



Forging of unity among national races

Without national unity, the country, where over 100 national races have been living together, cannot enjoy peace and stability. The successive governments therefore have prioritized the forging of national unity. In the post-independence period, disunity among the national people sparked internal insurgencies in the border areas. Consequently, the nation was unable to strive for national development, and its border areas lagged behind others in progress.

President U Thein Sein

(From the address delivered at the Meeting 1/2011 of the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races)

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— Mr. Mikio NUMATA, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here, at 10:00 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Thurein Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio NUMATA.—MNA



President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, here, at

10:30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union

Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Thurein Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan sign Exchange of Notes

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— Signing of the exchange of notes for project for urgent improvement of communication networks and food security project for underprivileged farmers took place at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Mikio NUMATA signed, and exchanged the notes. The Japanese government contributed 1,710 million yen to the project for urgent improvement of communication networks and 230 million yen to food security project for underprivileged farmers.

Likewise, Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung

Than Oo and the Japanese Ambassador signed an Memorandum of Understanding on offering 800 million yen as Non-Project Grant Aid for purchase of diesel and diesel engine spare parts to be used in ensuring socio-economic development, and exchanged the note.

Also present on the occasions were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thuang Tin, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, and officials concerned from Japanese Embassy, Japan International Cooperation Agency and departments concerned.

MNA

Three Himalayan vultures caught in Hinthada Township



HINTHADA, 28 Dec — Three Himalayan vultures which are believed to have migrated from Himalayan were caught by villagers of Phayakon village in

Hinthada Township of Ayeyawady Region on 19 December while a flock of large birds entered the village. They weigh more than five viss and they have

5% of tax payment handed over to DAC fund

YANGON, 28 Dec—A ceremony to hand over five per cent taxation from payments of tax payers of Mayangon Township Internal Revenue Department of Yangon Region to Township

Development Affairs Committee was held at the office of the township DAC on 26 December afternoon.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Maung Maung Naing

made a speech. Assistant Director U Min Naing Oo of Township Internal Revenue Department explained the purpose of handing over the fund and handed over K 75,034,294 levied from the tax payers to Acting Head of Township DAC U Aung Min.—Myanma Alinn

Tax educative essay, cartoon contests held



MYITKYINA, 28 Dec—A ceremony to award winners in the tax educative essay and cartoon contests at basic education middle level was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Myitkyina on 23 December.

Kachin State Minister for Finance and Revenue U

Nyunt Aung made a speech. Director U Aung Win of State Internal Revenue Department explained the purpose of holding the contests.

The state minister and departmental officials presented prizes to the winners respectively.

Myanma Alinn

Water purifier for BEMS in Kyauktan Township

KYAUNKTAN, 28 Dec — Mr. Andrew Chapman and U Kyi Lin of Absolute Impact Partnership company donated a water purifier with a storage capacity of 2000 gallons to Sinmakaw model village Basic Education Middle School (branch)

in Kyauktan Township in Yangon South District on 24 December. “The company has planned to donate more water purifiers to basic education schools in rural region”, a responsible person of the company said.

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



Photo shows tourists on bikes on their way to Mandalay from Sagaing on Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) recently. Myanmar attracts a large flock of tourists in open season. — KYEMON

Sales of motorbike soar in Pakokku

INDAW, 28 Dec — Pakokku Township sees swift flow of commodities as it is the gateway to Chin State. There are many foreign motorbikes on the roads of Pakokku as it is only about 100 miles far

from Mandalay. With the emergence of Hsinbyushin bridge, Shwechaung bridge and Ayeyawady Pakokku

bridge, motorbikes are put to good use in travelling from one place to another.

Kyemon



National races entrepreneurs office opened in Muse

MUSE, 28 Dec — With the aim of providing heavy machinery needed for infrastructural development in Muse region sharing border with the neighbouring country, an office of heavy

machinery entrepreneurs association formed by national races entrepreneurs in Muse was opened on Pyidaungsu road in Kaunghmuton ward in Muse on 26 December.—Kyemon

Course for sports photographer organized in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 28 Dec — The opening of photography course organized by

effectively in the XXVII SEA Games.

Dr Maung Maung Gyi, Nyaung U Than Htay, U Thein Htay Maung, U Aung Aung, U Myint Aung, U Saw Aung Min and U Tun Tun of Upper Myanmar Photographic Society will give lessons at the two-week course.

Kyemon

WORLD

Japan voters back new PM cabinet, economy top priority

TOKYO, 28 Dec—More than half of Japanese voters support new Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet, media surveys published on Friday showed, with the country's stagnant economy topping the list of problems voters want the hawkish new leader to tackle.

Abe took office on Wednesday, after his conservative Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) landslide election victory this month, promising to revive the world's third-biggest economy with bold monetary easing and big spending by the debt-laden government.

Support for Abe's cabinet, which is packed with allies who share his conservative views but leavened with some party rivals, ranged from 52 percent in a survey by the *Mainichi* newspaper to 65 percent in a poll by the *Yomiuri* newspaper.

Fixing the economy, now in its fourth recession since 2000, was voters' top priority. Forty-eight percent of voters in a survey by the *Asahi* newspaper put the economy as their first priority, compared with 11 percent who stressed security issues, which are also a key element of Abe's platform.

Abe, 58, wants to revise

Japan's post-World War Two constitution limits on the military so Tokyo can play a bigger global security role, but only 32 percent of voters in the *Asahi* poll backed the move compared to 53 percent who opposed.

Voters were split over the LDP's post-Fukushima nuclear disaster energy policy, with 46 percent in

favour of its plan to restart off-line nuclear reactors that are confirmed safe and 45 percent opposed, the *Yomiuri* said.

Abe, who quit abruptly in 2007 after a troubled year in office during which his early high support rates crumbled, is all too aware of the need to show results quickly ahead of a July election for parliament's powerful upper house.

The LDP and its smaller coalition partner won the two-thirds majority in the lower house that allows them to enact bills rejected by the upper chamber, where they lack a majority, but that process is cumbersome.

"We are getting firm support for our practical response," the *Yomiuri* quoted Shigeru Ishiba, the LDP's No 2 leader, as saying. "We must achieve results so that we can maintain this support."—Reuters



A female graduate of Class 165 of Israeli Air Force's (IAF) Flight School stands beside a F-15I fighter jet of IAF at Hatzorim base near Beersheva, south Israel, on 27 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

US suspends embassy in Central African Republic

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—The United States on Thursday suspended the operations of its embassy in the Central African Republic (CAR) due to security concerns, said the State Department.

US Ambassador Lawrence D Wohlers and the rest of the diplomatic staff left the capital city of Bangui earlier in the day along with several private US citizens, said Patrick Ventrell, acting deputy spokesperson of the State Department.

"The decision is solely due to concerns about the security of our personnel and has no relation to our continuing and long-standing diplomatic relations with the CAR," said Ventrell.

As rebels move swiftly in its southward push and are about to approach Bangui, the resource-rich but impoverished country is

facing the biggest security challenge since forming a government in January 2009 after an inclusive political dialogue.

A UN mission has been working in the country to help the government overcome more than a decade of strife. UN chief Ban Ki-moon has recently condemned the rebel attacks.

In the statement, Ventrell also urged all parties in the country to participate in the dialogue sponsored by the Economic Community of Central African States in order to forge a comprehensive peace agreement.

On Wednesday, hundreds of protesters gathered around the French embassy to vent anger at the lack of support by the former colonial power in fighting the advancing "SELEKA" rebel coalition.—Reuters

Snow buries parts of US Northeast, flights cancelled

BUFFALO, 28 Dec—A powerful winter storm responsible for wind, snow, tornadoes and a flurry of traffic accidents battered the US Northeast on Thursday, cancelling hundreds of flights but also reviving what had been a snowless ski season.

The storm dumped a foot (30 cm) of snow on parts

of the United States with the heaviest snow falling across northern New York and into northern New England, the National Weather Service reported.

The service issued coastal flood advisories from New York's Long Island to southern Maine and winter storm warnings for parts of

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and New England.

Airlines cancelled 548 flights on Thursday after 1,500 US flights were cancelled on Wednesday, according to FlightAware.com, a website that tracks flights. The massive storm system dumped record snow in north Texas and Arkansas before it swept through the US South on Christmas Day and then veered north. The system triggered tornadoes and left almost 200,000 people in Arkansas and Alabama without power on Wednesday.

The weather service forecast 12 to 18 inches (30 to 46 cm) of snow for northern New England after the storm moved northeast out of the lower Great Lakes, where it left more than a foot (30 cm) of snow on parts of Michigan.

Reuters



Japan's new Finance Minister Taro Aso sips green tea before signing a document to mark the transfer of duties from former Finance Minister Koriki Jojima (not pictured) at the Finance Ministry in Tokyo on 27 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Syria envoy calls for political change to end conflict

BEIRUT, 28 Dec—The international envoy seeking a negotiated solution to Syria's 21-month-old conflict said on Thursday political change was needed to end the violence which has killed 44,000 people.

Speaking in Damascus at the end of a five-day trip during which he met President Bashar al-Assad, Lakhdar Brahimi called for a transitional government to rule until elections and said only substantial change would meet demands of ordinary Syrians.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov added to the envoy's call for a peaceful solution when he told a senior Syrian diplomat that only a "broad inter-Syria dialogue and political process" could end the crisis.

Brahimi's push for a transitional government suggested he was trying to build on an international agreement in Geneva six months ago which said a provisional body — which might include members of Assad's government as well as the opposition — should lead the country into a new election.

But the mainly Sunni Muslim Syrian rebels have seized the military initiative since the Geneva meeting in June and the political opposition has ruled out any transitional government in which Assad, from Syria's

Alawite minority, plays a role.

Rebel fighters resumed attacks on Thursday against the military base of Wadi Deif, which lies next to Syria's main north-south highway linking Aleppo with Damascus.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-

based opposition group which monitors the violence, said rebels also clashed with Assad's forces inside the Minakh air base in Aleppo Province after several days of fighting outside its perimeter, although the army still controlled the base itself.

Reuters



A view shows debris from buildings damaged by what activists say were missiles fired by a Syrian Air Force fighter jet belonging to forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, at Saqba area in Damascus on 26 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Paris peace dialogue on Afghanistan spawns more questions than answers

KABUL, 28 Dec—While the recently concluded intra-Afghan talks held in Paris had raised hopes among Afghans, the Taliban's inflexible stance and Kabul's refusal to attend any peace negotiations outside of the country could negate any positive denouement of such efforts.

In his address at the Musharano Jirga or Upper House of Afghan Parliament on Tuesday, Afghan Foreign Minister Dr Zalmai Rassoul categorically said that "any

consultative meeting on peace should be held inside Afghanistan."

The government's stance is directly in contrast to an earlier vow of the Taliban not to participate in any talks with the government of President Hamid Karzai for as long as there are foreign military forces in the country.

In a statement posted on its website, the Taliban appreciated the Foundation for Strategic Research for holding the Afghan talks, saying it enabled the Islamic

Emirate of Afghanistan (name of the ousted Taleban regime) to present its stance with regard to the situation in Afghanistan and its future.

But in its statement, the Taliban rejected any peace talks with the Afghan government and instead called for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Rassoul's statement came just days after a gathering of several Afghan groups in Paris ended.

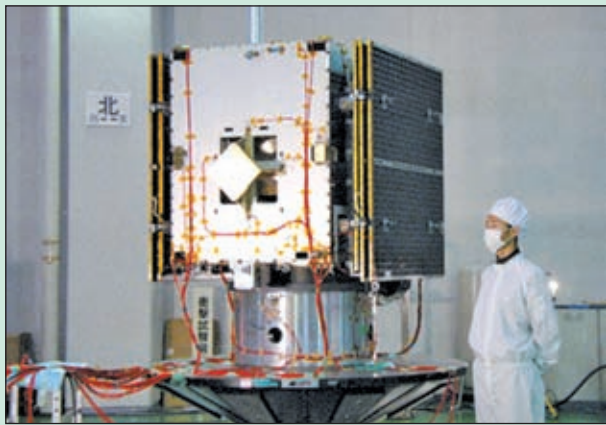
Reuters



A girl takes cover from the rain at Times Square in New York, on 26 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New asteroid explorer



TOKYO, 28 Dec—The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, known as JAXA, unveils a new asteroid explorer, Hayabusa2, in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 26 Dec, 2012. —Kyodo News

Drone for shop, factory surveillance



Photo shows a prototype model of a small drone to detect and tape suspicious vehicles and people breaking into shops, warehouses, factories and other properties. Major security services company Secom Co unveiled the device in Tokyo on 26 Dec, 2012.

Kyodo News

Israeli army's sigint unit holds workshop for hi-tech whiz kids

JERUSALEM, 28 Dec—Israeli military's electronic intelligence unit has held a first-of-its-kind workshop to track young potential candidates, local media reported on Wednesday.

Some 30 high school students with "brilliant ideas" for technological developments began on Tuesday a three-day workshop hosted by the Unit 8200, which operates within the Intelligence Corps, the *Hebrew Ma'ariv* daily said.

Apart from collecting signal intelligence and deciphering code, the Israeli army's elite sigint unit oversees defensive and offensive cyber operations, with the demand for suitable candidates often surpassing the supply.

In addition to spotting talent for military service, the workshop also aims to

start up the participants' ideas, the report said.

Attesting to the acute shortage, military head-hunters have been dispatched to scout for young computer hackers among Jewish communities worldwide with a potential to become cyber-warfare specialists, and persuade them to immigrate to Israel, Yediot Aharonot reported earlier last month.

The report came months after the Israeli military officially acknowledged that it engages in cyber warfare.

"The Israel Defence Forces is fighting consistently and relentlessly in cyberspace, collecting intelligence and protecting the army's networks as well," the Israeli military said on its website.—Xinhua

A zoomed illustration image of a man looking at a computer monitor showing the logo of Amazon is seen in Vienna on 26 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

Scientists in Hong Kong map initial anti-aging formula

Science

HONG KONG, 28 Dec—Scientists in Hong Kong appear to have mapped out a formula that can delay the aging process in mice, a discovery they hope to replicate in people.

Their finding, published in the December issue of *Cell Metabolism*, builds on their work in 2005 which shed light on premature aging, or progeria, a rare genetic disease that affects one in four million babies.

Progeria is obvious in the appearance of a child before it is a year old. Although their mental faculties are normal, they stop growing, lose body fat and suffer from wrinkled skin and hair loss. Like old people, they suffer stiff joints and a buildup of plaque in

arteries which can lead to heart disease and stroke. Most die before they are 20 years old.

In that research, the team at the University of Hong Kong found that a mutation in the Lamin A protein, which lines the nucleus in human cells, disrupted the repair process in cells, thus resulting in accelerated aging.

Conversely, in their latest work using both mice and experiments in petri dishes, they found that normal and healthy Lamin A binds to and activates the gene SIRT1, which experts have long associated with longevity.

"We can develop drugs that mimic Lamin A or

increase the binding between Lamin A and SIRT1," Liu Baohua, research assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Hong Kong, told a news conference on Thursday.

The team went further to see if the binding efficiency between Lamin A and SIRT1 would be boosted with resveratrol, a compound found in the skin of red grapes and other fruits which has been touted by some scientists and companies as a way to slow aging or remain healthy as people get older.

Associate professor Zhou Zhongjun, who led the study, said healthy mice fed with concentrated resveratrol fared significantly better than healthy mice not given the

compound.

"We actually delayed the onset of aging and extended the healthy lifespan," Zhou said of the mice.

Mice with progeria lived 30 percent longer when fed with resveratrol compared with progerial mice not given the compound.

Asked if their study supported the notion that drinking red wine delays aging and reduces the risk of heart disease, Zhou said the alcohol content in wine would cause harm before any benefit could be derived.

"The amount of resveratrol in red wine is very low and it may not be beneficial. But the alcohol will cause damage to the body," Zhou said.—Reuters

US appeals court revives workplace cybertheft lawsuit

Tech

NEW YORK, 28 Dec—In a decision that could make it easier for businesses to police cybertheft in the workplace, a US appeals court revived a chemical company's lawsuit accusing a former Toronto-area employee of using her home computer to steal trade secrets from its Connecticut server.

Reversing a lower court ruling, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York said US-based MacDermid Inc may pursue civil damages claims against a former account manager under Connecticut state law, even though she conducted her alleged improper activity from her home in Fort Erie, Ontario.

Wednesday's decision may make it easier for US companies to crack down on alleged computer theft that occurs in remote locations, including outside the country. In recent years, US courts increasingly have dealt with

cases involving downloads of corporate information by employees, both in criminal cases brought by prosecutors and civil cases filed by companies.

Jackie Deiter, the MacDermid account manager, had worked for the Waterbury, Connecticut-based company's MacDermid Chemicals unit in Mississauga, Ontario, from May 2008 until her termination in April 2011 for reasons unrelated to the lawsuit.

The company accused her of violating Connecticut laws on unauthorized computer access and misappropriating trade secrets by emailing customer data, laboratory reports, and pricing lists drawn from its Waterbury server. It said this occurred soon after Deiter had learned she was about to be fired.

Deiter admitted to emailing materials, but said



A generic picture of the number keypad on a computer keyboard. —REUTERS

in court papers that she did so for her job, and because she could not print at home from her employer-issued laptop.

US District Judge Warren Eginton in New Haven, Connecticut said in November 2011 that he had no jurisdiction over MacDermid's lawsuit because Deiter had merely emailed information "from one computer in Canada to another computer in Canada."

But a unanimous three-

judge panel of the 2nd Circuit said MacDermid's server was a computer under Connecticut law, and that it did not matter that Deiter had accessed it from outside the state, which she had never visited.

"Most Internet users, perhaps, have no idea of the location of the servers through which they send their emails," Circuit Judge Barrington Parker wrote for the panel.

Reuters

Amazon most satisfying website to shop: survey

Tech

NEW YORK, 28 Dec—Amazon.com Inc remained the best website for shopping online while JC Penney Co Inc suffered the largest drop in customer satisfaction of any major online retailer this holiday season, according to a survey released on Thursday. Flash sale sites

Gilt.com and RueLaLa.com were among the worst performers in online shopping satisfaction this season, according to ForeSee's Holiday E-Retail Satisfaction Index.

"The importance of satisfying them and giving a great consumer

experience is going to pay back huge dividends in terms of profitability for these retailers," said Larry Freed, president and chief executive officer of ForeSee, which measures customer satisfaction for companies, including retailers.

Amazon has held the highest score in each of the eight years of the index, due in part to the wide variety of merchandise it offers and a site that is easy to use.

"They've really done a great job in setting the standard for everybody else," Freed said of Amazon. Amazon's score was again 88 out of 100, while Gilt.com and Fingerhut.com shared the lowest score of 72. LLBean.com had the second-highest ranking, 85,

up 4 points from a year earlier.

A score of 80 or higher is considered strong, Freed said.

JC Penney's score fell to 78 from 83.

"They've struggled a lot in their stores as they've tried to reinvent themselves a bit and that's carried over a little bit to the website," Freed said.

Other retailers that saw their ForeSee satisfaction scores drop included Apple Inc — down to 80 from 83 — and Dell Inc, which fell to 77 from 80.

At Apple, as the popular tech company has brought out more products, navigating the site has become more of an issue, said Freed. Improving the functionality of the site would give it the biggest boost, he said.—Reuters



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Meningitis, West Nile occupy US health officials in 2012 Health



Tonya Snyder, a Mycology Specialist in the Vanderbilt Clinical Microbiology Lab for patient care examines samples to isolate and identify specimens for growth in Nashville, Tennessee on 19 Oct, 2012. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 28 Dec— The year started in the United States with a mild flu season but ended up being marked by deadly outbreaks of fungal meningitis, West Nile virus and Hantavirus. Tainted steroid medication has been cited as the cause of the meningitis outbreak that killed 39 people.

Weather contributed to the worst outbreak of West Nile virus since 2003 and an unusual outbreak of Hantavirus in California's Yosemite National Park.

Transmitted by infected mice, Hantavirus is a severe, sometimes fatal syndrome that affects the lungs. West Nile can cause encephalitis or meningitis, infection of the

brain and spinal cord or their protective covering.

As of 11 December, 5,387 cases of West Nile virus had been reported in 48 states, resulting in 243 deaths, the CDC said in its final 2012 update on the outbreak. The 2003 outbreak left 264 dead from among nearly 10,000 reported cases.

A large number of cases this year occurred in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi where there are large mosquito populations.

CDC and state officials have said that rainfall in the spring and record high summer temperatures contributed to the severity of the outbreak by affecting mosquito populations, which

transmit the disease by biting humans and animals.

Health officials said that only a small percentage of cases of West Nile virus are reported because most people have no symptoms and about 20 percent have mild symptoms such as aches and fever. One in 150 people with West Nile virus develop other illnesses such as meningitis and encephalitis.

The biggest outbreak in nearly two decades of Hantavirus, which emerges in dry and dusty environments, cropped up during the summer in 1,200-square-mile (3,100-square-km) Yosemite National Park, killing three of 10 infected visitors.

The National Park issued warnings to 22,000 people who may have been exposed to the rare disease, and 91 Curry Village cabins in the park were closed in late August.

In early September, a 78-year-old judge named Eddie Lovelace was rushed to a hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Thought to have had a stroke, he died a few days later.

After a large outbreak of fungal meningitis was linked to tainted steroid injections, Lovelace's cause of death

was revised. He became the first documented death in a meningitis outbreak that has infected 620 people and killed 39 in 19 states.

The New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Massachusetts, was closed after investigators found that it had shipped thousands of fungus-tainted vials of methylprednisolone acetate to medical facilities around the United States. The steroid was typically used to ease back pain.

More than 14,000 people were warned that they may have had an injection of the tainted steroid. Doctors continue to see new cases of spinal infections related to the steroid, and cases of achnoiditis, an inflammation of nerve roots in the spine.

The outbreak led two Democratic lawmakers in the US House of representatives to introduce legislation to increase government oversight of compounded drugs.

And what lies ahead in 2013?

"While there are some trends we can predict, the most reliable trend is that the next threat will be unpredictable," said Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Thomas Frieden.—Reuters

Hitachi CEO: Still in talks on Lithuania nuclear project

TOKYO, 28 Dec—Japan's Hitachi Ltd (6501.T) remains in talks with Lithuania over its plans to build a nuclear plant after the European country's new centre-left government said it could shelve nuclear projects, the company's top executive said on Tuesday. Hitachi, a century-old conglomerate that designs and builds nuclear power plants with General Electric Co (GE.N) in two joint ventures, has shifted its focus overseas as

to form a sales outlook for Hitachi's nuclear business before Japan's own energy policy has been concluded.

The company has previously said it aimed to reach 360 billion yen (\$4.25 billion) in sales in the nuclear business by fiscal year 2020. Hitachi's power systems division, which includes its thermal and nuclear power business, logged 832.4 billion yen in sales the year ended March. The December election victory of Japan's



A logo of Hitachi is pictured at Hitachi, northeast of Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

Japan shuns nuclear energy in the wake of the worst radiation crisis in 25 years at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant last year.

Hitachi's nuclear joint venture had been lined up to supply a nuclear energy plant to Lithuania under the country's previous government, which lost power in October.

"There might be a slight lag in the time period, but the talks have not been completely suspended," Hiroaki Nakanishi, Chief Executive of Hitachi, said at a press briefing. Nakanishi said he did not think the worldwide market for nuclear energy would shrink, but said it was impossible

Liberal Democratic Party, headed by incoming prime minister Shinzo Abe, has fuelled speculation that the new government would take a friendlier stance toward nuclear power.

Nakanishi is credited with a sweeping cost-cutting initiative at Hitachi. The firm is consolidating its 900-plus subsidiaries as it tries to take on global rivals like GE and Siemens AG (SIEGn.DE).

The company most recently merged its thermal power division with that of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd (7011.T) and executives from both firms have said they are open to working together on nuclear power.

Reuters

BMW's vehicle sales reach 1.8 million in 2012: CFO Business

FRANKFURT, 28 Dec— BMW (BMWG.DE), the world's largest premium carmaker, has sold about 1.8 million vehicles in 2012, its chief financial officer told a German newspaper.

"One of our goals was to increase vehicle sales in 2012 and to reach a new record in deliveries. With about 1.8

million vehicles, we have achieved this," the executive, Friedrich Eichner, told Die Welt in an interview.

In December, BMW said vehicle sales in the January-November period had increased by 10.1 percent to 1.66 million. For the whole of 2011, BMW had vehicles sales of 1.67 million.—Reuters



A BMW logo is seen on the rim of a BMW 650i xDrive car on media day at the Paris Mondial de l'Automobile, on 28 Sept, 2012. REUTERS



A newlywed couple pose for photos with black-headed gulls beside the Dianchi Lake in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 26 Dec, 2012. More than 35,000 black-headed gulls have come to Kunming for winter this year.—XINHUA

Ford to invest \$773 million across southeast Michigan

A logo of a Ford car is pictured during a press presentation prior to the Essen Motor Show in Essen on 30 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS



NEW YORK, 28 Dec— Ford Motor Co (F.N) plans to invest more than \$773 million on new equipment and capacity expansions across six manufacturing facilities in southeast Michigan in the

United States.

The investment plan is part of its commitment to invest \$6.2 billion in US plants by 2015, the automaker said early on Thursday.—Reuters

WORLD

Kidnapping rampant in Damascus, forcing families to stay indoors

DAMASCUS, 28 Dec—“I had only a few hours to collect money from all people I know and even those who I don’t to get back my son... Any delay raises the stakes of receiving him dismembered and packed in a black nylon bag,” said Amir, a Syrian father of a 27-year-old son who has been recently kidnapped by an unknown group demanding ransom.

Recounting what he described as an “unforgettable and the bitterest experience” ever, Amir, 57, said his son, Khaldoun, was kidnapped at daylight in central Damascus. He said that his younger son was with Khaldoun when four armed men suddenly intercepted them and demanded their IDs, adding that they took Khaldoun and left his younger brother, who had tried to follow them while screaming “who are you?”

“One of the gunmen

brandished his gun, forcing him to step back,” said the father, noting that it was Monday afternoon when his son was kidnapped.

The father went on saying: “The negotiations with the abductors started two hours later.”

“We know you are a wealthy man and possess more than one shop... We want 10 million Syrian pounds (about 141,000 US dollars),” the kidnaper told Amir by phone, adding that “Otherwise, you will get back your son slaughtered and dismembered... Haven’t you heard of such cases before, we did it many times.”

The negotiations then ended up with a compromise of paying 2.5 million pounds (about 35,300 US dollars) to get his son released. Just before the eruption of the 21-month-old crisis, Syria was regarded as one of the safest coun-

tries in the region.

According to SyriaSteps Website, the war-torn country was declared to be the most dangerous country in the world to live in, followed by Iraq, Colombia, Somalia, Pakistan and Afghanistan, etc. Nowadays, kidnapping incidents have been rampant in several hotspots in Syria, especially in the capital, which has forced Syrians to avoid going outside unless it is necessary.

“My daughter, a ninth grade student, used to go on foot to her nearby school... But now I accompany her to the school’s door,” said Sahar, a mother of two kids.

“We are hearing on a daily basis different and unimaginable stories about kidnapping,” she added, stressing that she can’t afford losing her daughter and has no enough money for the ransom, either.

Xinhua

Norman Schwarzkopf, US commander in Gulf War, dies at 78

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec—Norman Schwarzkopf Jr, the hard-charging US Army general whose forces smashed the Iraqi army in the 1991 Gulf War, has died at the age of 78, a US official said on Thursday.

The highly decorated four-star general died at 2:22 pm EST (1922 GMT) at his home in Tampa, Florida, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Schwarzkopf, a burly Vietnam War veteran known to his troops as Stormin’ Norman, commanded more than 540,000 US troops and 200,000 allied forces in a six-week



Retired US Army General H Norman Schwarzkopf
REUTERS

war that routed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein’s army from Kuwait in 1991, capping his 34-year military career. Some experts hailed Schwarzkopf’s plan to trick and outflank Hussein’s forces with a sweeping ar-

Cambodia reports 63,039 malaria cases in 11 months, killing 40

PHNOM PENH, 28 Dec—A total of 63,039 malaria cases were recorded in the first eleven months of 2012, down 35 percent from 96,747 cases a year earlier, an official report said on Friday.

The disease killed 40 people, a 43 percent drop from 70 at the same period last year, according to the report of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria

Control. Dr Char Meng Chuor, director of the centre, attributed the decrease to the government efforts to promote the awareness of the public and distribute mosquito nets to the vulnerable groups of people.

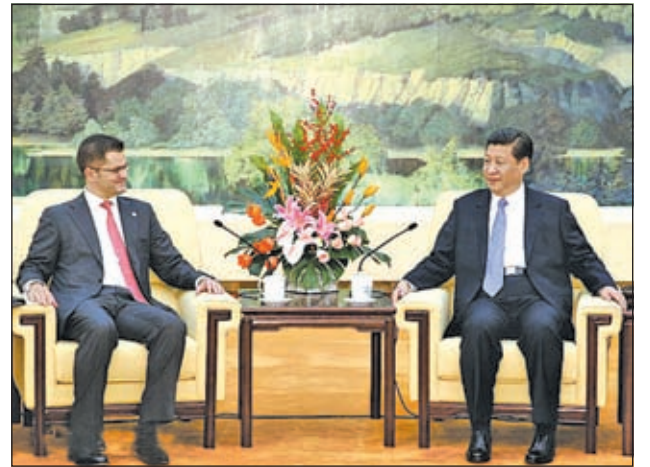
He blamed private treatment for the death of patients, who turned to state-owned health services only when their cases got serious, but it was too late to be cured.—Xinhua

China pledges further cooperation with UN

BEIJING, 28 Dec—China on Thursday pledged to continue its close cooperation with the United Nations, as Chinese leader Xi Jinping met with Vuk Jeremic, president of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said the world has been generally stable during the past year, although the international community still needs to engage in closer cooperation next year to maintain global peace and development.

“Peace and development are closely connected. Development is in everyone’s interest and serves as the basis for peace. The issue of development should be further emphasized,” he added. Xi said all countries should seek win-win results when developing foreign relations, safeguard common interests and create greater benefits for all un-



Xi Jinping (R), general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, meets with Vuk Jeremic, president of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly, in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

der the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Xi said China will continue to work with the UN and other countries to realize global peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit.

China plays a constructive and crucial role in international affairs by adhering to principles and upholding

justice, Jeremic said, citing China’s efforts to support and safeguard the interests of developing nations.

The UN attaches great importance to its cooperation with China and believes China will make greater contributions to world peace, development and prosperity, he said.

Xinhua

Three security members killed in northern Iraq

MOSUL, (Iraq), 28 Dec—Two policemen and an off-duty soldier were killed on Thursday in the Iraqi city of Mosul, the capital of the northern province of Nineveh, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

In one attack, two policemen were shot dead when gunmen using silenced weapons stormed a restaurant in northern Mosul, some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Separately, gunmen using weapons fitted with silencers shot dead an Iraqi army soldier in western Mosul, the source said.

The soldier was on leave in civilian clothes when the gunmen attacked him, the source added.—Xinhua

Reuters



Afghan police officers show their skills during a graduation ceremony in Nangarhar Province of eastern Afghanistan, on 27 Dec, 2012. A total of 180 Afghan policemen graduated on Thursday after a two-month training in Nangarhar.—XINHUA



A man visits the 3rd Biennial of Urban Sculpture in Teheran, capital of Iran, on 27 Dec, 2012. More than 170 Iranian artists presented their works at the biennial.—XINHUA

New York City police sued in record numbers

NEW YORK, 28 Dec—Tort claims involving New York Police Department (NYPD) cost the city a record-high of 185.6 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2011, a 35-percent rise from that of the fiscal year 2010, said New York City Comptroller John Liu in a report released on Thursday.

“The surge in police-misconduct allegations and civil-rights claims against the NYPD is an alarm bell for the City. The trend can and must be stemmed and reversed with better risk management including training, clearer accountability, and the convening of a multi-disciplinary task force,” Liu said.

NYC coffers also spent 137.3 million dollars in settling claims in the fiscal year 2010, according to Liu.

Claims against the

NYPD increased to 8,882 cases in the 2011 fiscal year from the previous fiscal year’s 8,110, which was the highest number of claims filed against any agency. Thirty percent of total tort claim filings in the 2011 fiscal year went to the NYPD. Claims against the NYPD have increased by 73 percent over the past 11 years, according to the report.

In the United States, the fiscal year starts from October of a year and ends at September of the following year.

New York City in the last fiscal year paid out 550.35 million dollars in tort claims for personal injuries and property damages, including police misconduct, medical malpractice, falls on public property, up 5 percent from the 522 million dollars spent in the fiscal year 2010.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Union FM sends congratulatory message to Japanese Counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Mr. Fumio Kishida on his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.—MNA

WY brand stimulant tablets seized

BHAMO, 28 Dec—WY brand red brown stimulant tablets were seized in Sinkhan Village of Bhamo Township in Kachin State.

A combined team comprising Sgt Aye Than, Sgt Myint Than Tun and Sgt Tin Thein led by IP Soe Paing of Sinkhan mobile squad of

Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad together with Sinkhan Village Administrator U Zaw Soe Lin and U Ye Lwin Oo searched the house of Ma Moe (a) Ma Moe Moe on 16 December afternoon.

The authorities seized 109 WY brand red brown stimulant tablets weighing

10.9 grams packed with plastic sheet and K 12,000.

Bhamo police station filed a lawsuit against Ma Moe (a) Ma Moe Moe, 41, of Sinkhan Village under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myanma Alinn

Thuta Htetlin Library and Dragon traditional boxing gymnasium put into service



YANGON, 28 Dec— The ceremony to open Thuta Htetlin Library and Dragon traditional boxing gymnasium were held at TOSTA housing on Ayeyawun Road in Ward 65 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Head of Region Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Swe and wellwisher

Dr Khin Maung Tun visited the library after cutting the ribbon. The Chief Minister and party proceeded to Dragon traditional boxing gymnasium where Deputy Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint and wellwisher Dr Khin Maung Tun visited the gymnasium.

Thuta Htetlin Library is 40 feet long and 24 feet wide, built at a cost of K 8.3 million and Dragon traditional boxing gymnasium, 40 feet

long and 18 feet wide, at a cost of K 28.3 million.

MNA

Forest fire destroys four acres of mung bean

BAGO, 28 Dec—A forest fire broke out on 12 acres of land in field No 207, one mile to Gyolaybin Village of Kontha Village-tract of Tarpun Police Station in Nattalin Township, Bago Region, on 20 December afternoon.

Policemen from Tarpun

Police Station, village administrator and party, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and villagers put out the fire.

The forest fire destroyed about four acres of mung bean plantations worth K 80,000 on 12 acres of farmland.

Myanma Alinn

KOICA donates 100 footballs to the Sports Ministry



YANGON, 28 Dec— Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U

Thaung Htaik gave words of encouragement to Executive Dr Ohnma Kyaw of Myanmar Rowing Federation who will

from 7 to 19 January, five players from the Myanmar Judo Federation who will take joint exercises in Japan

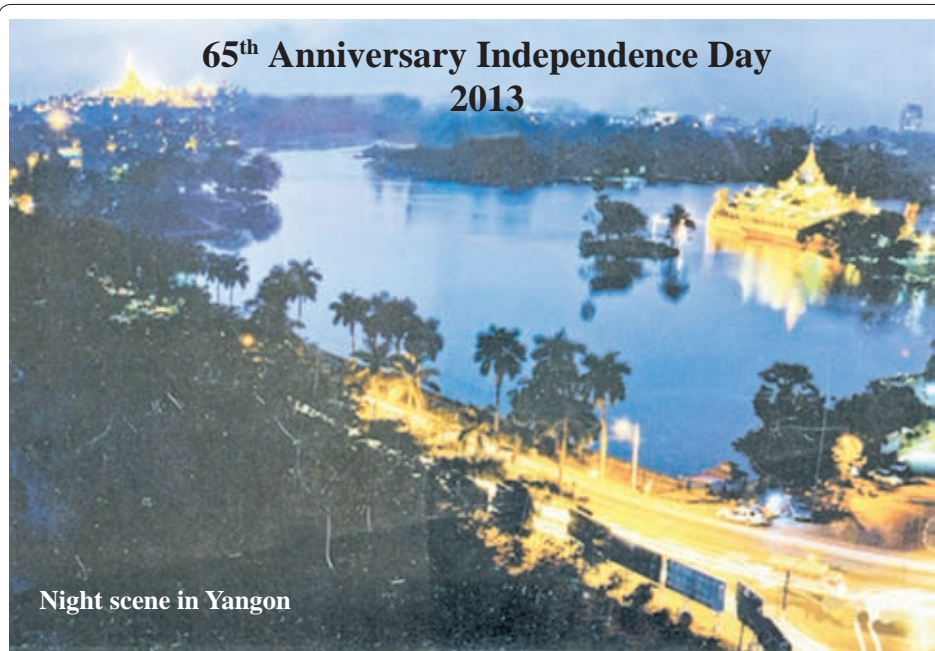
discharge duty of jury at the 11th International Sailing Championship in Malaysia from 7 to 12 January 2013, 14 members of Myanmar Basketball Federation who will take training exercises of basketball sport in the US

from 7 January to 7 February 2013 and two athletes who will take part in the 2nd Asian youth shooting training programme in Kuwait from 11 to 17 January at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Department at Kyaikkasan Sports Ground, here, at 1.30 pm on 25 December. After that, a ceremony to donate 100 footballs by KOICA was held at Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon). Country Representative of KOICA Mr Shin Man Shik explained the purpose of donations.

The country representative then handed over 100 footballs to Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik.

Myanma Alinn

65th Anniversary Independence Day 2013



Night scene in Yangon

Myanmar selected keeper Thiha Sithu joins Yadanarbon FC

YANGON, 28 Dec— Yadanarbon FC preparing for competing in the 2013 MNL has taken Myanmar selected goalkeeper Thiha Sithu from Ayeyawady United FC.

In the transfer window, Yadanarbon FC recruits excellent players for its squad. The FC allowed transfer of Soe Kyaw Kyaw, selected forward of the national team to Ayeyawady United FC. Moreover, the squad will allow one more



youth player to Ayeyawady United FC.

Thiha Sithu was Captain of Ayeyawady United FC and he showed his brilliant skills in the 2012 MNL Cup.

Yadanarbon FC is projected to recruit many Myanmar selected players

in the transfer window in addition to Magway defender Zaw Min Tun, Yangon defender Yan Aung Win and forward Kaung Sithu. Moreover, the squad has recruited Zeyar Shwemyay goalkeeper Nyi Nyi Lwin.

Myanma Alinn

Overheat of TV, regulator starts fire

MANDALAY, 28 Dec—A fire broke out at the house of U Hsan Min at 44/B and 44/A between Thameinbayan Road and Mingyi Yan Naung Road and 56th and 57th streets in Thinpangon Ward of Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, at 4 pm on 22 December.

The fire started from overheat of TV and regulator.

A total of 135 members of Fire Brigade fought against the fire with the use of 37 fire engines and managed to put out the fire at 4.25 pm.

The house was partly damaged, losing K 237,000. Pyigyidagun Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against U Hsan Min (a) U Shwe Hla, 37 under the law.

Myanma Alinn



PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 29 December, 2012

Public participation and administrative capacity

“We must undertake the administrative reforms in ways that will attract public participation in the reform process,” said President U Thein Sein in his speech to top government officials on reforms for improvement of management and administrative capacity of the government, strongly reminding the point that “One swallow does not make the summer.”

Changes will not still be tangible unless and until there is active public participation. We must at least to be participants but surely not the bystander even if we are not activists if we are to make changes happen. We first need to make known our very wishes and genuine grievances before we criticize the government’s failure to meet our needs. We cannot hope the government to solve all of our problems and simply no governments in the world can do this.

If you are living in glass house, you’d better be careful in throwing stones. Are you criticizing the judicial system while spitting betel juice on the street? Are you criticizing the municipal garbage collection system while dropping litter? Are you criticizing the traffic policemen while driving past the red light? Just think before you criticize the next time.

The President called on the officials from ward/village level to Union level to change their mindset, old behavior and the way they used to perform their work. Similarly, people need to change their mindset right now. Nothing would happen if we are just sitting and criticizing the government. We need to participate and offset in order that highhanded and authoritarian actions can be averted.

Though the potential benefits can be perceived now, certain works still need to be done to ensure the grass roots receive tangible benefits. While it is clear that local government officials in some areas fail to change themselves to meet public needs, it should not be neglected that some are deliberately cautious in introducing changes perhaps because of conservatism or for the sake of self-preservation and often without the slightest idea of the scope of change the government is going to make.

In addition, to be able to make sensible and rational decisions, those concerned need to know the objective conditions and for this his men must or he must make his men inform the accurate statistics, otherwise the gap between the target and actual output would still keep on widening, often with undesirable consequences of false interpretation as growth on the other side. Finally, there is an urgent need for improvement of administrative capacity for wholeheartedness and goodwill alone will not guarantee the results.

Cash and kind donated for quake victims

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—Wellwishers are donating cash, food and clothes to earthquake victims from Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, at Relief and Resettlement Department (Head Office)

under the Ministry of SWRR of Yangon Region. The donations included K 1 million by Kawthoung Township Association on 21 December; K 3 million by Myanmar-Taiwan Friendship Association on 23

Indices to be set to measure...

(from page 16)

European countries rose again with far better socio-economic status.

The President quoted the examples of development process of Asian countries which could bring about national development and bring down poverty rate to a certain extent through



Officials of Self-Administered Division/Zones submit reports at the meeting of Foreign Aid Management Work Committee.—MNA

utilization of aids received. Ensuring better results through effective utilization of assistance would further attract foreign aids, said the President emphasizing the importance of effective management mechanism and strategies and systems.

Increase in amount of inbound international loans, aids and foreign investments following the loser relations with global countries and international organizations would result in higher number of types of financial resources of the nation, cited the President calling for specific agenda for differentiation of expenditure and order of prioritized plans to ensure smooth functioning.

The recipient must take the driver’s seat in utilizing the larger proportion of aids received for the sake of own nation, stressed the President.

The President defined the effective development aid as systematic management of foreign assistance, interest-free loans, low-interest loans and foreign direct investments would lead to further inflow of aids, further generate the goodwill of donors while paving the way for achievement of national objectives, improvement of living standard and human development.

The effectiveness of development aids is of crucial

December; clothes by Daw Khaing Khaing Sein family on 24 December; K 30,000 by Daw Aye Aye Wai family; K 50,000 by Kyaw Nyunt Lwin and Daw Khin Win Win Maw family; K 0.1 million by Daw Pu family; K 40,000

importance for developing countries, said the President, adding that summarizing the history for ensuring global aid effectiveness, the trend had growing toward development partner and policy negotiations rather than receiving and seeking financial help. Recipients for example, Nepal, Cambodia,



owner to effectively use the aids. The President invited frank discussions for implementing the national development strategy, “people-centered development” with transparency, accountability and public participation.

Next, Chairman of Foreign Aid Management Work Committee Union Minister at the President



Office U Soe Thein elaborated on plans for best use of financial sources, priorities for official development aid programmes and sector-wise development through effective aid programme.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw explained coordination plans for foreign aids and preparation for hosting the 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum. He then reported on annual requirements of grants and loans for proposed development programmes of respective ministries.

Next, chief ministers of region and states and chairpersons of Self-administered division/zones reported on annual requirements of grants and loans for proposed development programmes of

respective places.

Joint-Secretary of Foreign Aid Management Central Committee Union Minister U Win Shein discussed repayment periods and plans of respective Union ministries and those present miscellaneous matters.

Next, chief ministers of regions and states and chairpersons of Self-administered division/zones reported on annual requirements of grants and loans for proposed development programmes of respective places.

Joint-Secretary of Foreign Aid Management Central Committee Union Minister U Win Shein discussed grace periods and plans of respective Union ministries and those present, miscellaneous matters.

In his concluding remarks, President U Thein Sein called for using of grants as priority for human resources development works. He pointed out the need for implementation of projects in two categories—local level and national level. The top priority must be given to projects that can be rapidly and directly beneficial to people and the second priority to ones that can be profitable in the long-run. He urged to boldly choose the ones beneficial to the public. He suggested establishment of microfinance banks, underpinning its effective and direct contribution to the grass roots. He also suggested the establishment of public corporations for businesses which require huge investment while inviting private investments.

MNA

Union FM meets Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Vasily B. Pospelov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, at his office, here, at 12:30 pm today.

They had a cordial discussion on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA



Maung Pe Pe

by Oriental Consultants Co., Ltd and clothes by Ma Pwint, Ko Kyaw Zaw Lin -Ma Khin Saw Nwe and Maung Win Htut and Ma May Thu Chaw on 26 December. Officials accepted the donations.

MNA

ARTICLE

Essence of independence and course of actions for true democracy

Aye Chan Thu

Researches revealed that perfection or weakness of policies and procedures in practice in a society decides its rise and fall. If so, policies and procedures are fundamental elements for the rise or fall of a society. Policy is the basic course of actions to be chosen (or) procedures to be adopted ahead of the implementation of a work. In whatever administrative organs or State-owned and private organizations, policy-making is the first-step process inevitable and thus we can draw a lesson that only systematic implementation of adopted policies can guarantee the achievement of desired goal.

The major points to be included in policy-making process are—(1) defining goals, (2) setting targets, and (3) outlining programmes & performances. Functions to be taken into account in policy-making process are controlling of the nation's resources, leadership, and organization, which are interrelated factors.

Efforts for building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as a “modern, developed, democratic nation” at present take the form of enabling every citizen to enjoy the essence of independence. In addition, the five basic elements of politics—proper management of own national resources, consideration of human rights issues, harmonization with physical environment, improvement of public service delivery and peace and suitability are obvious.

According to national objectives of Independence Day today, it is of vital importance that all the national brethren live together in the Union in unity forever. Many an example can be witnessed that all the national brethren of the Union established the Nation of Myanmar in unity with unanimous consensus along the course of the history of our country. Restoration of independence and reestablishment of a sovereign nation which stands tall till now were attributable to collaborative endeavours of the national brethren who devoted to resisting colonial rule and various outside threats with might and main. It is evident that national unity and Union spirit were up in times of establishing sovereign, independent nation.

Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, all of whom reside within the territorial boundary of the State. The entire national people will equally have the fundamental rights of citizens enshrined in the Constitution and each is to do his fair share together. In undertaking reforms today, the government aims to enabling each individual to enjoy the benefits of ongoing changes, placing emphasis on unrestricted wishes and attitudes of people. The popular aspirations of the national population of over 60 million people are none other than peace and economic growth and the government therefore is working hard to fulfill those aspirations.

To improve the national economic performance, the government is cooperating with the international community in promoting balanced environment, and cultural and economic activities, fostering cordial ties with global countries.

Furthermore, it has brought about certain foundation for the future of the nation and citizens, convincing the countries concerned to ease sanctions against the country, relaxing tariffs on exports and inviting technology transfer.

Today is a time the national people have to equip themselves with strong national unity and resistance power. If every citizen embraces national unity and Union spirit down to next and next generations for the sake of eternal peace and stability and sustainable development of the Union, whatever threat and challenge could be tackled. Only this would help national brethren reach their national goal of building a disciplined, modern, developed, new nation.

While the entire national people residing in the Union enjoy the equal rights of liberty and equality, they have the shared major responsibility of co-existing within the Union in harmony and safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes. The three prime duties, namely Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty, are the common duties of every citizen to perform to their last breath and all the

national brethren therefore must join hands for this particular duty in unison.

There are two critical factors to be considered throughout the course of actions for modernizing a nation and marching toward the desired political end, the first is “political stability within the State” and the second “economic growth”.

The third national objectives of 65th Anniversary Independence Day for 2013 is all the national races are to participate in the tasks for bringing about genuine, eternal peace putting an end to the armed conflicts. There have existed armed conflicts since 60 years ago. It is obvious that the regions in which national races reside have lagged behind in development due to the evil consequences of it. As long as these armed conflicts exist, there would be no peace and stability, which causes a deterrence to economic development. For the first phase, it needs to reach the cease-fire for ending the conflicts with national races and making eternal peaces. For the second phase, the government is making discussions with them in political way. Not only the state-level discussions but also Union-level discussions could be made. Peace agreements with 10 out of 11 armed groups have been reached. Now, the government is holding discussions with KIO/KIA group. It is believed that peace agreement with them

would be reached soon. In building up a modern, developed democratic nation, efforts are being made for ensuring better living standards, poverty alleviation and righteous of legislature, executive and judiciary pillars. For the country development, reforms in laws, rules and regulations are taking place. Six regular sessions of First hluttaws will commence on 9 January, 2013. At the sessions, National Planning Bill (2013-2014) and Union Budget Bill (2013-2014) will be discussed. Efforts are being made for emergence of new laws and amendment, revoking and enactment of laws. The Government is implementing economic policies in the interests of people and the country, based on natural resources and national characters. The government is also making efforts for ensuring the stability of the country, higher income, consumption, high savings and poverty alleviation while seeking the ways for development of capital, technology and human resources, which are to be combined with natural resources. According to geographic location, Myanmar has a big market. Myanmar is located at a strategic location that can connect Asia and East Asia as Myanmar can link the Middle East through ASEAN. Taking advantages of it, Myanmar needs to make operations with its regional countries. For the flow of

FDI, technology transfers and cooperation, infrastructures are being built systematically. A country's political system is interrelated with its economic system. So, the government is making not only political reforms but also economic and social reforms. Strenuous efforts are being made for moving forwards. The government is also striving for overcoming political and economic challenges and hindrances. The government has approved FDI Law that helps the flow of foreign investments while striving for capital, technology and human resources development essential for economic development. The country's poverty rate is 26 percent. It will be reduced to 16 percent by 2015 in accord with UN MDGs. It can be said that government's policies and processes are on the right track. So, all citizens should join hands with the government in implementing these policies and processes. And we all need to try harder as the country sees more economic liberalization and relaxations. This period is said to be the threshold of democracy for the country and to keep healthy-skepticism on political affairs.

Thus, all are urged to have hands in ensuring the amity, the end of armed conflicts, upholding of Our Three Main National Causes and making cooperation in building up of a modern, developed democratic nation so as to achieve economic objectives.

Myanma Alinn: 26-12-2012

Trs: TKK+MT

Interview with Deputy Minister U Than Swe...

(from page 16)

the government I think. May be he is Bo Thein Swe. And joint secretary is Taw Phaya Galay. The government funded K 50,000 for it. But it was not materialized. Taw Taw (Taw Phaya Galay) told me that the British Ambassador told Prime Minister U Nu “Let the sleeping dog lie”. The translation is that don't wake up the sleeping dog and let him sleep. This means that don't instigate this matter, and it can contribute to the revival of the monarchy system again in the time of post-independence. It is said that comparison of Myanmar King and Monarchy is so rude.

Q: Some history books disclose that King Thibaw is a disqualified one and has to

dance to the tune of Queen Su Phaya Latt. For instance, he is like an alcoholic. How is your opinion about it?

A: Colonialists spread fabrications as if they saved the country by dethroning the disqualified alcoholic king. Myanmar writers who did not know it also followed suit. It is impossible to be a qualified one as he was 20 years old when ascending the throne. We can imagine how the knowledge of the 20-year-old youths is. Queen's age is just 19 years old. The point that King Thibaw drinks alcohol is totally wrong according to the worlds of people who know about King Thibaw. Our King was not dethroned by the people who want to fight the monarchy. He is also not a king who lost the war. He is

an exiled king.

Q: The colonial government sent India's last King Shah Zafar to Yangon, and he passed away in Yangon. The last monarch King Thibaw was kept in Ratnagiri in exile till his death. Why they did it and what were the impacts?

A: It's a clear plot of the imperialists. Two kings they assumed as prisoners were kept in each other's country. It means the governments under their control in each country became responsible for the respective exiled king.

Q: Are you fully satisfied by the Ratnagiri visit you accompanied the President as an entourage?

A: Yes, it was! But, the visit was arranged by the Indian government and the administrators of Ratnagiri conducted us round the sites. We could just visit where they guided us and I could

only explain to the President there. If I were to arrange the visit, I wish to show the President the Dubar Hall, the rooms of the king and the queen, the balcony and the room where the remains of King Thibaw and Yamethin Suphayalay were kept. We would like to arrange the visit to the residences where the first daughter lived and died, the residence of grandchild Tu Tu, the site where King Thibaw took a stroll in every evening with his servants and recited a verse looking at the sea, “Thibaw Viewpoint” where he conversed yearningly with his servants on Myanmar. As the Ratnagiri's district commissioner said he lives in the bungalow where King Thibaw had lived for the first 24 years, we also visited there.

Q: How the President's

visit to Ratnagiri would affect the descendents of King Thibaw?

A: The descendents of His Majesty in Ratnagiri will feel happy and honoured by the President's visit.

Q: I would like to know about the surviving descendents of King Thibaw?

A: Among the descendents of King Thibaw, Hteik Suphaya, daughter of the eldest fourth daughter of King Thibaw, is still alive and is about 90 years old. She has offspring. Some passed away. The third son of the fourth daughter is Taw Phaya who lives in Pyin Oo Lwin and he is about 90 years old. He has seven children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. There are only two surviving grandchildren of King Thibaw. Children of grandson Taw Phaya Nge and his two wives and

children are still alive. Daw Khin May, wife of grandson Taw Phaya Galay, is about 86 years old. She has an only daughter, Devi Thant Sin who has four sons. They are also married with children. The youngest daughter Hteik Suphaya Htwe passed away, but his spouse Taw Phaya Myatgyi is still alive with second wife and children. The late Taw Phaya Gyi has two sons. They are U Soe Win and his brother. So the number of the descendents of King Thibaw in Myanmar is more than 60.

Q: Do you think that there will be more interest in monarchs of Myanmar among Myanmar people thanks to the President's visit to Ratnagiri?

A: Yes, I think so.

Q: Thank you.

Trs: MT+HKA+YM

Graduation parade of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences Intake No.10 held

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—Graduation parade of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences Intake No.10 took place at Parade Ground of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon this morning, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing.

It was attended by wife of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife Daw Wai Mar Mar Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein and wife Daw Htway Htway Nyunt, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and their wives, Yangon Region Command Commander and wife, Mingalardon Station Commander, commandant of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, senior military officers from the station, guests and trainees' families and relatives.

The Vice-Senior General took the salute of the



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing inspects graduation trainee companies of DSINPS.—MNA

trainees and then inspected the companies. After that, he presented awards to outstanding cadets.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that Tatmadaw was making efforts for building up a modern Tatmadaw so as to safeguard the country

absolutely. They were to safeguard the country while performing their primary duties of medical service delivery. He urged them to be proficient not only in traditional medicine but also

in western medicines. He pointed out the crucial role of directorate of medical services.

He also said that Tatmadaw had committed to safeguarding people and

the country. He urged them to try to become the ones with fighting spirit to engage in military operations if necessary. In marching towards a genuine democratic system, they are to do their bit by joining hands with the government and the people. And they needed to perform their duties so as to interpret

the role of Tatmadaw stated in the 2008 Constitution. The Vice-Senior General took the salute of the trainees company. After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing met three outstanding trainees and their families at main hall of DSMA.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services attends graduation dinner for 10th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— The graduation dinner of the 10th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was held at Defence Services Medical Academy at 6 pm today, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The graduation dinner was also attended by wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, senior military officers and their wives, Mingaladon station commander, commandant of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences and invited guests

and relatives of cadets.

First, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife cordially greeted the graduate trainees and gave encouragements to them.

Then, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party enjoyed the graduation dinner together with the trainees and their relatives.

After the graduation dinner, those present were entertained by Myawady Band and Anyeint under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare at the Convocation Hall.

MNA

Moscow denies Russia-US plan over Syrian crisis

Moscow, 28 Dec—The Foreign Ministry on Thursday denied it has made a joint plan with the United States to solve the Syrian crisis. Moscow strictly followed the Geneva agreements and was not coordinating with the US to settle the crisis in Syria, ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said at a news conference.

“There is no such plan and it has not been considered,” Lukashevich told reporters.

He said that Moscow only discussed with the UN-Arab League envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, ways to implement the Geneva communique reached by world powers in June.

Brahimi will visit Moscow on Saturday to hold talks with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Lukashevich said.

“We are planning to discuss the entire range of issues related to political-diplomatic settlement in Syria, including Mr Brahimi’s recent efforts aimed at stopping violence and launching a comprehensive national dialogue between the government and the opposition in this country,” the spokesman said.

Commenting on reports that the Syrian government was using chemical weapons against the opposition, Lukashevich said such reports were aimed at provoking foreign intervention in the Syrian crisis.

Meanwhile, Russia will continue efforts to contact not only the government but also the opposition, Lukashevich said, adding that the future of Syria should be decided by its own people.

Xinhua



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing awards outstanding trainee Hein Thu.—MNA

REGIONAL

Death toll from tropical storm Wukong increases to seven in Philippines

MANILA, 28 Dec— At least seven people died due to tropical storm Wukong (local name Quinta) which is leaving the Philippine area of responsibility, a top official of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Thursday afternoon.

NDRRMC executive director Benito Ramos said three victims perished when a fallen tree hit their house in del Pilar village, Maydolong,

a town in Central Philippine province of Eastern Samar, increasing the number of casualties into seven.

According to a report released earlier Thursday, four people drowned in the Central Philippine province of Iloilo when Wukong hit the area.

Oneteenageisreportedly injured while two people are still missing, Ramos said, adding that search and rescue operations are underway for

the missing ones.

According to Ramos, at least 2,431 families or 15,175 persons from Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas have been affected by Wukong. Of the number, 1,093 families or 6,065 persons are housed in 18 evacuation centres.

Also, he said Wukong has destroyed 15 houses and damaged 52 others in Western Visayas and Central Visayas alone.—Xinhua



Tourists enjoy themselves at a beach in Sanya, a popular winter tourism destination in south China's Hainan Province, on 27 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Singapore tightens regulations on industrial used water discharge

SINGAPORE, 28 Dec— Singapore's national water agency is introducing stiffer penalties on improper discharge of used water from industries, trade and businesses sometime next year, a local television channel reported on Thursday.

The tougher penalties came after changes to the Sewerage and Drainage Act in September, Channel NewsAsia said. Under the new regulations, offenders could be fined up to 15,000 Singapore dollars (about 12,000 US dollars), up from the current 5,000 Singapore dollars, and jailed up to three months, for the illegal discharge of used industrial water, said the Public

Utilities Board, or PUB.

Such discharge may contain hazardous chemicals and affect water reclamation and the production of recycled water in Singapore.

PUB said it has installed a system comprising 40 real-time remote monitoring units at industrial sites and costing 2.5 million Singapore dollars (about 2 million US dollars) to monitor the amount of chemicals in the sewers.

When it detects illegal discharge, an alert will be sent to the national water agency. PUB said it has

received 20 alerts since the system was deployed in November.

In 18 of these cases, the PUB has been able to identify the culprits that had discharged the chemicals into the public sewers. Investigations are still ongoing for the remaining two cases. "In the past, we did not have a continuous monitoring system. We did - and still do - regular surveillance, regular monitoring and inspection of premises that discharge trade effluent," said Idaly Mamat, senior engineer at the PUB,

adding that the system allows authorities to track and react faster to the concentration of volatile organic compounds immediately.

To further secure the used water network, the PUB has also installed about 1,000 sensors in manholes in March to monitor water levels in the sewers. When the water rises beyond the normal level, alerts will be sent to the PUB so that it can investigate and rectify the problem so as to prevent overflow from the sewers.

Xinhua



An Afghan child carries winter relief supply during a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) distribution in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 27 Dec, 2012. More than 800 displaced families in Kabul received winter relief supply from UNHCR on Thursday.—XINHUA

Tea plantation workers burn alive their boss, his wife in NE India

NEW DELHI, 28 Dec— In a horrific incident, hundreds of tea plantation workers have burnt alive the owner of a tea garden and his wife in the northeastern Indian state of Assam late Wednesday night, a senior police official said on Thursday.

"The owner of MKB tea estate, located in the Kulapatha area, Mridul Kumar Bhattacharya, and his wife Rita, were inside their bungalow when an angry mob of around 200 labourers set it on fire. Both were charred to death," the

official said.

Preliminary probe has revealed that the incident was a fallout of a clash between the labourers and the management for the past two weeks.

"Though there were tensions for the last two weeks, the management Wednesday asked some workers to leave their accommodation, following which the labourers torched their boss's bungalow and also set on fire their two vehicles," the official said.

Three people have been

arrested in connection with the incident. "A massive manhunt has been launched to track down all the culprits," he added.

The state government has ordered a high-level probe into the incident. "This is an unfortunate incident. There was some labour trouble in the tea garden area, we are investigating," state's Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi told the media.

There are around 800 tea gardens in Assam, which produce over half of India's total tea output.—Xinhua



Workers repair the damaged pipelines at the collapsed section of the road intersection of Bingzhou North Road and Bingzhou East Street in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 27 Dec, 2012. The backfilling of the collapsed section has begun, and the damaged pipelines for water and gas supply has been repaired and resumed operation on Thursday, a day after the road cave-in happened. The cave-in left a pit measuring around 3 to 4 meters deep, 15 meters long and 5 meters wide, while damaging pipelines for water, gas and telecommunication.—XINHUA

Boxing Day boom for retailers in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 28 Dec — Figures from electronic transaction provider Paymark on Thursday showed retailers in New Zealand enjoyed a sales boom, on Boxing Day.

Paymark, which processes 75 percent of all transactions, says spending on Wednesday was up 13.4 percent on Boxing Day last year. It said 120 million NZ dollars (98 million US dollars) passed through the network, with the biggest increase in electronic retail,

where sales were up 31.7 percent on last year. A lot of money was also spent on clothing and jewelry.

Paymark's head of sales and marketing, Paul Whiston, said one reason for the sales boom is that bad weather turned people away from the beach and into the malls, Radio New Zealand reported. He added that some people also held back their Christmas spending in anticipation for Boxing Day deals.—Xinhua

Keppel's full-year new orders in offshore, marine total 8.1 bln USD

SINGAPORE, 28 Dec — The offshore and marine unit of Singapore's Keppel Corporation, one of the world's largest offshore oil rig builders, won 9.9 billion Singapore dollars (8.1 billion US dollars) of new orders in total in 2012, the company said on Thursday.

Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd announced three new orders with a combined value of 420

million Singapore dollars on Thursday. Tong Chong Heong, chief executive officer of Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd, said the company expected 2013 to be "a busy year for us as we continue to focus on the quality execution of all our projects."

The above contracts are not expected to have any material impact on the net tangible assets and

earnings per share of Keppel Corporation Limited for the current financial year, the company said.

Statistics from the company showed that its offshore and marine unit secured an average of 5.2 billion Singapore dollars worth of new orders per year over the past nine years. The figure for last year was 10 billion Singapore dollars.

Xinhua

Singapore officers seize 3.2 kg of "Ice" at airport

SINGAPORE, 28 Dec— Officers seized about 3.2 kg of "Ice" at Singapore's Changi Airport, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said on Thursday. A 29-year-old Thai woman was arrested, it said. If convicted, she may face death penalty under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Officers noticed anomalies in the scanned images of the woman's haversack during routine baggage checks on Wednesday at the airport. A row of hand-sewn stitches were spotted at the handle compartment of the haversack.

The officers then cut open the stitches and found a package, wrapped in aluminum foil, hidden inside the inner linings of the haversack. They also discovered another package, which was also wrapped in aluminum foil and hidden in the base cardboard of the haversack.

Preliminary tests by the officers of the Central Narcotics Bureau showed that the white crystallized substance wrapped in the foil was methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as "Ice."—Xinhua

TO SHWE NAING-NGAN SEAFARERS AND MARITIME WORKERS

We the Seafarers Republic of the Union of Myanmar which had been established since (1991) and accepted as its membership in (1993) by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), would like to take this great opportunity to announce that our union is at present going to apply and register as a trade union in accordance with the Labour Organization Law (2011).

Therefore, we like to express our warmest welcome to all those seafarers and maritime workers who were, had been and are involved in the S.U.B-ITF activities outside and inside the country as well as to all who have interest in freedom of association and trade union so that you all can contact us through the following snail mail and physical address:

PO BOX (686) Yangon 11181 Myanmar No. (157) First Floor, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar Tel: +951 380357 Mobile: +95 9 421177700

Russian parliament approves ban on American adoptions

Moscow, 28 Dec—A bill banning Americans from adopting Russian children went to President Vladimir Putin for his signature on Wednesday after winning final approval from parliament in retaliation for a US law that targets Russian human rights abusers. Putin has strongly hinted he will sign the bill, which would also outlaw some US-funded non-governmental groups and impose visa bans and asset freezes on Americans accused of violating the rights of Russians.

The Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, voted unanimously to approve the bill, which has clouded US-Russia relations and outraged Russian liberals who say lawmakers are playing a political game with the lives of children.

US-Russians are already

strained over issues ranging from Syria to the Kremlin's treatment of opponents and restrictions imposed on civil society groups since Putin, in power since 2000, began a new six-year term in May.

The bill has also drawn unusual criticism from senior government officials including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Olga Golodets, a deputy prime minister who warned the Kremlin that it may violate an international convention on children's rights.

Lavrov said last week that the ban would be "wrong", and that Russia should stand by a long-awaited bilateral accord that improves its ability to keep tabs on children adopted by Americans, which entered into force on 1 November.

Reuters

Fire kills four in Russia's St Petersburg

SAINT PETERSBURG, 28 Dec—Four people were killed and six others admitted to hospital after a fire broke out in an apartment building in St Petersburg's Kirov District. Local authorities are investigating the causes of

the fire which occurred in one of St Petersburg's converted Soviet-era communal apartment complexes.

While arson cannot be ruled out at this stage, problems with aging electrical and gas networks

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.

1. News Networking System 1 Lot
2. 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 27-12-2012 to 8-1-2013 during the office days.
3. 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.
4. 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**

Merkel party rises to seven-year poll high before election year 2013

BERLIN, 28 Dec—German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives have climbed to their highest opinion poll level in nearly seven years but will not be able to continue their centre-right coalition with the slumping Free Democrats (FDP), a survey said on Wednesday. The Forsa poll published on Wednesday, nine months before an election, found Merkel's Christian Democrats and

their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU) rising three points to 41 percent, the highest since March 2006.

But her FDP coalition allies fell one point to four percent in the weekly poll for RTL TV and Stern magazine and would fall below the five percent threshold needed for seats in parliament. Merkel is seeking a third term in September's election.

The centre-left

opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and their Greens allies were down one point to a combined 40 percent. The SPD were steady at 27 percent while the Greens fell one point to 13 percent. The Left party were steady at eight percent. Neither Merkel's centre-right coalition nor the centre-left would win a majority if those were the election results.

Political analysts believe the most likely outcome of next September's election would be a grand coalition of conservatives and the SPD, the right-left alliance that led Germany from 2005 to 2009. A conservative-Greens coalition is also a possibility.

German voters are in general pleased with the way Merkel's centre-right government has led the country through the euro zone debt crisis, the country's most pressing issue.

The economy is in relatively good shape thanks to strong export industries

and the government expects the economy to continue expanding in 2013. Unemployment has held steady near two-decade lows of 6.9 percent. Germany's economy powered through the first two years of the euro zone's sovereign debt crisis, posting 4.2 percent growth in 2010 and 3 percent last year before slowing to about 0.8 percent in 2012, while some peers were grinding to a halt.

Merkel's CDU put on a show of unity at their annual party congress three weeks ago, re-electing her as the party leader by a record margin of 97.9 percent. It was her best score since taking over the CDU leadership 12 years ago. Merkel's CDU is nevertheless facing a tough state election battle on 20 January in Lower Saxony, where the popular CDU incumbent David McAllister could be ousted even though the CDU is polling around 40 percent in the northern state.

Reuters



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin on 19 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Egyptian leader mulls cabinet reshuffle, opposition plans protests

BEIJING, 28 Dec—Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi is currently considering a cabinet reshuffle after the country's new constitution came into force, while the opposition calls on people to protest against Morsi's leadership. Morsi said that he is currently discussing a cabinet reshuffle with Prime Minister Hesham Qandil on Wednesday, one day after the country's newly-written draft constitution was approved in a referendum. He praised the government of Qandil that assumed office in early August, stressing "it has been working under very critical conditions." Egypt still faces

scuffles over power recently, among others.

Communications and Information Technology Minister Hany Mahmoud recently has announced his resignation, saying he could not cope with "government culture" after 30 years of working for international communication companies.

Qandil accepted the departure of Mahmoud, whom he appointed in August, and praised Mahmoud for understanding, Egypt official news agency MENA reported on Wednesday. Mahmoud will remain in office until a new minister is appointed.

Egypt's Supreme Judicial

Council (SJC) urged on Wednesday Prosecutor General Talaat Abdullah to step down and re-assume his previous post as a judge, after a meeting to defuse the current crisis in Egypt over the post of the prosecutor general.

Last month, Morsi issued a controversial presidential declaration that includes appointing Abdullah as a new prosecutor general. The move sparked anger among the Egyptian prosecutors and judges, who staged a sit-in outside Abdullah's office, describing Morsi's move as an attack against the independence of the judicial authority.—Reuters



Harbour seals are seen in ice water at the ecological seal bay near Yantai City, east China's Shandong Province, on 26 Dec, 2012. The seal bay iced up recently, trapping the harbour seals living in this water area. Workers of the scenic area started breaking ice and providing food for harbour seals.—XINHUA



Participants ride an elephant during the 9th International Elephant Festival in Sauraha of Chitwan District, Nepal, on 26 Dec, 2012. The festival was organized to promote the tourism and to make awareness of elephant conservation in Nepal.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Pattinson spotted without Kristen Stewart on Christmas eve

LONDON, 28 Dec—Contrary to rumours that Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart would spend holidays together, the actor was seen hitting a local club all alone on Christmas eve.

Pattinson, who just finished a promo tour for *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part II*, went casual in a hoodie and a baseball cap as he came to the Sun Inn pub Monday night, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

Though the couple spent Christmas apart, Pattinson is expected to reunite with his girlfriend for New Year celebration.

The couple, who briefly broke up following Stew-

art's moment of in-cretion with married director Rupert Sanders, spent Thanksgiving together earlier this year.

PTI



Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson

Daniel Craig tops GQ's most stylish men list

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec—Daniel Craig has topped *GQ* magazine's list of 25 Most Stylish Men of 2012, beating competition from the likes of David Beckham and Robert Pattinson.

The James Bond star was followed by actor Zac Efron at the second place and soccer star Beckham grabbed the third spot.

Singer Bruno Mars and actor Ewan McGregor made it to the top five in the list, which recognised "famous guys (who) finally got serious about taking risks and looking good" said the magazine.

Pattinson made it to the sixth spot with his preferred Gucci suits, followed by Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who

"slayed it when it came to dressing for his Dark Knight Rises and Premium Rush premieres".

Basketball player Tyson Chandler, actor Justin Theroux and singer Nick Jonas rounded off the top ten. Rap mogul Jay-Z, actors Ryan Gosling and Andrew Garfield, Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine were also among the 25 stylish men.

The list also made space for animated spy character Archer from the sitcom TV series.

"The spy knows his way around a gray Don Draper suit and dinner jacket better than almost anyone," said the magazine.

PTI

I am not running for the senate: Ben Affleck



Actor-director Ben Affleck

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec—Actor-director Ben Affleck has denied the possibility of being Senator John Kerry's

potential successor, insisting he is not running for office.

There were reports that he appears on the list to

become a US Senator if Kerry is appointed as the Secretary of State, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

"I love Massachusetts and our political process, but I am not running for office," he said in a statement posted on his Facebook page.

"Right now it's a privilege to spend my time working with Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI), supporting our veterans, drawing attention to the great many who go hungry in the US everyday and using filmmaking to entertain and

foster discussion about issues like our relationship to Iran," he added.

The 40-year-old father of three himself played coy when asked about the matter during a 19 December taping of CBS' *Face the Nation*.

"One never knows. I'm not one to get into conjecture... It's a big deal for me to come down here and be on your show that I've watched so much, but I'm not going to get into speculation about my political future," he had said.

PTI



Daniel Craig

Les Miserables rules Christmas box office

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec—*Les Miserables*, the big screen adaptation of Victor Hugo's novel, opened at the number one spot on the Christmas day with USD 17.5 million while Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* followed closely with USD 14 million.

Miserables comes with a strong star cast of Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and Russell Crowe. The film was directed by Tom Hooper of the *King's Speech* fame. Tarantino's '*Django*' had one of the best openings for an R-rated film on Christmas Day. Produced by the Weinstein Co, the film stars Jaime Foxx, Christoph Waltz and Leonardo DiCaprio, the *Hollywood Reporter* said.

Coming on the third spot was Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected*



Miserables comes with a strong star cast of Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and Russell Crowe.

PTI

Journey with an anticipated haul of USD 10.8 million.

Also opening on Christmas was Fox's family comedy *Parental Guidance*, starring Billy Crystal, Bette

Midler and Marisa Tomei. The movie came in on the fourth spot with a projected USD 6 million to USD 7 million.

PTI

Billy Crystal screens new film for hometown Sandy victims

NEW YORK, 28 Dec—Actor Billy Crystal has hosted a special screening of his new family comedy *Parental Guidance* in his New York hometown because he wanted to help get the area back up on its feet in

the aftermath of superstorm Sandy.

The *When Harry Met Sally* star gave residents of Long Beach, which was hard hit by the disaster in October, reported the *New York Daily News*.

"It was very emotional. I was born in New York City, lived in the Bronx for three or four years, but Long Beach was my hometown. It was like seeing somebody you love get beaten up, so I had this idea.

"The theatre is demolished but the city of Lynbrook opened its arms and we had 2,500 people come on buses to the theatre there. It was really something. I haven't lived in Long Beach since 1976, but in a way, I never left. I'll do whatever I can to help that town back up on its feet," he said.

The film also stars Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei and Tom Everett Scott and directed by Andy Fickman.

PTI



Billy Crystal

Referee ate too much at Christmas, fumes City's Mancini



Manchester City's coach Roberto Mancini (R) reacts ahead of their English Premier League soccer match against Sunderland in Sunderland, northern England on 26 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 28 Dec—Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini had some harsh words for referee Kevin Friend and said his club may as well not bother turning up at Sunderland next season after suffering a 1-0 defeat in the Premier League on Wednesday.

Champions City, now seven points behind leaders Manchester United, lamented another wasted trip to Sunderland after also having lost there in the league on 1 January.

"Maybe the referee ate too much for Christmas," said Mancini before adding that Friend missed a foul on Pablo Zabaleta in the build-

up to the 53rd-minute winning goal by City discard Adam Johnson.

"You need to ask the referee why it was given, not me. I saw it was a big foul—it's impossible two men (Friend and his linesman) couldn't see it," added the Italian.

"Maybe next year we won't come here. We won't spend the money," he told City's website (www.mfc.co.uk) in a tongue-in-cheek remark.

The visitors enjoyed the better of the first half with Vincent Kompany hitting the bar and Sunderland keeper Simon Mignolet making good saves from

Nigeria send mixed messages over Newcastle's Ameobi stance

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Dec—Nigeria have hit out at Newcastle United for not allowing Shola Ameobi to play at next month's African Nations Cup while also suggesting they may back down if the row causes the striker to fall out with his club.

Ameobi was named in Nigeria's preliminary



Newcastle's Shola Ameobi reacts following a missed opportunity against Rangers during their friendly soccer match at Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow, Scotland, on 7 August, 2010.

REUTERS

squad for the 19 January-10 February tournament by coach Stephen Keshi but his Newcastle counterpart Alan Pardew said this week that the 31-year-old would not be travelling to South Africa.

"Alan Pardew knows he cannot stop Shola from going to the Nations Cup because the competition is sanctioned by (soccer's ruling body) FIFA," Keshi told the SuperSport television channel.

"I don't know what is in his head or what he is thinking about. I have never spoken to Alan Pardew in my life, I have only seen him on television."

Pardew, who guided Newcastle to fifth place in the English Premier League last season although this term they are just five points above the relegation zone in 15th spot, had said: "Shola won't be going."

"The national team manager knows the reasons—which I am keeping to myself."

Reuters

Yaya Toure and David Silva.

After Johnson's second-half effort beat keeper Joe Hart, City struggled to create clear chances and Sunderland held on for a victory that lifted them seven points clear of the drop zone.

"We need to score...our strikers need to improve," Mancini said. "We need to change something in our team because we can't continue like this—we score too few goals."

"Sometimes we take too many touches and we think, 'never mind, we can score next time,' but we can't be like that—in football it doesn't work like that. We have to be stronger in the penalty area." Second-placed City next play at Norwich City on Saturday and host Stoke City on 1 January.—Reuters

Knee injury rules Rooney out for two or three weeks

LONDON, 28 Dec—Wayne Rooney faces two or three weeks on the sidelines after the Manchester United striker injured his knee in training ahead of Wednesday's Premier League clash with Newcastle United.

Rooney did not start in the 4-3 victory at Old Trafford and manager Alex Ferguson said the striker would miss the rest of the busy holiday fixtures.

"Wayne did it in training yesterday, he could be out for two, three weeks," Ferguson told United's website (www.manutd.com) on Wednesday. "He did it towards the end of training yesterday. He did it when trying a volley—he strained a ligament behind the knee. It's unfortunate."

United next host West Bromwich Albion on Saturday and then travel to Wigan Athletic on 1 Janu-

ary as they seek to widen their lead at the top of the table, currently seven points. Rooney's absence failed to blunt United's attack as Mexican Javier Hernandez took his place and scored a 90th minute winner after Newcastle had taken the lead three times.

Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney gestures before being booked for a foul, during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, South Wales, on 23 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Sharapova, Williams set to be fit for Brisbane



Serena Williams of the US reacts to breaking the serve of Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the third set during their women's final tennis match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 7 July, 2012.

REUTERS

BRISBANE, 28 Dec—Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams will be fit to play at the Brisbane International, which begins this weekend, after injury scares, organisers said on Thursday.

MELBOURNE, 28 Dec—Michael Clarke's inspired century at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday ticked off another milestone for Australia's high-flying captain, but was also a stunning riposte to critics who had suggested he should never have been selected.

Having sustained a hamstring injury in the first test in Hobart, Clarke was given until the last minute to prove his fitness and only announced himself ready to take on Sri Lanka on the morning of the second test.

Meanwhile, young

biggest draws in women's tennis, is due to arrive for the 30 December-6 January tournament on Saturday.

Sharapova withdrew from the Australian Open warm-up event last year.

Williams, who won a fifth Wimbledon title, Olympic singles gold and a fourth US Open crown in 2012, also pulled out of an exhibition against China's Li Na in Thailand last week.

However, the American has been given the green light to participate in Brisbane following toe surgery. "It's great that they're both going to be fit to play the first tournament of the year," tournament organizer Cameron Pearson told Australian media.

Eight of the world's top 10 women are scheduled to play in the \$1.5 million Brisbane event, including number one Victoria

Azarenka of Belarus.

Azarenka and Sharapova will both receive first-round byes, as do the top four seeds in the men's draw, headed by Britain's Olympic and US Open champion Andy Murray.

Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return to Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during their match in an exhibition tour in Sao Paulo on 7 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Australia captain Clarke caps banner year in style

seamer Mitchell Starc, 100 per-



Australia's captain Michael Clarke hits a boundary during the second day of the second cricket test against Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 27 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

cent fit and champing at the bit, was rested despite a five-wicket haul that helped drive the hosts to victory in Hobart.

Pundits and former players cried double-

stand-

ards. Clarke, a selector himself, simply put his head down to score 106 and surpass Ricky

Ponting as his country's most prolific test run-scorer in a calendar year.

The four-hour innings of 14 boundaries, while not without chances, broke the hearts of Sri Lanka and helped drive Australia to a mammoth first innings lead of 284. "In regards to beating Ricky, in my eyes he was certainly the greatest batsman I was lucky enough to play with so to beat any record that Ricky holds is very special that's for sure," the 31-year-old Clarke told reporters after notching his fifth ton for the year.—Reuters

GENERAL

New ward administrator elected



TOUNGOO, 28 Dec— The systematic election of new ward administrators was held in line with procedures of the law of Ministry of Home Affairs, in Ward 18 of Toungoo on 21 December afternoon. At first, each representative was elected for 10-household groups through secret voting. After that, the new ward administrator was elected among the 10-household group leaders step by step.—Myanma Alinn

Spurs hail Bale after hat-trick makes Villa wail

LONDON, 28 Dec— Tottenham Hotspur's Gareth Bale is among the most special talents in world football, manager Andre Villas-Boas said after the left winger grabbed a hat-trick in Wednesday's 4-0 mauling of Aston Villa.

Jermain Defoe put Spurs in front in the 58th minute at Villa Park before Bale blew the home team away with goals in the 61st, 73rd and 84th minutes to take his tally to nine in the English Premier League this season.

Asked by reporters if there were any better players in the game than the Welsh international, Villas-Boas replied: "He is up there with the best.

"His finishing is very accurate. He has been prolific in front of goal this season and I think he is enjoying getting into those positions.

"His left foot is wonderful and the power and direction he applies on the ball is wonderful too," added the Portuguese after victory lifted Spurs to fourth spot, 13 points behind leaders Manchester United.

"I think he is improving every day - he is such a young player," Villas-Boas said of

the 23-year-old. "He is one of our major assets.

"The team changes so much from one year to another and as he keeps learning he will feel even better and probably his performances will improve."

Villas-Boas said Defoe's goal, his 10th in the league this season, was especially significant for Spurs after Villa had been on the receiving end of an 8-0 battering at Chelsea on Sunday.

"It was important to get that goal because we knew emotionally it could ... make

Villa unstable in some way," he explained.

Villa manager Paul Lambert said his 16th-placed side were fortunate to go into halftime at 0-0.

"We rode our luck massively in the first half because Spurs were very good," said Lambert who was confident his squad would recover from their two heavy defeats.

"They will be fine," he said. "Whether we win, lose or draw ... we always try to treat them the same way and try to keep their spirits the same.—Reuters



Tottenham Hotspur's Gareth Bale celebrates their win against Aston Villa with the match ball for scoring a hat-trick in their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham on 26 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Scandalous decisions cost us, says QPR boss Redknapp

LONDON, 28 Dec— Queens Park Rangers manager Harry Redknapp described some of the refereeing decisions as 'scandalous' in his side's 2-1 home defeat by West Bromwich Albion which left them bottom of the Premier League on Wednesday.

West Brom's second goal in the 50th minute, given as an own goal to QPR keeper Robert Green after he came under an aerial challenge from Marc Antoine-Fortune, left Redknapp raging.

The QPR manager also slammed the officials for not awarding a late penalty



Queens Park Rangers coach Harry Redknapp reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Sunderland in Sunderland, northern England on 27 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

when West Brom defender Liam Ridgwell appeared to handle the ball inside the area as his side tried to salvage a draw.

"At the end it's a blatant penalty. Ridgwell's got his hands up. They are scandalous decisions. I can't do anything about it. It's just poor refereeing," Redknapp told the BBC before having time to cool down.

Talking to reporters later, Redknapp toned down his emotions but remained highly critical of Ridgwell's apparent handball.

"I thought the referee got it completely wrong. How

does he not see the penalty at the end? Ridgwell's hand is up there. It's the most blatant handball I've ever seen," he said.

"I asked the referee how he couldn't see it and he told me it was murky over there." On Green's own goal, Redknapp added: "It was an absolutely blatant foul. Listen I hate hearing managers moan about decisions.

I never do that and it's not a part of my life. "I don't slate referees off. They'll all tell you that. I don't go knock on their doors, but today was really poor. Two vital decisions wrong.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (29-12-12 09:30 am ~ 30-12-12 09:30 am) MST
- * News
 - * Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-V)
 - * Native Mood
 - * News
 - * Dozo Fashion Show 2012
 - * News
 - * Let's Study the Words "Lion & Mouse"
 - * Road to 27th Sea Games 2013 (Billiards and Snooker)
 - * News
 - * Thread Painting
 - * News
 - * Poe Wah Rakhine Traditional Dance
 - * News
 - * Annual Festival of Magnificent Pagoda in Shwebo
 - * News
 - * Taste of Myanmar "Noodle with Fermented Eoybean"
 - * News
 - * A Ceremony on Myanmar Literati Day
 - * Myanmar Movies "Hmone Shwe Yi"

MYANMAR TV

(29-12-2012, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|----------|---|---------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta | 2:50 pm | 14. International News |
| 7:25 am | 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 4:15 pm | 15. Cultural Dance |
| 7:50 am | 3. Nice & Sweet Song | 4:20 pm | 16. One Village & One Product |
| 8:00 am | 4. Health Programme | 4:35 pm | 17. Musical Programme |
| 8:10 am | 5. Documentary | 4:50 pm | 18. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Myanmar) |
| 8:15 am | 6. Poem Garden | 5:05 pm | 19. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 8:45 am | 7. Musical Programme | 5:10 pm | 20. International Science News |
| 11:00 am | 8. Martial Song | 5:30 pm | 21. Game For Children |
| 11:25 am | 9. Game For Children | 7:00 pm | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 11:50 am | 10. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News | 8:00 pm | 23. News |
| 1:00 pm | 11. TV Drama Series | 8:00 pm | 24. International News |
| 2:00 pm | 12. Song Programme | 8:00 pm | 25. Teleplay |
| 2:15 pm | 13. Song of National Races | 8:00 pm | 26. Myanmar movies |
| | | 8:00 pm | 27. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |

Enrique admits Liverpool need to find "winning mentality"

LONDON, 28 Dec— Liverpool defender Jose Enrique admits the side need to have more self-belief if they are to push for a top four berth this season after their 3-1 defeat at Stoke City on Wednesday.

The loss followed their impressive 4-0 win over Fulham at the weekend and left Liverpool in 10th, eight points behind fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

Spain's Enrique, who joined from Newcastle United in 2011, said he thought Liverpool would win when they took the lead through a Steven Gerrard

penalty after two minutes but the visitors' advantage lasted just three minutes.

"We have to get a winning mentality going and we have to show what we are all about," Enrique said on the club's website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

"We need more experience and need to show more character in these type of games. You can see we have quality players and we have a good squad, but we need to fight for every point we play for if we want to be in the top four."

Stoke used their physical superiority to score twice through Jonathan Walters,

who levelled the game after five minutes and registered his second early in the second half, while strike partner Kenwyne Jones was also on target.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers bemoaned bad luck for Walters' first goal but said his team simply had to be better to keep out the opposition if they were to be more consistent.

"We were terrific at the weekend but you have got to be able to put a run of games together. That's been the nature of the group over the last couple of years in terms of where we have finished," Rodgers said.—Reuters



Liverpool's Jose Enrique runs with the ball during their English Premier League match against Sunderland at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 13 Aug, 2011.

REUTERS

President U Thein Sein sends congratulatory message to Japanese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe on his appointment as Prime Minister of Japan.—MNA

Indices to be set to measure real profitability of projects to society



NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec— Foreign Aid Management Central Committee met for the second time at Government Meeting Hall in Presidential Palace here this afternoon, with an address by Committee Chairman President U Thein Sein.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board, region/state chief ministers, chairpersons of

Self-administered division/zones and departmental heads.

The President in his speech noted the international aids and loans as drivers for development process of all the developing countries after 1945, especially of Marshall Plan as the introduction of official development aid. He highlighted the contribution of the plan toward institutional development leading to political, economic, and social development, helping the war-torn

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President U Thein Sein delivers an address at second meeting of Foreign Aid Management Central Committee.—MNA

Daily private newspapers get green light

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Information

(28th December, 2012)

(Fullmoon Day of Nadaw, 1374 ME)

Announcement on application for daily private newspapers publication

1. It is hereby announced that publication of daily private newspaper will be allowed, starting the second anniversary day (1-4-2013) on which the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar takes office. A Myanmar national or an organization can submit applications. Applicants must disclose whether he or she wants to publish it at local level or at national level. And he or she can apply for the publication in national races language or in other foreign languages. As of 1-2-2013, applications can be submitted to the Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information.

2. Applicants need to make preparations to meet the following points.

Applicants

- must be Myanmar citizens (or) naturalized citizens.
- must have attained the age of 18.
- must stick a K 100 stamp on the designated forms.
- must submit community standard including purpose of publication, targeted readers, newspaper types, organizational set-up, code of ethics, code of conduct, code of practices, both in Myanmar and English languages.
- must submit arrival date, the order placed, estimated arrival date and receipts for publishers who establish new press; sale contract for those who buy the machines from others; and duty slip for those who import the new machines from foreign countries. (Applications can be submitted in advance for the machines that will arrive during six months)
- must submit the copies of publisher registration certificates for those who will use the old ones.

3. Application forms 1 and 2 are available on Website of Information Ministry (WWW.ministryofinformation.gov.mm)

Interview with Deputy Minister U Than Swe on President's Ratnagiri trip

Photos: Ko Htwe

Interviewer:
Mg Tway Htet



Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe (Writer Maung Than Swe-Dawei).

President U Thein Sein visited the Royal Residence of the late King Thibaw and the king's tomb and said prayers in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra State, during his visit to India from 20 to 22 December this year. I made an interview with Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe (Writer Maung Than Swe-Dawei) who was a member of the President's delegation to India.

Q: You have visited New Delhi for the first time in 1961. What different feeling did you have in visiting the city as a member of President's delegation compared with your first visit?

A: I went to New Delhi then just to visit the Embassy as my Ratnagiri trip was denied. I had

a heated argument with Second Secretary Daw Khin Win May. She didn't want me to go there as I was so young, just 19. I was a Senior IA student then. After 50 years, I visited the city again as a member of the delegation. This time everything was convenient.

Q: At the Hluttaw, you submitted a proposal to convey the King's remains back to Myanmar. Does this visit make it more possible?

A: Not exactly. But I can say that we are closer. During the visit, I had heard that Indian side also expressed wish to convey the remains of their King Zafar Shah back home. I never expected that, because it is a grand tomb situated in Yangon. Indians and Bangladeshis living in Yangon keep the tomb ever grand. They believe that their last king is a poet as well as a saint. They even call the tomb Draka. It is receiving assistance both from India and Bangladesh, and the leaders of the two countries whenever they are in Myanmar also visit the tomb.

But our king's tomb is in Ratnagiri, which once was a remote village, not easily accessible. There cannot be a single Myanmar in Ratnagiri. In the past the tomb was adorned with

royal decorations outside the village. But now the area of Ratnagiri increased as it has become a town and the tomb is now in the middle of houses losing its past grandeur. If it is in a big city like Kolkata Myanmar pilgrims to Bodh Gaya may visit the tomb.

As the conveyance of the remains back home is a bilateral matter, the President will take it into serious consideration. I saw him telling the state government to protect the tomb as Myanmar was keeping theirs.

President U Thein Sein is the first Myanmar leader to visit the tomb, and laid a wreath.

Q: Could you tell me the records of Myanmar citizens' visits to Ratnagiri before the President pays visit to India?

A: As far as I know, Myanmar citizens who have visited Ratnagiri before President's visit to India, is author U Aye Thein who wrote

"Remembrance of King Thibaw from Ratnagiri". And I don't know when it is. In 1993, King Thibaw's grandsons—Hteik Suphaya Gyi, Taw Phaya, Taw Phaya Nge, Taw Phaya Lay and Hteik Suphaya Htway and great grandchild (Mahasanda Kumarra) U Soe Win and Taw Phaya Myat Gyi went to Ratnagiri to take refuge in the Three Gems to share the merits with the deceased.

Q: Had the successive Myanmar leaders made arrangements to bring the remains of King Thibaw back from Ratnagiri to Myanmar?

A: Grandchild Taw Phaya Lay had told me that a committee was formed to bring it back to Myanmar in the time of former Prime Minister U Nu. In the committee, eldest daughter acted as patron, Sayagyi Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing as Chairman and Secretary was an official from

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King Thibaw's tomb in Ratnagiri of India.