mandate is to maximize our business potential in any given situation." Kurita said he expects Sony's business in emerging markets to grow about 40 percent from the current level to reach some 2.6 trillion yen (\$31 billion) in the business year ending in March 2015. China would account for "a good chunk" of that growth, he said.

Reuters

US reprimands some eye centres on LASIK surgery advertising

Health

WASHINGTON, 26 Dec— US health regulators warned five eyecare providers to stop misleading advertising and promotion of refractive lasers used in eye surgery procedures such as LASIK.

The US Food and Drug Administration found that the advertisements and promotional materials did not offer consumers adequate information about risks and possible side effects.

Warning letters were sent to certain eyecare centres in Indiana, California, Florida, Texas and Georgia.

"Providers whose advertising does not provide adequate risk information are finding out today that the FDA is serious about consumer protection," said Steve Silverman, compliance Director at FDA's Centre for Devices and Radiological Health in a statement posted on the agency's website.

Surgery with refractive lasers is intended to reduce the need for glasses or contact lenses. It involves the removal of corneal tissue by a special laser and permanently reshapes

the cornea and changes its focusing power.

The most common risks of LASIK surgery included dry eyes, the possible continued need for glasses, visual disturbances such as halos, starbursts or double vision, and even loss of vision.

The FDA said it issued letters in 2009 and 2011 to eyecare professionals across the country explaining the agency's concerns about improper advertising and promotion of FDA-approved lasers.

It also issued letters in March 2012 to the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, providing additional information about disclosing risk in eyecare professionals' advertisements and promotional materials.

"The FDA reminds consumers that eye surgery such as lasik is irreversible, that not all patients will achieve optimal results, and that some patients may need additional procedures," the FDA said.—Reuters

WORLD

Iran ready to expand ties with Vietnam

TEHERAN, 26 Dec—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi said the Islamic republic is ready to expand all-out ties with Vietnam, Press TV reported on Tuesday.

Iran is prepared to boost economic, trade, parliamentary and cultural cooperation with Vietnam, Salehi said on Monday in a meeting with visiting Chairman of Vietnamese

National Assembly Committee for Security and Defense Nguyen Kim Khoa, according to the report.

“Both states enjoy great and good potential to expand cooperation, particularly in the financial sector,” he said, expressing hope that Iran and Vietnam would use the capacity to increase the volume of their trade.

For his part, the Viet-

namese official expressed his country’s readiness to boost cooperation with Teheran in various fields, said the report.

According to Press TV, in his two-day visit to Vietnam in November, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stressed the determination of both Tehran and Hanoi to enhance their bilateral cooperation in all areas.—Xinhua

Venezuela’s Chavez shows “slight improvement”

CARACAS, 26 Dec—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has shown “slight improvement” in his recovery from cancer surgery, Communication and Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said on Monday.

In the latest official update on Chavez’s post-operation state of health, the minister said on TV that the President “is experienc-

ing a slight improvement in his condition, with a progressive tendency.”

Chavez underwent a fourth round of surgery on 11 December in Cuba since being first diagnosed with cancer in the pelvic region in June 2011.

“Commander Chavez continues to rigorously comply with absolute bed rest as ordered by his medi-

cal team,” said Villegas, adding that the President had asked his aides “to convey to all Venezuelans his wishes for a Merry Christmas.” The health of the Venezuelan leader has been the subject of intense media coverage as his swearing-in ceremony for a third six-year term slated for January 10 draws near.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran, Iraq to sign natural gas deal contract

TEHERAN, 26 Dec—Iran’s Deputy Oil Minister Javad Oaji said on Tuesday that Iran and Iraq are set to finalize a deal on natural gas exports from the Islamic republic to Iraq in the near future, Press TV reported.

“Once the contract between the two countries is finalized, Iran will export 20 million to 25 million cubic meters of gas per day to Iraq in the scheduled time frame,” Oaji was quoted as saying.

Iran is expected to begin exporting natural gas to Iraq in 2013, said Oaji, who is also the managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company.

Earlier this month, Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Danaeefar said the annual exports from Iran to Iraq was projected to reach 12 billion US dollars in the current Iranian calendar year, which ends on 20 March, 2013.

Iran’s exports to the neighboring country stood at around 11 billion dollars last year, said Danaeefar.

The Islamic republic is currently working in the energy sectors, including electricity, oil and natural gas projects, as well as major economic activities, such as road construction, in Iraq.

Xinhua

Zimbabwe tourist operators expect better prospects next year

HARARE, 26 Dec—Zimbabwe’s tourist operators have said the year 2012 has seen an influx in the number of hunters and tourists into the country, which is a sign of better prospects next year.

Zimbabwe Safari Operators Chairperson Emmanuel Fundira was quoted by state radio on Monday saying the safari industry had good business from traditional markets such as Europe and the United States.

Fundira said they are expecting an influx of hunters and tourists, adding that bookings have already been made.

Next year, the country is hosting the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly, an event which is expected to attract thousands of delegates in the tourism industry.

The signing of a tripartite agreement in May 2012

has been believed to greatly contribute to the increase in tourist arrivals in the country in the second half of the year.

The agreement was signed at the Victoria Falls Bridge by President Robert Mugabe, Zambian President Michael Sata and UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai.

Barbara Murasiranwa, an official of the Zimbabwe Council for Tourism in Victoria Falls, said the agreement brought confidence among international travelers as it endorsed the country as a safe tourist destination.

“I believe the signing of the tripartite agreement between the two presidents and the UNWTO brought confidence to travelers in the whole world, and also confirmed Zimbabwe as a safe tourist destination,” Murasiranwa said.

Xinhua



Banri Kaieda becomes new DPJ chief

TOKYO, 26 Dec—Banri Kaieda on Tuesday became the new leader of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in the leadership election held in the day.

He defeated his rival, Sumio Mabuchi, and gained 90 votes from a total of 144 valid votes casted by 145 DPJ lawmakers in the Diet. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda resigned from the post immediately after the

DPJ suffered a fiasco in the lower house election held on 16 December.

Kaieda, former trade minister, said after the election that he will spare no efforts to rebuild the party.

As of now, the DPJ is trying to grab a victory in the upper house election next summer. The DPJ now still remains the largest force in the 242-seat chamber.—MNA/Xinhua

Japan’s former trade minister Banri Kaieda (C) attends the leadership election of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in Tokyo, on 25 Dec, 2012. Banri Kaieda on Tuesday became the new leader of the DPJ.—XINHUA

Dockworkers at Northwest ports reject pact offer

SEATTLE, 26 Dec—Dockworkers at four US Pacific Northwest ports moved closer to a possible labour clash with grain shippers on Monday, as parties in a larger, separate dispute at 15 East and Gulf coast ports agreed to mediation ahead of strike deadline set for 30 December.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) announced nearly 3,000 of its members had voted to reject a contract proposal

that management called its “last, best and final” offer.

The proposed contract covers six of the nine grain terminals operating in Puget Sound and along the Columbia River that account for more than a quarter of all US grain exports and nearly half of US wheat exports.

The stalemate in contract talks in Oregon and Washington state and management’s failure to win approval of its offer, fueled speculation that grain shippers might im-

pose a lockout of union members in a bid to keep terminals operating with replacement workers.

The ILWU has not asked its members to authorize a strike, nor has it set a strike deadline or made mention of a walkout. The union urged the shippers to return to the bargaining table. Talks have foundered over numerous work-rule changes sought by the companies to improve efficiency, but opposed by the ILWU as onerous give-backs ultimately de-

signed to break the union.

The Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers Association, which represents the shipping companies and the grain terminals they own, said in response to rejection of their contract offer that employers were “reviewing their options.”

The ILWU has said the shippers have hired a Delaware-based company that specializes in providing security and replacement workers in labour disputes.

MNA/Reuters

An officer of Suvarnabhumi Airport dressed as Santa Claus attends the Christmas celebrations at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25 Dec, 2012. XINHUA



LOCAL NEWS

2013 MNL League to be launched 5 Jan



YANGON, 26 Dec— Myanmar Football Federation announced the fixtures of the Myanmar National League 2013.

The first fixture will be held on 5 and 6 January. Altogether 12 clubs will take

part in the MNL 2013 from 5 January to 25 August.

The first leg matches of the league will be held from 5 January to 12 May at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, Aung San Stadium and YUSC Ground

in Yangon, Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay, KBZ Ground in Taunggyi, Monywa Ground in Monywa and NPT Ground in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yangon United, Yatanarpon, Kanbawza, Zeyar Shwemyay and Nay Pyi Taw FCs will have the opportunities to host the home matches.

Qualifiers for AFC Challenge Cup will be held in Yangon. So, the fixtures of the League will be postponed after the match held on 10 February and it will resume on 23 March.

The second leg matches will be held from 18 May to 25 August.

According to the fixture, defending champion Yangon United will meet with Zwegabin FC whereas former champion Yatanarpon FC will play against Rakhine United.

Powerful clubs of MNL Yangon and Yatanarpon will meet in the match on 12 May.

MNL League started in 2009. Yatanarpon FC secured champions in 2009 and 2010 and Yangon United in 2011 and 2012.—Myanma Alinn

Auto-telephone lines already repaired in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 26 Dec—The auto-telephones damaged in November have been substituted with China-made ZET digital auto-telephones in Taunggyi of Shan State.

The maintenance of the re-installation has completed by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in the first week of December. At

present, the people can use telephones with seven digits instead of five digits.

Up to 20 December, over 5000 auto-telephones of about 6000 have good access to communications.

If not, the users may send complaints to the complaint unit that will assign skilled workers to repair and check

the telephones for enabling the users to have good connection through new digit numbers at any time.

Myanma Alinn

Development of village library emphasized

PUTAO, 26 Dec—Putao District Information and Public Relations Department opened the new library building in conjunction with the books and cash donations at Phonkanrazi library in Lower Shangoung Village of Mansay Village-tract in Putao Township with the aim of broadening the horizon of the local people.

On 14 December, the deputy commissioner of the Putao District General

Administration Department made a speech.

Staff Officer U Aung Kyaw Tun of District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on reading for rural people and development of the library.

Khamtilon Parahita Youth Group donated 706 books worth K 521,000 and rural people K 200,000 to the library.

Myanma Alinn

New gravel road commissioned in Homalin

HOMALIN, 26 Dec—As a gesture of hailing the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, Homalin Township

Development Affairs Committee opened the gravel road in Nawngphukmaw Ward in Homalin for 2012-

2013 fiscal year on 16 December morning.

Executive Officer U Kyaw Kyaw of the committee explained matters related to opening the new road. Ward administrator U Zaw Min



Literary talks on Independence Day held in Kawlin

KAWLIN, 26 Dec— Jointly organized by Kawlin Township Education Department and Kawlin Township Writers Association, the literary talks in commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day 2013 was held at Basic Education High School in Kawlin on 17 December afternoon.

Headmistress Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt gave talks on essence of Independence and CEC of Myanmar Writers Association U Khin Maung Nyein (Myan Gon Hsaung) on nationalistic spirit of Myanmar for Independence.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar Society of Mechanical Engineers to be founded

YANGON, 26 Dec— Under the supervision of Myanmar Engineering Society, the Myanmar Society of Mechanical Engineers (MSME) will be established for development of mechanical engineering and serving the interest of the State and the people.

A ceremony to mark the founding of the Myanmar Society of Mechanical Engineers will be held at Royal Garden Restaurant at Kandawgyi Park on Natmuk Street in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, at 8.30 am on 29 December.

Myanma Alinn

Rail tracks upgraded near Kawche station in Bago

PYU, 26 Dec— Upgrading and repairing of railroad sections and rail tracks are being undertaken in Division 6 area of the Senior Engineer (Civil) of Myanma Railways with the aim of ensuring better rail tracts and traffic safety, as of 13 December.

Rail line clearers, traffic and junctions were substituted with new ones and old wooden sleepers with concrete ones in the area of Junior Engineer (1) rail tracks in Bago region, near Kawche railway station between mile posts 26/12 and 56/124 on Yangon-Mandalay railroad.

The workers and supervisors emphasized fills of gravels, sanitations and weeding along the railroad section.—Myanma Alinn

Bago Region WAO, MCWSC donate offertories to nunnery

BAGO, 26 Dec— Bago Region Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and other utensils to nuns at Yadana Myinzu nunnery in Hanthawady Ward, east of Shwemawdaw Pagoda on 15 December.

Patron of Bago Region WAO and MCWSC Daw Myint Myint, wife of the Chief Minister of Bago Region, and members, those of Bago Region, District and Township WAOs and MCWAs donated offertories worth about K 700,000 to the nunnery.—Myanma Alinn

Passenger ships take care of declining water level in Ayeyawady River



KATHA, 26 Dec—Now is time of declining water level at Ayeyawady River, up and down running ships in the river are taking care of water course near Katha of Sagaing Region due to

change of water course.

“At present, water level is declining day by day in Ayeyawady River. We have to take care of depth of water because sandbanks emerge one after another in the water

2013 fiscal year on 16 December morning.

Executive Officer U Kyaw Kyaw of the committee explained matters related to opening the new road. Ward administrator U Zaw Min

spoke words of thanks. Then, those present strolled along the newly-opened road.

The new road is 2530 feet long and 12 feet wide built at a cost of K 1.5 million.

Myanma Alinn

course which we cannot forecast. Moreover, at a time when water level declines, the local people reclaim alluvial farmlands along the bank for cultivation,” said a sailor.

Wherever ships run along the water course in Ayeyawady River, mass of sand follows them. Thus, passenger ships take care of driving and depth of water near Katha.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 December, 2012

Safety first

The Christmas Day Heho plane crash has pulled the alert on safety measures of public transportation. According to official figures, the tragedy killed two—one is a passenger and another, a bike rider on the ground. The cause of the crash is under investigation. Though, we have many more steps to do because it could cripple the tourism industry the country in transition pins all its hope on.

The public transportation is virtually less regulated industry of the country, leading to ignorance of the safety measures. Despite rules and regulations for providers of mass transportation services, they do not necessarily need to adhere to all of them strictly as long as they think it is safe. Passengers have to bet their lives on them.

Road authorities have started to fine or sue overloaded passenger buses or trucks, but still there are many other ways to go. Motorboats running across raging Yangon River were required to carry lifejackets two years ago. Since then, the lifejackets are tied tight to the boat with a rope and hard to pull them off. More confident vessels of the same route carry only 10 to 20 lifejackets for more than a hundred passengers. It is just OK with jetty authorities. The only essence is having the lifejackets.

We urgently need to start monitoring the safety measures of the mass transportation industry. The industry has high potential thanks to tourism boom and increase in number of domestic travelers followed by the economic growth. The transportation services need to offer smart and safe travels. There must be zero accident that could be prevented by prior safety procedures. We need perfect safety precautions. But only regulation is not enough. We also need closer monitoring and uncorrupted enforcement. As it is directly connected with human lives, we cannot be hesitated but must rather take immediate actions.



NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein calls...

(from page 1)

As part of the attempt to create more jobs for the general public, the government has formulated plans to develop special economic zones and industrial zones as well as a systematic rural deve-

lopment plan. However, **that are in line with democratic principles. With all this in mind, both the government that is made up of the representatives elected by the citizens and the civil servants who draw salaries from tax revenue**

by corruption

- As deliberately ineffective institutions that make it difficult for the public to interact with the government, and
- Without necessary management capa-

performed in ways that will make the government more transparent, accountable, clean and effective. I also want to call on officials ranging from village administrators to union ministers to try to be good leaders whom the people can rely on. While undertaking political and



Union Ministers, officials of Union level organizations, authorities of Self-Administered Zone and Division and heads of department attending the ceremony on reforms to improve management and administrative capacity of the government.—MNA

lopment plan. However, the global economic downturn, the decline in overall global purchasing power, the lingering impact of western economic sanctions and the natural disasters caused by global climate change have invariably slowed down Myanmar's economic growth. The entire country will have to work together in order to improve the economic performance of the country significantly.

A national development plan cannot automatically bring wealth to the people. Only when the plans are properly and effectively implemented, will our nation see real economic growth and development.

In order for the government to implement reform plans effectively, it must have necessary management capability and expertise.

In general, the capacity of the government will play an important role in deciding the success and failure of economic reforms in the country. In addition, systemic reforms would not be very effective, if the implements are reluctant to give up the values and practices of the previous regime and adopt new political, economic, social, and administrative values

and serve the public, must strive with determination to create the conditions to foster good governance and an efficient government. In addition, all political, economic, social and administrative reforms undertaken by the government must aim at achieving grassroots-based development.

However, in townships and wards across the country, many citizens are having many problems in dealing with local government officials. Local government officials in some areas run their offices:

- Without paying attention to public opinion or without consulting with the general public,
- Without transparency or without informing the public of the plans that are about to be implemented,
- Without paying attention to public inquiries or without thinking about how they might better meet the needs of the public,
- Without following the rules and regulations adopted by the line ministries or regional governments,
- By accepting bribes that are made possible

city and skills.

On the whole, it is quite clear that the elements of good governance and clean government are absent in many local administrative bodies. As a result, local state officials have come to lack the capacity to meet the needs of the local people and to solve the problems that they are facing. In some areas, the public has come to loathe dealing with ward level administrative officials. We must therefore undertake administrative reforms from the ward/village level to the union level. Only then will good governance and clean government prevail in our country.

The government will therefore implement the reforms that are designed to improve the management and administrative performance of government agencies in the third stage of the overall national reform strategy.

The administrative reforms that should be in line with the people-based development strategy should transform government officials into public servants who truly serve the public. In order for this to happen, officials from ward/village level to the union level must change their mindset, old behaviour, and the way they used to

democratic reforms, we must wholeheartedly try to improve the capacity and performance of both individual public servants and the entire bureaucracy as a whole.

Under a system in which good governance prevails, the government and the people will not have much difficulty cooperating with each other. As I have repeatedly noted, we need public cooperation in order to be able to implement democratic reforms and development plans successfully. We must therefore undertake the administrative reforms in ways that will attract public participation in the reform process. Under the new administrative system, the township administrative officer will form a township administrative committee and sub-committees with township level officials from other government agencies, community leaders, and representatives from civil society, business and professional associations to manage law and order, security, the rule of law, and economic and social issues in the township. The township committee will collectively discuss and make decisions on all the matters that used to be handled by few township officers.

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein calls...

(From page 8)

The committee will then collectively implement the decisions. Similar administrative reforms will be undertaken at the district level as well. At the ward and village level also, village or ward level committees with the village or ward level administrator and community leaders will perform similar functions. I believe that such an arrangement will reduce public grievances caused by the highhanded actions taken by individual administrators. **I therefore would like to instruct state and region governments to form committees at various levels properly and in conformity with the law.**

Because municipal work is very important in improving the livelihood and living standard of the people and in developing townships and villages, it should not be handled only by a small group of officials. The Municipal Act that was enacted according to the 1898 Myanmar Naingyan Act No.3 was in force until 1993 and elected public representatives were involved in Municipal committees and their activities. **I would like to instruct responsible officials to start studying**

what kind of laws, rules and regulations might need to be adopted in order to elect public representatives for Municipal Committees and to specify the roles public representative should play in running township municipalities.

Union Ministers must also relax legal and procedural restrictions to cut the bureaucratic red tape in their respective ministries. In addition, all ministries must try to cut any budget deficit in their ministries. We will need to promulgate new laws and by-laws that will require state-owned enterprises to turn themselves into truly profit-oriented enterprises by forming boards and corporations.

We will also try to overcome **the weak cooperation and coordination between different ministries by forming cabinet committees.** This will allow the cabinet to adopt policies and plans in a proper and coordinated manner.

In order to deal with **the weak coordination between Union Ministries and state and regional governments,** we will need to define **the division of power and responsibilities between the central and local governments more**

clearly by promulgating a new by-law. A similar measure will be undertaken to define the power and responsibilities for self-administered zones/division and district and township level administrative bodies.

Union Ministries will take the responsibility of managing the activities of the ministries in accordance with relevant laws, by-laws and regulations. The state and regional government supervise the activities of various government agencies in their respective areas and deal with the issues related to security, the rule of law, the prevalence of law and order and improving the social and economic well-being of the residents of their respective state or region.

Section 256 of the Constitution has entrusted **the state and regional governments with the power to supervise, inspect and coordinate the activities of civil servants in their respective state or region in accordance with the law.** Accordingly, I would like to instruct all state and regional governments to perform this entrusted duty according to the law.

The reforms that are designed to improve the administrative and management systems of a government could also contribute significantly to

the successful completion of the political reforms and the dissemination of democratic values and practices in the society. I therefore would like to encourage all government employees to perform their assigned duties wholeheartedly and with goodwill. From now onwards, if individual citizens, the government, and political parties do everything they can in the roles they are assigned to, the country will definitely be able to overcome all the challenges and difficulties it is now facing. We will then be able to hope for a new peaceful and harmonious Myanmar.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that governance in Myanmar falls short of international good governance standards. Of all the measures we need to undertake to create good governance, I would like to ask you all to eradicate bribery and corruption in the country. In bribery cases, both givers and takers are responsible for it. If the government is tainted with bribery, it will seriously damage the image of the country and its national and international prestige. Therefore, I would like to request the general public to actively participate in

the anti-bribery and anti-corruption campaigns. It is time for public servants who receive a portion of tax revenues as salary to prove that they are good citizens and nationalists who wish to enhance the prestige of both the country and all ethnic nationalities, by keeping themselves and their government departments clean from corruption. I will conclude by requesting **all of you to work together with discipline and goodwill in order to improve the efficiency of the government and to foster good governance and help build clean government in the country.**—MNA

Christmas feast served



Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, region ministers and responsible persons of Yangon Catholic Church and Myanmar Council of Churches attend Christmas Service and dinner.—MNA

YANGON, 26 Dec—“Despite religious diversity, peoples can live anyway together harmoniously and share the fruits of unity and peace if they only embrace mutual understanding and magnanimity setting aside the differences”, said Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung at Christmas Service

of Yangon Catholic Church and Myanmar Council of Churches and dinner at in Pabedan Township here yesterday evening. Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min made a welcoming speech of Christmas celebration. Priests and preachers of Myanmar Council of Churches,

members of All Religions Friendship Association and invited guests sang Christmas songs, read bible, shared good news on birth of Christ. Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Council of Churches Rev Dr Pa Hsan spoke words of thanks, followed by serving Christmas dinner.

MNA

Inter-Basic Education School Sports Contests continue

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu enjoyed competitions in Taekwondo sports event at Sports Training Camp No 2 in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe yesterday afternoon and awarded first, second and third prize winners.

The second Inter-Basic Education School Sports Contests for 2012-2013 continued yesterday. Athletes participated in the men’s and women’s volleyball events at Paunglaung Gymnasium, in men’s and women’s table tennis and basketball events

at Sports Training Camp No. 2, Sepak Takraw event at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Gymnasium, chess event at No. 7 Transit Centre and Cricket event at the ground of Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No. 20.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Investigation Commission
Press Release No. 4/2012
13th Waxing of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(26th December, 2012)

1. The Government is taking responsibilities for providing medical treatments to those injured in Letpadaungtaung copper mine incident in Salingyi Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region.
2. After making necessary coordination, the Investigation Commission has made arrangements for giving medical treatment to monk U Tikkañana on 13-12-2012 and monk Shin Sajjana on 25-12-2012 in Thailand. Two monks are now receiving medical treatments in Phra Mongkut Hospital of Bangkok.
3. The Commission has assigned duties to Myanma Environmental Institute (MEI) so as to assess environmental degradation and impacts on social life. MEI is undertaking its works after forming the group with the following experts:

(a) Ecology Exper	1
(b) Natural Hazard and Environmental Management Expert	1
(c) Project Development Analyst Expert	1
(d) Health, Safety and Environment Consultant	1
(e) Environmental Engineering Consultant	1
(f) Soil and Water Expert	1
(g) Environmental Mapping Expert	1
(h) Social Impact Assessment Expert	2
(i) Air Quality Expert	1
(j) EIA Consultant	1
(k) Cultural Expert	1
- (4) The expert group is to submit its preliminary report to the Commission within two weeks.

Yemeni army strike oil pipeline saboteurs, 10 people killed

SANAA, 26 Dec—Yemen's military forces launched a massive offensive on tribes suspected of attacking oil pipeline in the northeast Province of Marib earlier on Tuesday, leaving at least 10 people killed and dozens of others injured, local officials said.

"At least 10 tribal people were killed and about 15 others were wounded in the random military offensive on the Eyal Saeed tribe," the official told *Xinhua* by phone. A senior local tribal official confirmed to *Xinhua* that hundreds of al-Qaeda militants were fighting along with tribal saboteurs against government troops that were backed by fighter jets. Meanwhile, the De-

fence Ministry said in a brief statement that the clashes took place early morning after tribesmen from Eyal Saeed tribe blocked engineers from repairing the damaged oil pipeline. "The army offensive was launched after all mediation efforts were refused to allow fixing the pipeline," the ministry said.

"The Brigade 312 is continuing fierce attacks against the outlaws... The clashes has so far resulted in the killing of at least five tribal saboteurs and injuring more than eight others," the ministry said, adding that "three soldiers were wounded in the clashes."

It was the second fierce attack in Marib Province against the armed tribes-

men who were accused of repeatedly attacking the oil export pipeline for the fifth time in less than a month.

The government has so far failed to repair the country's sole oil export line since it was sabotaged on 11 November. The tribal saboteurs station in the areas of Wadi Abida tribe, Haba Valley and Eyal Saeed tribe in east Marib, about 170 km northeast of the capital Sanaa. The 272-mile (about 438 km) pipeline carries about 110,000 barrels of oil a day from the oilfields in Marib to the Ras Isa export terminal on the Red Sea.

The cash-stripped interim government depends on oil exports for up to 70 per cent of its budget.—*Xinhua*

Toyota launches remodeled Crown luxury sedan in Japan

TOKYO, 26 Dec—Toyota Motor Corp on Tuesday launched a completely remodeled Crown luxury sedan featuring an all-new design and improved safety functions.

Toyota aims to expand its customer base in the midst of the shrinking domestic sedan market, by

renovating its most popular sedan for the first time since 2008. It plans to sell 4,000 units a month of the new Crown. The 14th generation Crown is available with a gasoline engine or with a newly developed hybrid system. Hybrid models will start production from late January, Toyota said.

The new vehicle is equipped with improved safety technology to help avoid car crashes. It is also installed with a system that automatically applies the brake in the event of pedal misapplication in a parking space, according to the company.

MNA/*Xinhua*

Police launch probe into attack on Arab teen in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 26 Dec—The Jerusalem Police has launched a probe into an attack by two unknown assailants against an Arab teen, a police spokesman said on Tuesday. A 15-year-old Arab boy sustained wounds in his head in the attack on Monday night, Israeli media reported. He was sent to the Hadassah Ein Karem Hospital for treatment, and is now in a stable condition.

Israeli Police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld confirmed the attack Tuesday, and told *Xinhua* that

an investigation into the details of the incident has been launched.

According to a friend of the Arab boy, two ultra-orthodox Jewish youths were responsible for the assault.

The victim's mother told Israeli Ynet website, "My son and his friends were hanging out near the train station, when two religious-looking guys showed up."

"One of them grabbed him and knocked him down and hit him repeatedly over the head," she added.

Xinhua

UN envoy Brahimi to stay in Syria till Sunday

DAMASCUS, 26 Dec—The visiting UN-Arab League special representative, Lakhdar Brahimi, will stay in Syria till Sunday for more meetings with Syrian officials, opposition figures here said on Tuesday.

Hasan Abdul-Azim, head of the opposition National Coordination Body (NCB), told reporters after his meeting with Brahimi

that the special envoy will stay in Syria till Sunday, adding that he has listened to the opposition's point of view about the prospect of possible solutions.

For his side, Rajaa al-Naser, another member of the NCB, told reporters that Brahimi's meetings with Syrian officials are still in their beginnings, adding that more meetings will be held

soon. The international envoy set foot in Syrian capital Damascus on Sunday to meet Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, government officials and representatives of opposition factions. On Monday, he met with Assad and discussed ways to end the crisis, including "the steps that I see could be undertaken to help the Syrian people to exit from this crisis."—*Xinhua*



A street vendor makes paper trumpets for the New Year Eve celebrations in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 25 Dec, 2012. Many vendors come to Jakarta as seasonal sellers, trying their luck to sell paper trumpets during holiday season.—*XINHUA*

Zimbabwean gov't declares national disaster after deadly accident

HARARE, 26 Dec—The Zimbabwean government on Monday declared a national disaster after 18 people were killed and 46 others injured in a road accident the previous day.

A truck carrying the victims veered off the road and overturned on Sunday at the 18 km peg along the Selbourne-Hauna road in the mountainous area near Nyanga in Zimbabwe's eastern province of Manicaland.

Police spokesperson Tinaye Matake said the driver lost control of the vehicle with 64 farmers on board, adding that 17 people died on the spot and one

was pronounced dead after arriving at Hauna District Hospital.

Police spokesperson for Manicaland Province Enock Chishiri said 29 of the injured are still at Hauna District Hospital. Chishiri urged travellers not to board overloaded vehicles while calling on drivers to exercise extreme caution. Local Government, Rural and Urban Development Minister Ignatious Chombo said all relatives of the people who died in the accident will receive state assistance, including coffins, food and money.

Xinhua

GCC leaders target at Gulf Union and common defence system

MANAMA, 26 Dec—Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) leaders on Tuesday stressed the importance to move toward a Gulf Union and the development of a "common defence system" to deal with any threats in the region, saying that any threat on any of the six oil rich Gulf States is regarded as a threat to all.

On the last day of the two-day 33rd GCC Summit in Manama, the leaders discussed several issues of common concern, including the development of their military and defence capabilities, and the Sakhir

Declaration was revealed by Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

The Declaration underlines the support to strengthen defence, economic and social relations among the Gulf States, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Implementing all the decisions of the Supreme Council on GCC integration in all areas, in particular compliance with the "timetable for the establishment of the Gulf common market and working to remove impediments to the application of the Customs Union," the

leaders recommended.

Meanwhile, senior Gulf leaders discussed measures to achieve full Gulf citizenship, facilitating economic activity for GCC citizens to broaden cooperation, exchange, economic and social integration.

They also agreed to implement decisions on facilitating and promoting the transfer of national manpower among member states.

This could be seen as part of the Gulf Common Market step to open doors for GCC nationals to work

Iran to start naval drill in southern waters

TEHERAN, 26 Dec—Iranian army will start a naval drill in the country's southern waters on Friday, semi-official *Fars* news agency reported on Tuesday.

The six-day drill, to be held in Strait of Hormuz, Sea of Oman and northern Indian Ocean, will cover an area of one million square km, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari was quoted as saying.

In the drill dubbed Velayat 91, or Guardianship 91, defensive and missile systems, combat vessels and submarines will be tested, said the commander, adding that naval exercises to confront the enemy's threats and to enhance the battle preparedness are among the aims of the drill.

On 24 Dec, 2011, Iran held the 10-day Velayat 90 naval drill in its southern waters, including the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman, aiming at demonstrating the combat readiness and ability of the country's naval forces to defend its territorial waters.

Xinhua

Fishermen attend an annual fishing festival in Jiangchuan County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 25 Dec, 2012. *XINHUA*



REGIONAL

Six killed, one missing in Christmas fire in Philippine capital



A firefighter tries to extinguish a fire that hit the slum area in San Juan City of Metro Manila, the Philippines, on 25 Dec, 2012. More than 500 houses were razed in the fire, leaving 2,000 families homeless.— XINHUA

MANILA, 26 Dec— At least six people were killed in two separate fires that razed residential areas in San Juan and Quezon Cities in Metro Manila of the Philippines on

Christmas Day, local media reported.

Quoting a report of Bureau of Fire Protection, a local television said as of Tuesday noon, six bodies have been found in an eight-door apartment in Quezon city. One victim remains missing in the fire which took place at around 6:30 am on Tuesday.

In San Juan City, a fire started shortly after 2:25 am Police said at least 2,000 families were affected by the fire.

The fires have been put out and investigations into the cause of the two fires is underway.— Xinhua

Landslides kill three in West Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 Dec— Landslide in West Sumatra on Tuesday killed three people, while flood inundated hundreds of houses in the Indonesian province, an official said.

Heavy rains were to blame for the disaster in Solok Selatan district in the wee hours, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the national disaster management and mitigation agency, told

Xinhua by phone.

The accident hit a house and killed three people inside, he said.

Heavy downpour on Monday in Dompu District had submerged hundreds of houses, over 2,085 people prepared to take shelters, said Sutopo. Indonesia has been frequently hit by flood and landslide during wet season.

Xinhua

Singapore to get tourists to spend more

SINGAPORE, 26 Dec— Singapore's tourism authorities will try to get tourists spend more in the city state, a local television channel reported on Tuesday, citing a senior official of the government.

S Iswaran, second trade and industry minister, said that the country's tourism strategy will not only involve attracting a larger number of visitors, but also put more emphasis on deriving higher economic yield from tourists, Channel News Asia reported.

This means planning

for events and activities to generate extra spending from visitors, it said.

The tourism strategy will be centered around what is known as three Cs, namely, content, clients and connectivity, Iswaran said.

He said that Singapore can have better numbers for events like the Formula One Grand Prix if organizers work harder on sideshow activities to pull in more tourist dollars.

The night race has attracted over 150,000 visitors, spending more

than 560 million Singapore dollars (459 million US dollars) within the past several years. "The important thing is what are the sort of supporting, or naturally complementary activities which will strengthen the value proposition and the experience of the Formula One race in Singapore. So, one can envisage, for example, lifestyle events, fashion events, you know, maybe the watch industry, maybe the fashion industry and so on, coming in," he said.

Osaka plans for subway privatization

OSAKA, 26 Dec— Japan's western City of Osaka released on Tuesday a draft proposal to privatize its subway and bus networks in April 2015, local Press reported.

The draft plan to reform the public transportation networks was released by the top executive council after being set out in accordance with Mayor Toru

Hashimoto's political pledge to reduce administrative costs in the city, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK. The privatization plan, which includes reduction in the fare, revised train time table with the late night hours and transfer of some of its bus operating business to private companies in the Kansai region, aims to axe about 3 billion yen (about 35

million US dollars) in costs. The plan also includes the abolition of non-profitable bus lines.

The report cited the city's transportation bureau as saying that the draft proposal will be further discussed by the municipal council to abandon the current ordinance formulated to maintain subway and bus lines.— Xinhua

Indian navy vessel to visit Vietnam

HANOI, 26 Dec— Indian navy vessel *INS Sudarshini* will pay a goodwill visit to Vietnam's central coastal Da Nang city from 31 Dec, 2012 to 3 Jan, 2013, local media

reported on Tuesday.

INS Sudarshini, with six 70 officers and 70 sailors onboard, is on a tour through 13 destination ports in Southeast Asia, starting from

13 September. Earlier this month, Indian marine police ship, SAMRAT, anchored in Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh City for a five-day friendly visit.— Xinhua



Photo taken on 24 Dec, 2012 shows the icicles by the sea in Yantai, a coastal city in east China's Shandong Province.— XINHUA

Thailand issues heavy rain warning in south regions

BANGKOK, 26 Dec— Thailand's Meteorological Department on Tuesday issued a warning for people in the South to prepare for heavy rain that may lead to flash flood.

The department warned that residents in the southern Thailand should for widespread scattered rain with heavy falls in some areas and the danger of floods on Tuesday and Wednesday. People living

near hillsides and waterways in southern Province of Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung, Songkhla, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat should prepare for possible flash floods and forest runoff, the department said.

There will also be strong wind-generated two to four-metre-high waves in the lower part of the Gulf of Thailand. All shipping should proceed with caution and small boats should stay ashore.— Xinhua

Singapore institute to develop productivity index for SMEs

SINGAPORE, 26 Dec— Singapore-based Asia Competitiveness Institute is currently working on an index to monitor the productivity, efficiency and manpower management of companies, local broadcaster Channel News Asia reported on Tuesday. Some 1,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be involved in the project, which will be the first such index in Singapore.

The index will allow small and medium enterprises to track and measure their productivity

in a more systematic and comprehensive way. "We are looking at hard data, looking at indicators from financial reports. We are looking at soft data by conducting surveys on how (SMEs) manage their manpower, on how human resource policies are being applied, on how they improve their production process," said Tan Khee Giap, Co-Director of the Asia Competitiveness Institute, a unit of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.— Xinhua

Philippine gov't agency on alert as Tropical Storm Wukong approaches

MANILA, 26 Dec— The Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has been on red alert status as Tropical Storm Wukong continues to move towards Central Philippines, the agency announced on Tuesday morning.

In its latest disaster advisory released at 11:00 am (local time), NDRRMC, which was closely monitoring the movement of the tropic storm, said certain areas

in Central and Southern Philippines had been placed under public storm warning signal No 1 and No 2.

According to the agency, the residents living in low lying and mountainous areas under public storm warning signal were advised to make preparations for possible flashfloods and landslides. Meanwhile, people living in coastal areas under the warning signal No 2 were alerted against big waves brought by Wukong.

Fishing boats and small ships are advised not to venture out into the sea off Luzon and the east coastline of Visayas and Mindanao, NDRRMC added.

As of 10:00 am, the centre of Wukong was located 260 kilometres east of Guiuan, Central Philippine Province of Eastern Samar. It was packing maximum winds of 65 kilometres per hour (kph) near the centre, moving west at a speed of 19 kph, said NDRRMC.— Xinhua

China's rare earths giant continues production halt

BEIJING, 26 Dec— China's largest rare earths producer on Tuesday announced that it will continue to halt some of its production for a third month to help stabilize tumbling prices.

The Inner Mongolia Baotou Steel Rare-earth (Group) Hi-tech Co, Ltd. will maintain its suspension of rare earth roasting and smelting separation operations, which began on 23 October, for another month, the company said in a statement filed to the Shanghai

Stock Exchange. "The rare earths market recovered a bit in the past two months but did not improve fundamentally," the statement said.

The burst of a speculative bubble in China's rare earths industry and the softening economy has led to plunges in prices of rare earths, a group of 17 metals used in products ranging from smartphones to hybrid cars, since last year. The price of praseodymium-neodymium oxide, primarily used to make ceramics

and magnetic materials, has slid to around 300,000 yuan (47,695 US dollars) to 320,000 yuan per tonne, down from 1.4 million yuan per tonne at the highest point last year.

Baotou Steel saw its third quarter net profits dive 89.6 percent year on year to 120 million yuan due to declines in prices and sales. The company's Shanghai-listed shares lost 0.69 percent to close at 37.18 yuan during the morning session on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HR CONSTITUTION VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HR CONSTITUTION VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S FLAMAR, AS AGENT &
FUR OXL N.V.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THINH CUONG VICTORY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THINH CUONG VICTORY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.12.2012 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: RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAKASSAR HIGHWAY VOY NO (2)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAKASSAR HIGHWAY VOY NO (2) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SEALS CO. LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

Tender invitation for establishment of joint ventures

1. Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of Yangon City Development Committee is collecting and transporting 1500 tons of waste collected from 33 townships in YCDC area and discarding the following tons of waste at the two final disposal Sites daily:

- 800 tons of waste at Hteinbin final disposal site in Hlaingthaya Township,
- 600 tons of waste at Daweichaung final disposal site in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

2. It is now planning to take the following measures in order to produce scavenging energy through waste to energy process at the above mentioned dumping grounds:

- Electricity generation by generator fuelled by Methane extracted from the dump,
- Production of 98 percent pure gas (CNG-substitute gas) by transforming Methane extracted from the dump into Compressed Biomethane.
- Electricity generation through Incinerated Process. (Inceneration Plant)

3. Local companies or foreign companies or joint ventures of local and foreign companies which are willing to establish joint ventures to operate the above mentioned schemes are to submit tender proposals to Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of Yangon City Development Committee by 28-2-2013, fully mentioning the following facts:

- The proposed process and period of feasibility study,
- The proposed final dumping ground and the estimated timeframe for completion of the construction,
- The proposed system (e.g. Build-Operate-Transfer system, Build-Own-Operate system or Public-Private-Partnership system), mentioning the term of the joint venture,
- The detailed process (investment rate, share ownership, annual maintenance cost, dividend, project timeframe, breakeven point and others),
- Land requirement,
- The agreement of daily waste requirement (whether it requires tipping fees or not)
- The usage of water,
- Rate of the generated electricity for consumption/sale,
- Plan for selling and sharing Carbon Credit (Certified Emission Reduction),
- Other information and documents attached.

Remarks: (1) Letterheads with companies' logos are required in tender proposals.
(2) Detailed information and figures regarding the tender are available at Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of Yangon City Development Committee at 38th street market (upper floor), nine-storied office, third floor, No. 8 ward, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Ph: 01246571, 095087221 and 095187854). Pollution Control and Cleansing Department Yangon City Development Committee

Freezing Kyrgyzstan to sell its gas company to Gazprom

BISHKEK, 26 Dec—Kyrgyzstan will sell its state gas company to Russia's Gazprom early next year, to ease a crippling energy crisis, its president said on Monday.

Gas supplies to Kyrgyzstan's north via its leading supplier Kazakhstan have sputtered due to mounting unpaid bills. Tens of thousands of residents of the capital Bishkek have suffered night temperatures at minus 20 Celsius (minus 4 Fahrenheit).

Russia, which like the United States runs a military air base in Kyrgyzstan, is keen to strengthen its economic foothold in the mountainous country neighbouring China.

Simmering popular discontent and opposition criticism of the fledgling cabinet of Prime Minister Zhantoro Satybaldiyev pose a threat to the fragile peace in the impoverished nation of 5.5 million which has seen two presidents deposed in violent revolts since 2005.—MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (009N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2012 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Ministry of Information

Myanma Radio and Television

Invitation for open tender for purchase of Machinery

1. Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information will buy the following Machinery.

- News Networking System 1 Lot
- The open tender applications are to be taken out from the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during the period from 27-2-2012 to 8-1-2013 during the office days.
- The open tender applications are to be submitted in front of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 9-1-2013. The tenders submitted after the designated date will not be considered.
- The form of open tender and detailed information may be enquired at the following address.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 412327, 79474

Find room for God in fast-paced world, pope says on X'mas eve

VATICAN CITY, 26 Dec—Pope Benedict, leading the world's Roman Catholics into Christmas, on Monday urged people to find room for God in their fast-paced lives filled with the latest technological gadgets.

The 85-year-old pope, marking the eighth Christmas season of his pontificate, celebrated a solemn Christmas Eve mass in

St Peter's Basilica, during which he appealed for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and an end to the civil war in Syria. At the mass for some 10,000 people in the basilica and broadcast to millions of others on television, the pope wove his homily around the theme of God's place in today's modern world.

"Do we have time and space for him? Do we not

actually turn away God himself? We begin to do so when we have no time for him," said the pope, wearing gold and white vestments. "The faster we can move, the more efficient our time-saving appliances become, the less time we have. And God? The question of God never seems urgent. Our time is already completely full," he said.

The leader of the world's some 1.2 billion

Roman Catholics said societies had reached the point where many people's thinking processes did not leave any room even for the existence of God. "Even if he seems to knock at the door of our thinking, he has to be explained away. If thinking is to be taken seriously, it must be structured in such a way that the 'God hypothesis' becomes superfluous," he said.—MNA/Reuters



Argentine ballet dancer Eleonora Cassano performs a version of *The Nutcracker* by Peter I. Tchaikovsky during a show in front of the Obelisk, in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 22 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Lindsay Lohan furious over unapproved footage in Scary Movie 5

NEW DELHI, 26 Dec— Lindsay Lohan is reportedly furious with Scary Movie 5 producers. A new preview clip for the movie released on Friday (21.12.12) shows the troubled 26-year-old actress screaming in horror while watching a fake news clip of her probation being revoked but Lindsay claims the clip, which mirrors her real life troubles, wasn't approved by Lindsay.

According to gossip website TMZ: "Producers assured Lindsay she'd have the final say on what jokes

went in ... so she was livid when she saw the probation joke instead.

"Lindsay feels this final joke was meant as payback from producers — all because they blame her for holding up the shoot and trashing her trailer.

"She plans to speak to her team this week over the alleged breach of contract."

The working script for the movie is said to make fun of Lindsay — who recently had her probation revoked after it was claimed she lied to police over a car

accident in June and police are prosecutors are hoping she will be sent to prison — and her multiple brushes with the law.

It also calls for her to poke fun at her public persona in the opening scenes of the movie, during which she is lying in bed making a sex tape with Anger Management star Charlie Sheen. According to the script, the actress then says: "Okay but let's do this quick, I got a court hearing in the morning ... It's a driving mishap thing."



Lindsay Lohan

Charlie then makes her promise she won't drive, and Lindsay replies: "That's very sweet. You're worried about me behind the wheel." He then says: "I'm worried about me. I'm a pedestrian."—PTI



Heidi Klum and Seal announced their split in January

Heidi Klum, Seal to spend Christmas together for children's sake

LOS ANGELES, 26 Dec— Heidi Klum and Seal are putting on a brave face for their children this Christmas.

The former couple — who announced their split in January — are planning to spend Christmas Day (25.12.12) together with their four kids, Leni, seven, Henry, six, Johan, five, and two-year-old Lou, and are determined to act civil despite their stormy relationship. A source told the *New York Post*: "They're trying to be co-parents and show up for their children. They have been trying to work it out, mainly for the kids.

"They have been talking on the phone regularly." Heidi is currently dating her bodyguard Martin Kirsten and revealed she loves how wonderful he is with the kids. She said: "They like him very much. This is also one reason why I'm so fond of him. He's been helping me for four years now. And he takes wonderful care of the kids. He plays with them, he protects them. I trust him."

The model admitted that she is madly in love with Martin but doesn't want

to flaunt their relationship because her beau prefers to keep a low profile.

She said: "Yes! I'm in love! Martin is not hiding. He's just not the sort of guy looking for the spotlight. He prefers to stay in the background. There will always be people who will criticise whoever I live with, what kind of clothes I wear or what hairstyle I have. At the end of the day, you have to do what makes you happy. That's the rule I live by."—PTI

Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher's divorce stalled over money

NEW DELHI, 26 Dec— Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher's divorce has stalled over money.

The former couple called time on their marriage in November 2011 but Ashton only filed divorce papers on Friday (21 December, 2012) and reports suggest they cannot agree on a settlement.

A source told gossip website TMZ: "The sticking point in the divorce has been that Demi wanted the same type of

settlement from Ashton that she got from [her former husband] Bruce Willis."

While the details of Bruce and Demi's settlement have never been made public, it is believed the 50-year-old actress' share was extremely generous.

According to the documents filed in Los Angeles, Ashton, 34, has cited "irreconcilable

differences" as the reason behind their split and is not seeking spousal support.

The divorce papers suggest that their property rights will be worked out later.

Ashton and Demi, who were married in September 2005, have no children together but he is reportedly still close with her three daughters Rumer, 24, Scout, 21, and Tallulah, 18.

He is currently dating Ted star Mila Kunis, who he first met when they co-starred on sitcom *That 70s show*.

PTI



The divorce papers suggest that their property rights will be worked out later.

I always wanted to be a movie star: Tom Cruise



Tom will next be seen in Jack Reacher portraying the titular retired military policeman.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 26 Dec— Tom Cruise has wanted to be a movie star since he was four years old.

The 50-year-old actor always relishes the challenge of taking on a new character with every film he makes and feels very "privileged" to enjoy his work so much.

He said: "It's always exciting to create new characters and I get to live the dream by travelling the world and meeting new people and new cultures. I feel very privileged to be able to do something that I love. I remember being four years old and dreaming about making movies. It's a great life."

Tom will next be seen in Jack Reacher portraying the titular retired military policeman and enjoyed working on the action flick — which is based on Lee Child's best-selling novels — because his character was so "extraordinary".

He added: "Jack's a great character. I loved the books, I've read them all and Lee wrote such an extraordinary character. That made it so much fun to play."—PTI

Courtney Love slams Nirvana reunion with Paul McCartney



Love took to Facebook to criticise the recent performance.—PTI

NEW YORK, 26 Dec— Love has voiced her disapproval at the band's three surviving members'

performance with Paul McCartney at a 12-12-12 concert.

Love took to Facebook to criticise the recent performance, reported *New York Post*.

Many people suggested McCartney was filling in for the late Cobain as part of a Nirvana reunion.

Some critics were not too happy to see the Beatle playing with Cobain's ex-bandmates on the Madison Square Garden stage.

Love said she was "not

amused" by McCartney's involvement.

"Look, if John Lennon were alive, it would be cool," she added.

During the show, McCartney took the lead for a new song called Cut Me Some Slack.

Love also said that she was upset with Nirvana members Dave Grohl and Krist Novoselic calling the performance a "reunion" because she says that Cobain was the heart and soul of the band.—PTI

Flamengo make approach for Robinho

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Dec—Three Flamengo directors on Monday met with Milan vice president Adriano Galliani to discuss a potential deal for Brazil striker Robinho.

Flamengo's intention is to pay 38 million reais for the 28-year-old, paid in installments, and give him a monthly salary of one million reais.

Galliani arrived in Rio de Janeiro last Monday to spend

the Christmas holiday. It is thought he will use his time in the city to negotiate Pato's deal to Corinthians as well.

Besides Flamengo, Santos have

also expressed an interest in signing the attacker.

Robinho has already had two spells at the Sao Paulo club and it is believed Santos is his preferred destination. His wife and children still live in the area, and personal reasons are behind his desire to quit Milan as soon as possible.

Santos have made an offer of 17 million reais, which has been rejected.

Xinhua

AC Milan's Robinho controls the ball during their Serie A match against Pescara at San Siro stadium on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS



Playoff puzzle nearly complete with one week to go

ARLINGTON, 26 Dec—With one week remaining in the regular season, the National Football League's playoff picture has come into sharper focus with only a few more pieces of the post-season puzzle to be put into place.

Much of the remaining drama is focused on the NFC East, where the Washington Redskins, Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants will stage a battle royale for the division crown with a ticket to the post-season going to the survivor.

The Redskins (9-6), riding a six-game winning streak and with rookie sensation quarterback Robert Griffin III healthy and calling plays, host the Cowboys (8-7) in the Sunday evening prime time finale to the NFL regular season that will see the winner claim the division.

While the Cowboys' (8-7) only path to the post-season requires a victory, the Redskins could still scrape into the playoffs

five of their last seven and must defeat the Philadelphia Eagles at home on Sunday and hope Dallas, Chicago and Minnesota all

San Francisco can take top spot in the West with a win at home over the Arizona Cardinals (5-10) while the surging Seahawks, who



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dwayne Harris (R) makes a touchdown catch in front of New Orleans Saints corner back Johnny Patrick in the second half of their NFL football game in Arlington, Texas on 23 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

with a loss if the Chicago Bears and Minnesota Vikings also lose their finales.

The situation is much more dire for the slumping Giants (8-7), who will need plenty of help to advance.

The defending Super Bowl champions have lost

lose.

The Seattle Seahawks (10-5) and San Francisco 49ers (10-4-1) enter the final weekend having clinched playoff berths but with the NFC West title still up for grabs along with a possible first round bye.

have outscored opponents 150-30 in their last three contests, must close out the regular season with a fifth straight victory when they visit the St Louis Rams (7-7-1) and have the 49ers lose.

Reuters

Zambia retain faith in winning squad

nament because of injury, returns and is expected to lead the attack when Zambia begin their title defence in Group C against Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Nigeria. They play their first match on 21 January.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Kalililo Kakonje (Napsa Stars), Kennedy Mweene (Free State Stars), Joshua Titima (Power Dynamos) Defenders: Hichani Himoonde (TP Mazembe Englebert), Chintu Kampamba (unattached), Francis Kasonde (TP Mazembe Englebert), Emmanuel Mbola (FC Porto), Joseph Musonda (Lamontville Golden Arrows), Davies Nkausu (SuperSport United), Salulani Phiri (Zanaco), Stoppila Sunzu (TP

Mazembe Englebert)

Midfielders: Isaac Chansa (Henan Jianye), Noah Chivuta (Free State Stars) Rainford Kalaba (TP Mazembe Englebert), Chris Katongo (Henan Jianye), Felix Katongo (Petro Atletico), Chisamba Lungu (Ural Sverdlovsk Oblast), Mukuka Mulenga (Power Dynamos), William Njobvu (Hapoel Beer Sheva), Nathan Sinkala (TP Mazembe Englebert).

Forwards: James Chamanga (Liaoning Whowin), Emmanuel Mayuka (Southampton), Collins Mbesuma (Orlando Pirates), Jacob Mulenga (FC Utrecht), Evans Kangwa (Nkana), Jonas Sakuwaha (TP Mazembe Englebert).—Reuters



Zambia's soccer players pose for a photograph before their African Nations Cup final soccer match against Ivory Coast at the Stade De L'Amitie Stadium in Libreville on 12 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

LUSAKA, 26 Dec—All but two of the squad who took Zambia to the last African Nations Cup title have been retained by coach Herve Renard for their defence in South Africa next month. Renard named a provisional list of 26 players on Monday for the tournament, keeping faith in the rump of the squad who won a first continental champi-

onship for Zambia.

The only players left out are defender Nyambe Mulenga, who has lost form since injury in mid-year, and winger Clifford Mulenga, who was expelled for ill discipline during the tournament in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon at the start of the year. Dutch-based striker Jacob Mulenga, who was forced to miss the last tour-

Soccer

Lucas at centre of Real Madrid crisis

Fans of Brazil's Sao Paulo hold up a banner with a portrait of player Lucas Moura and the words, "He honours the jersey," before their team plays Argentina's Tigre in the Copa Sudamericana second leg final soccer match in Sao Paulo on 12 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



Florentino Perez, pres-

ident of the Spanish club, allegedly regarded Sao Paulo's asking price of 43 million euros too steep for an unproven talent and refused to grant Mourinho the cash to buy the Selecao star. Modric arrived for around 30 million euros from English club Tottenham Hotspur.

Perez's failure to back his coach in the transfer market has led to a rift between the two, which has

since spread to members of the playing staff and subsequently results on the pitch.

With the Spanish championship now on its winter break, defending champions Real lie 16 points behind runaway leaders Barcelona.

Having missed out on Lucas, one name currently being linked with the Spanish giants is Atletico-MG playmaker Bernard.

Xinhua

Swansea hot-shot Michu set for Spain debut

LONDON, 26 Dec—Swansea City's free-scoring striker Michu is set to make his Spain debut early next year following a sensational start to his career in the English Premier League.

Vicente del Bosque, coach of European and world champions Spain, told Spanish television that the 26-year-old will play in the 6 February friendly against Uruguay in Doha.

Michu will be joined in the Spain squad by Iago Aspas, currently being linked to Swansea, whose manager Michael Laudrup is an admirer of the Celta Vigo forward.

"Iago Aspas and Mi-

chu will appear (against Uruguay)," confirmed Del Bosque.

Michu has been prolific since his bargain \$3.2 million transfer from Rayo Vallecano in the summer, topping the Premier League scoring charts with 13 goals in 18 games.

He leap-frogged Manchester United's Robin van Persie after scoring the equaliser in Sunday's 1-1 home draw against the league leaders.

Aspas may well be on Laudrup's wish-list for the January transfer window but the expected price tag of around \$13 million could put Swansea off.

Reuters



Swansea City's Michu celebrates scoring a goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, South Wales, on 23 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

GENERAL

New village project introduced

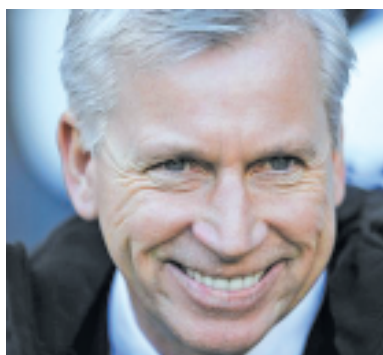
NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—A ceremony to clarify new village project of the Republic of Korea was held at University of Cooperative in Thankyin on 22 December morning.

Mr Song Jung Gun of Seamaul Project of ROK, Lecturer Daw Le Mon Thein of Economics Department of the university and Mr Shin Man Shik of KOICA explained matters related to the project. Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Newcastle boss refuses to release Ameobi for national duty



Newcastle United's coach Alan Pardew reacts ahead of their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester City in Newcastle, northern England on 15 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

in South Africa on 19 January.

“Shola won’t be going to that, and the national team manager knows the reasons behind that, which I am going to keep to myself,” said Pardew.

Ameobi, who once played for the England Under-21 side, scored the winning goal in Newcastle’s 1-0 win over QPR on Saturday.

He made his Nigeria debut in a 3-1 friendly win over Venezuela last month.

Reuters

LONDON, 26 Dec—Newcastle boss Alan Pardew insists that the club need striker Shola Ameobi for the English Premier League and will not be available for Nigeria at January’s Africa Cup of Nations. The 31-year-old Ameobi had been named in Nigeria’s provisional squad by coach Stephen Keshi for the tournament which gets underway

Dutch striker Huntelaar extends Schalke contract to 2015

BERLIN, 26 Dec—Schalke 04’s prolific Netherlands striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar has extended his contract by two years until 2015, the Bundesliga club said on Sunday.

“I’ve thought about this decision long and hard and I’m very grateful that the club officials allowed me the time to do so. But now I’ve made the choice I’m most comfortable with,” Huntelaar, 29, said on the club website (www.schalke04.com).

“I’ve always felt at home at Schalke, with the club and the fans, and I want to send out a positive signal now because I believe in our

team and I believe we can still achieve a great deal in the second half



Klaas-Jan Huntelaar of Schalke 04 reacts after a failed chance against FSV Mainz 05 during their German DFB Cup (DFB Pokal) soccer match in Gelsenkirchen on 18 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

of the Bundesliga season.

“And we aren’t without a chance against Galatasaray in the last 16 of the Champions League, of course,” he added. The news will be a boost for Schalke manager Jens Keller, who was promoted from youth team coach a week ago to replace the sacked Huub Stevens until the end of the season.

Schalke, who topped their Champions League group, have been struggling domestically with

four defeats and no wins in their last six Bundesliga games leaving them in seventh place, trailing 17 points behind leaders Bayern Munich.

They travel to Turkey for the first leg of their Champions League first knockout round clash against Galatasaray on 20 February with the return at their Gelsenkirchen stadium on 12 March.

Huntelaar, who joined Schalke from AC Milan in August 2010, was the Bundesliga top scorer with 29 goals last season and has scored 11 times in all competitions so far this term.

He also broke Hermann Eppenhoff’s club record, set in 1941, for the most goals in a season with 48 in all competitions in the last campaign.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (27-12-12 09:30 am ~ 28-12-12 09:30 am) MST
- * News
 - * Merry Parents Day
 - * News
 - * Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
 - * Architecture Standard of Palace Site
 - * Music Programme
 - * News
 - * Youths’ Vista on Transport
 - * News
 - * The Marionette Drama “Human, Bird, Fragon and Mouse” (Yangon Region)
 - * News
 - * Being Health is a good Virtue
 - * News
 - * Chin Traditional Bamboo Dance
 - * 51st Charity Funfair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged
 - * 42nd Anniversary Art Exhibition
 - * Myanmar Movies “Why you hate me, Ko Ko”

MYANMAR TV

- (27-12-2012, Thursday)
- | | |
|---|--|
| 7:00 am | 4:25 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 15. One Village & One Product |
| 7:15 am | 4:45 pm |
| 2. Dhama Puja Song | 16. Musical Programme |
| 7:25 am | 5:00 pm |
| 3. To Be Healthy Exercise | 17. Song For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:30 am | 5:10 pm |
| 4. Morning News | 18. Science and Environmet |
| 7:40 am | 5:25 pm |
| 5. Nice & Sweet Song | 19. India Drama Series |
| 7:50 am | 6:10 pm |
| 6. Health Programme | 20. Evening News |
| 8:05 am | 6:15 pm |
| 8. Documentary | 21. Weather Report |
| 8:15 am | 6:20 pm |
| 9. Song of National Races | 22. Myanmar Series |
| 8:25 am | 7:00 pm |
| 10. Teleplay (Health) | 23. TV Drama Series |
| 8:40 am | 8:00 pm |
| 11. National News | 24. News |
| 4:00 pm | 25. International News |
| 12. Martial Song | 26. Weather Report |
| 4:05 pm | 27. Teleplay |
| 13. Cute Little Dancers | 28. CLEVER |
| 4:15 pm | 29. TV Drama Series |
| 14. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | |

Pagano joins playoff bound Colts after battle with cancer

KANSAS CITY, 26 Dec—The Indianapolis Colts and their fans got an early Christmas gift when

head coach Chuck Pagano returned to work on Monday, three months after being forced to the sidelines to battle cancer.

Diagnosed with leukemia in late September, Pagano spent the last three months undergoing treatment, including chemotherapy, while his inspired team led by rookie quarterback Andrew Luck battled on the field earning an unlikely playoff spot.

“Circumstances don’t make you, they reveal you,” an emotional Pagano told reporters after reporting for work at the teams Indianapolis training facility. “The way I look at it is, my job has just begun.

“Besides my job here... my job now is to give back everything I can possibly give back to everyone out there who’s fighting some type of illness, some type of disease, some type of cancer.” The Colts, who tied for the NFL’s worst record last season at 2-14, improved to 10-5 with their win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday clinching an AFC wild card. After three games into a rebuilding season, the Colts learned Pagano would take indefinite leave to fight his cancer and was replaced by assistant coach and offensive coordinator Bruce Arians.

The goal of the Colts became to keep playing until Pagano could return to work. Indianapolis went 9-3 under Arians, who will hand over the head coaching job back to Pagano for the regular season finale this Sunday against the Houston Texans. “It’s a fairy tale,” said Colts owner Jim Irsay. “It’s a Hollywood script. But it’s real.”—Reuters

Indianapolis Colts head coach Chuck Pagano (R) speaks with line judge Gary Arthur during the second half of the Colts’ win against the Kansas City Chiefs in their NFL football game in Kansas City, Missouri on 23 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

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Indianapolis Colts head coach Chuck Pagano (R) speaks with line judge Gary Arthur during the second half of the Colts’ win against the Kansas City Chiefs in their NFL football game in Kansas City, Missouri on 23 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Russian weightlifting Olympic champion dies

MOSCOW, 26 Dec—Russian weightlifting Olympic champion Arkady Vorobiev has died at the age of 88, the country’s Weightlifting Federation said on Monday.

“On 22 December, the outstanding athlete

and scientist, two-time Olympic champion Arkady Vorobiev died at the age of 88,” the federation said in a statement published on its website.

Vorobiev won the gold medal at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and

the 1960 Olympics in Rome in the under-90kg division.

He then became a doctor of medicine and wrote several books on weightlifting, local media reported. He served in the marine infantry during the Second World War and was

awarded with a Medal for Courage before starting his sports career.

The veteran became a five-time world and European champion, two-time Olympic champion in his extraordinary life.

Xinhua

Cohesiveness among regional authorities and Union ministries key to comprehensive planning: President

NAYPYI TAW, 26 Dec—Chairman of Planning Commission President U Thein Sein addressed third planning commission meeting at the Presidential Palace here this morning.

The President delivered an opening speech, calling for cohesiveness among region and state authorities and Union ministries in planning processes to make the planning more comprehensive.

The President underscored a grasp of realities in planning which, he said, require seeking advice from various stakeholders including various unions and MPs.

Framework for Economic and Social Reform (FESR)—guideline

for second phase of reforms—has been drafted through “people-centered development” approach, the President, who also praised the positive international attitude towards Myanmar within past six months.

Myanmar is simultaneously drafting National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP) which covers next 20 years and Myanmar Comprehensive Development Vision (MCDV) for next 25 years with the help of Japanese and ASEAN economists.

The President tipped the people-centered approach as the criterion for deciding whether growth or equality, concentration or dispersion, private sector

leadership or public sector leadership, and capital aid or migration will be given priority in region or state plans.

The President stressed the need to adopt policies for increased productivity, job opportunities, free market, price stability and foreign trade while attaching an immense importance to foreign investments.

He pointed out lack of capacity to smartly harness natural, human and financial resources as the factor for lagging behind.

He said “development financing and capital formation” would be made possible in the coming fiscal year.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the Union attorney-general, the Union auditor-general, the chairman of Union Civil Services Board, the state/region chief ministers, deputy ministers, chairmen and heads of leading bodies of self-administered zones/division and departmental heads.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham urged those present to establish public-private partnership without delay, demanding sale and lease of public enterprises which bear less or no profit.



President U Thein Sein delivering speech at the meeting.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for community driven development which requires entrepreneurship, innovation and good governance.

Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and U Win Shein and officials are involved in discussion as well.

The commission met twice in Nay Pyi Taw in June and August, discussing National Plan, urbanization plan and land use policies.

Nay Pyi Taw will host First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in third week of January, 2013.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham participates in discussion.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun participates in discussion.—MNA

Air Bagan holds press conference on passenger plane crash



YANGON, 26 Dec—Air Bagan met the press at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here to brief on 25 December Heho plane crash.

Managing Director U Htoo Thet Htway of the airline said it provided medical treatment to the injured passengers.

The Black Box has

been retrieved and sent to Singapore for investigation.

He also said the airline established about nine years ago regret about fatality in the plane accident.

The plane crash killed two including one passenger as it made emergency landing two miles from the airport in the eastern Shan State.

PHOTO BY MOE THUZAR SOE (NLM)

An investigation commission was formed to look into the deadly accident, “the worst in the history of the airline.”

Managing Director U Htoo Thet Htway and Deputy Managing Director U Aung San, Director Captain Soe Win, Director U Hlaing Bwa and Purser Daw Khaing Su Naing also answered queries. MNA



ROK government and people donate cash for quake victims

PHOTO BY MOE THUZAR SOE (NLM)



YANGON, 26 Dec—Korean government and people presented cash assistance for quake victims Regions at Myanmar Red

Cross Society (Headquarters) on Strand Road here this morning.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-Yong

explained purpose of the donation and handed over the contribution of USD 200,025 to Chairman of MRCS Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe.

MNA