

New political culture resuscitate long lost practice of finding solutions through negotiation in Myanmar society

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint read out the New Year Message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at the today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

The full text of the message is as follows:-

“Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw”

I would like to express my warmest greetings for the New Year and wish you all for your physical and mental wellbeing.

At the inception of the sixth regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, I would like to convey a message about the new political culture that has come into being, along with other political developments in the last year or so. This new political culture has resuscitated the long lost practice of finding solutions through negotiation in Myanmar society. As in other countries that have undertaken political reforms aimed at creating an open society, many members of our society have tried to express their desires openly, often by way of organizing protests. Here I would like to emphasize the fact that even in the face of confrontation from some societal groups, the government has tried to resolve the relevant problems through negotiations. In so doing, the government has also collaborated with all political forces in the country. Finding solutions in collaboration with all political forces

has opened up a new chapter in the political culture of Myanmar society. I would like to note that the acceptance of pluralism that allows the peaceful coexistence of diverse ideas and the emergence of a deliberative political culture are some of the major political achievements in our society in 2012. I would like to say that I am very proud to witness the active, open and detailed discussion of the country's problems from different political angles in the legislative body, the emergence of proper legislative practices and the evolution of checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches. I also want to emphasize the fact that if we closely observe the public attitude towards political developments in the country, we will clearly see that the degree of political consciousness and political tolerance have increased among our citizens.

While going through a democratic transition, the country needs to have good relations with other members of the international community in order to be able to undertake political and economic reforms smoothly and to ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of its citizens. As such, we have tried to improve our relations with the international community. We have hosted the visits

of many Presidents, Prime Ministers, senior officials, Speakers and Members of Parliaments from various countries, and Presidents of the European Union, the World Bank and other international organizations. There were 134 visits of state-level dignitaries from various partner countries and international organizations in 2012 alone. The improved and intensified relations with the international community have greatly helped the reform process in the country as well.

Progress in the peace process is another major political achievement of the country in 2012. Peace talks were initiated with the 11 main nationalities armed groups and some cease fire agreements were reached with 10 armed groups. Our government firmly believes that we must proceed from ceasefire agreements to political dialogue in order to resolve ethnic conflicts in the country once and for all. The government is currently working on the formulation of a framework for political dialogue. Preparatory meetings for political dialogue with the armed, ethnic groups that have concluded ceasefire agreements with the government are also underway. Here I would also

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Fifth South East Asian Archery Championship kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended opening ceremony of the fifth South East Asian Archery Championship hosted as a dress rehearsal for 27th SEA Games at Nay Pyi Taw Archery Range in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township this morning.

It was also attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, the Union ministers, the deputy

ministers, Vice-President of World Archery Federation and President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr Sangan Kosavinta, Vice-President of South East Asian Archery Federation and Secretary General Major Buharuddin Jamil, Vice-President of Myanmar Olympic Committee and South East Asian Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe, departmental heads, media and officials.

Union Minister U Tint

Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends opening ceremony of the fifth South East Asian Archery Championship hosted as a dress rehearsal for 27th SEA Games, at Nay Pyi Taw Archery Range.—MNA



Hsan delivered an opening speech. And Vice-President of World Archery Federation and President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr Sangan Kosavinta and Dr Khin Shwe extended the greetings.

After that, the opening ceremony followed. Vice-President U Nyan Tun cordially greeted team members and presented gifts to them. Artistes of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture, Myanmar Wushu Federation

and Myanmar Traditional Cane-Ball Federation demonstrated their skills. Athletes from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar participate in the

four-day competitions. It includes recurve, compound and recurve mix team and compound mix team with 18 gold medals, 18 silver medals and 18 bronze medals.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (10-1-2013)

Loilem	0°C
Namhsam	2°C
Pinlaung	2°C
Heho	2°C
Lashio	5°C

Housing, Living & Automobile 2013 kicks off

YANGON, 10 Jan — Organized by Dagon Exhibition Limited with the sponsorship of Great Fatherland, the opening of Housing, Living & Automobile 2013 took place at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisaya Road in Dagon Township, here, this morning. Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Than Myint

formally opened the exhibition, and those present viewed round the booths on display at the exhibition.

Booths of housing, interior decoration and construction materials, modern furniture, sanitation equipment and kitchen utensils, home paint, industrial tools, electronics and electrical appliances, handsets and accessories,

computer and accessories, stationary, medicines, cosmetics, clothing and fashion, educational services, banking services, auto-mobile, spare parts and accessories from local and foreign companies are available at the exhibition.

Various kinds of entertainment programmes will be organized at the exhibition up to 13 January. — NLM



Talks on trafficking in person and curbing crime given in Mawlamyine

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan — Jointly-organized by anti-human trafficking special squad and local police force, an educative talks on trafficking in person and curbing crime took place at the office of Aukkyin ward administrator

in Mawlamyine of Mon State on 5 January.

Inspector Aung Win of anti-human trafficking special squad (Mawlamyine) gave talks on knowledge about trafficking in person and anti-human trafficking law, Inspector Win Aung

of Daingwunkwin Police Station on curbing crime and Sub-inspector Aung Naing of Traffic Police Corps on traffic rules. Pamphlets were distributed to those present at the talks.

MNA

Substitution of old lamp-posts for safety of local people from possible danger of electricity

PANTANAW, 10 Jan — With the aim of ensuring the safety of local people from possible danger of electricity and the adequate supply of electricity at full voltages in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region, staff of the township Electric Power Enterprise substituted 16 old wooden lamp posts carrying 400 volts service line with concrete

ones along Kannar street and weather-beaten iron and wooden frames of 11 KV pylons with concrete and steel ones on 7 January.

Pantanaw Township Electric Power Enterprise spent the money from the funds for 2012-13 fiscal year of the department on substitution of lamp-posts and frames of 11 KV pylon. — Kyemon

Business visas come high on the list of the issue of arrival visas to foreign visitors

YANGON, 10 Jan — According to the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the business visas came high on the list of the issue of arrival visas to foreign visitors at the airports.

Up to 3 December, 11273 visitors entered the country on business visas, 780 on entry visas and 54 on transit visas. The issue of arrival visas

Kayan Township Association (Yangon) invites application for annual stipend

KAYAN, 10 Jan — Offspring of Kayan

dwellers who are going to take university courses are invited to apply annual stipend for 2013-14 academic year granted by Kayan Township Association (Yangon).

Students are to submit their application forms together with necessary documents to the office of the association not later than 20 January.

Kyemon

Ulsan University team arrives for friendlies in Yangon

YANGON, 10 Jan — Ulsan University football team of the Republic of Korea arrived at Yangon International Airport where they were welcomed by In-charge of foreign relations department of Myanmar Football Federation U Soe Win and Technical Director U Tin Myint Aung on 8 January.

The Ulsan University football team is formed with 22 players and a three-member coach team.

The team plays against Zwekabin FC at Thuwunna stadium at 4 pm today and Myanmar U-19 selected football team at Aung San Stadium at 3.30 pm on 12 January.

The football team of the University of Ulsan will play friendly matches against Myanmar U-19 selected football team and Zwekabin FC of Myanmar National

League. Before their visit to Myanmar, the Ulsan University football team played friendly matches in Cambodia recently.

Kyemon

Archers from Southeast Asian countries arrive in Myanmar

YANGON, 10 Jan — Archers from Southeast Asian countries yesterday arrived at Yangon International Airport to take part in the sports trials ahead of the fifth Southeast Asia Championship Archery Competition and the XXVII SEA Games to be held in Wunnatheiddhi Archery Court in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 14 January.

Hoong Mau Sui on SQ-998 flight, Malaysian archery team on MH-740 flight, Indonesian archery team on MI 518 flight and Vietnamese archery team on VN-597 flight in the morning, afternoon and evening on that day.

Thai archery team led by Mr. Sanguran Kosavinta arrived here on TG-303 flight, Jury Maj Bahanruddin Jamil on AK-1424 flight, Singaporean archery team led by Mr.

They were welcomed at the airport by Director U Kyaw San Oo, Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon), and officials. The archers from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam left here for Nay Pyi Taw by express buses.

Kyemon

Photo shows local children taking part in outdoor games held in commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day on Thitwin street of Ward-1 in Kyondo of Kawkaeik District in Kayin State on 4 January.

KYEMON



WORLD

Slovenian PM meets Chinese defence minister on cooperation

LJUBLJANA, 10 Jan—Slovenia's Prime Minister Janez Jansa met visiting Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie in Ljubljana on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Jansa said his country regarded China as its strategic cooperation partner and highly values its cooperation with China on defence and military.

He said that the relationship between Slovenia and China has been developing smoothly in recent years, adding that both sides enjoyed frequent political dialogues and close cooperations in various sections.

The official said Liang's visit, the first Chinese defence minister to visit Slovenia, has a historic significance that will not only deepen cooperations of both sides on defense and military but also promote overall ties of the two countries.

Liang, who is also a state councilor, said that China regarded Slovenia as its main partner and attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations between them.

The defence minister said Chinese army is willing to increase exchanges and cooperations with Slovenia's side to take the

military ties to a new level so as to make positive contributions to comprehensive development of relations between the two countries.

Earlier on Wednesday, Liang also held talks with his Slovenian counterpart Ales Hojs. During the talks, they exchanged views on bilateral military cooperation, regional security situation, as well as other issues of common concern.

Liang arrived in Ljubljana on Tuesday for a three-day official visit. He has been the first Chinese defence minister visiting Slovenia since the establishment of their diplomatic ties 21 years ago. —Xinhua



Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie (L) shakes hands with his Slovenian counterpart Ales Hojs in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 9 Jan, 2013. Liang arrived in Ljubljana on Tuesday for a three-day official visit. —XINHUA

US labour secretary resigns

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan—US Labour Secretary Hilda Solis has resigned, according to the White House on Wednesday.

The White House said in a statement that Solis has been a "tireless champion for working families," and has been a critical member of President Barack Obama's economic team during a time of economic downturn.

"Over the last four years, Secretary Solis has been a critical member of my economic team as we have worked to recover from the worst economic downturn since the great depression and strengthen the economy for the middle class," Obama said in the statement.

Before Solis, several cabinet members have also announced they will not stay on for Obama's second term, such as Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and Lisa Jackson, head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Reuters

Xinhua

Four arrested in multi-million dollar drug bust in Western Australia

SYDNEY, 10 Jan—Four people have been arrested in a multi-agency drug bust in Western Australia after the discovery of more than 35 kilograms of methylamphetamine concealed in ceramic tiles, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Thursday.

The joint investigation involving the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service began on 2

January, according to the AFP.

Following criminal intelligence supplied by the ACC, Customs and Border Protection officers examined a container from China that had arrived at the port of Fremantle in Western Australia and found 17 pallets of ceramic tiles. Further examination revealed a crystalline substance concealed within the tiles that allegedly tested positive for methylamphetamine, the AFP said. —Xinhua

Halt of six party talks sends wrong signal

MOSCOW, 10 Jan—The pause of talks between Iran and six major international mediators has sent a wrong signal, a senior Russian diplomat said on Wednesday.

Five months after the Moscow round of nuclear talks between Iran and the UN Security Council's five permanent members, namely the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany, known as P5+1, the parties still have not reached an agreement on the place and date of next round of talks, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

"This becomes unclear and sends a wrong signal," the diplomat told Itar-Tass news agency, adding the issue should be made clear soon.

As one of the mediators, Russia kept working on the schedule of the talks during its Christmas holi-

days and expected a clear result as soon as possible, Ryabkov said.

Iran and the P5+1 have held several rounds of talks over its controversial nuclear program, but no agreement has been reached so far. Both sides are currently in contact to prepare the grounds for another round of meeting.

According to the Russian diplomat, both the sextet and Iran agreed another round of talks would take place, though certain difficulties remained over coordination of the meeting's details. Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili said recently Tehran welcomes the readiness of the six major world powers to hold constructive talks with the Islamic republic. Iranian officials have said that lifting sanctions is a primary step for the success of Iran's future nuclear talks with the P5+1. —Xinhua

57 injured in NY ferry crash, two critical

NEW YORK, 10 Jan—At least 57 people were injured, two critically, when a ferry crashed into a dock Wednesday morning in Lower Manhattan, New York City, local authorities told Xinhua.

The boat, Seastreak Wall Street, with 326 on board including five crew, departed from Highlands, New Jersey at 8:00 am and was scheduled to reach Pier 11 on the lower east coast of Manhattan 45 minutes. However, five minutes prior to docking, it "hit Slip D, then continued on and hit Slip B" at a speed of 10 to 12 knots, Janette Sadik-Khan, commissioner of the city's Department of Transportation, told Xinhua.

"Basically it was a hard landing," she said, refusing to comment on whether the speed was normal for a boat approaching the pier.

When the crash happened, a rescue team was

sent there in a little over three minutes. "Nobody was in the water. Everybody was in the boat," New York City Fire Department Commissioner Salvatore Cassano told Xinhua. Of the 57 wounded, two were critically injured on the head, nine in serious condition, 17 were guarded, and 29 got minor injuries, said Cassano. The seriously injured were sent to Manhattan hospitals for immediate medical treatment, while the rest were taken to Brooklyn hospitals.

The cause of this crash is still "under investigation," said Joseph Bruno, commissioner of the city's Office of Emergency Management. The extent of damage remained unknown at this moment.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those that were injured," said a statement from Seastreak, the company who owns the ship

that crashed into the pier. "Seastreak LLC will work closely with the Federal, State and local authorities to determine the cause of the accident." The Seastreak Wall Street ferry entered into service in 2003. According to its official website, the 140.7-foot-long ship with three decks and a capacity of 505 passengers has a maximum speed of 42 knots.

Reuters



Rescue teams work at the accident site where a ferry boat crashed into Pier 11 in lower Manhattan, New York, the United States, on 9 Jan, 2013. —XINHUA

UN envoy says Assad can't be in Syrian transition

CAIRO/BEIRUT, 10 Jan—The UN peace envoy for Syria said on Wednesday that Bashar al-Assad could have no place in a transitional government to end civil war, the closest he has come to calling directly for the em-

battled president to quit.

A peace plan agreed by major powers in Geneva last year envisages an interim administration. "Surely he would not be a member of that government," UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi told Reu-

ters in an interview in Cairo.

He reiterated that the Geneva plan remained "the base for a solution in Syria", ravaged by a war the United Nations says has already killed 60,000 people.

"There is no military solution," he said. "The solution shouldn't wait until 2014. It should be in 2013."

He described a speech by Assad this week as "uncompromising", saying he had "narrowed his initiative by excluding some parties" from his own peace proposals.

Assad's speech offered no concessions and included a vow never to talk to foes he branded terrorists and Western puppets.

Brahimi urged all parties to compromise for the sake of the victims of the conflict. "I say to the Syrians — be they fighters, or the president or officials - that any concession is not a loss in order that this situation ends."

Brahimi said he would travel to Geneva on Thursday for a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov and US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns, whose governments back different sides in the war.

He said the opposition and Assad had to accept the Geneva plan and implement it. "Of course this requires ceasing fire," he said.

Reuters



Boys walk past a car damaged by shelling in the al-Mashhad District of Aleppo on 9 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



New York Senator Charles Schumer holds up his tablet at an announcement of neighborhood WiFi in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Google offers New York City neighbourhood free WiFi

NEW YORK, 10 Jan—Google Inc and a New York redevelopment organization are providing a Manhattan neighbourhood with free public WiFi Internet access, making it the largest area of coverage in New York City.

The search giant and the non-profit Chelsea Improvement Co are making Internet access available outdoors in Chelsea, which is home to Google's New York offices and several technology start-ups.

The neighbourhood

is also home to many students, as well as residents of one of the city's public housing developments.

Google does not plan to extend the programme, a company spokesman said on Tuesday.

The company also provides free Internet access to the city of Mountain View, California, where its main campus is located.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and US Senator Charles Schumer helped unveil the initiative.—Reuters

Researchers regenerate ear cells

NEW YORK, 10 Jan—Japanese and US researchers say they have successfully regenerated a type of ear cell in mice, paving the way for a new method of treating hearing difficulties.

Researchers from Japan's Keio University and Harvard University in the US injected a drug into the inner ear of mice with hearing difficulties and found 3 months later that the number of sensory hair cells had increased by 50 percent.

Hearing impairment can be caused when hair cells are destroyed by noise, aging or side effects from anti-cancer drugs. But it has been known that other cells

can be turned into hair cells by removing some stimulants to them. The team used a drug that can inhibit such stimulants.

They later had the mice hear multiple sounds and measured electric signals inside their brains.

The researchers found the ability of the mice to hear low-pitched sounds had been restored to some degree. The team says their experiment is the first in the world to revive hair cells in living animals and actually confirm an improvement in hearing ability in them.

They hope their research will lead to new treatments for hearing problems.—Reuters

Samsung, LG unveil super-thin, curved televisions

LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan—South Korean consumer device makers Samsung Electronics Co and LG Electronics Inc unveiled curved, super-thin televisions on Tuesday, hoping to become early market leaders in new organic light-emitting diode (OLED) TV technology.

Considered the future of consumer electronics displays, the OLED technology is more energy-efficient and offers higher-contrast

images than liquid crystal display, and is so thin that future mobile devices will be able to fold like paper.

The panels use an organic chemical compound as a key material which emits light in response to an electric current.

Both Samsung and its rival LG unveiled 55-inch OLED TV a year ago at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, and this year they advanced their technology with a curved

Panasonic, in one-upmanship, unveils biggest OLED TV

LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan—Panasonic Corp, in a display of technological one-upmanship with its South Korean rivals, unveiled a prototype of the world's largest OLED screen on Tuesday.

The half-inch thick, 56-inch television, based on organic light-emitting diode technology, is a mere inch bigger than ones offered up by Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics a year ago in Las Vegas. The technology in theory allows for thinner screens that consume less power.

Japan's Sony Corp, which is cooperating with Panasonic in OLED technology, on Monday unwrapped its own 56-inch ultra high-definition model.

Sony on Monday also said it will widen its range of ultra high-definition LCD sets to three this year, as it stakes out its territory in next-generation TVs.

Guests are silhouetted at the launch event of Windows 8 operating system in New York, on 25 Oct, 2012.
REUTERS



LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan—Microsoft Corp has sold 60 million licenses and upgrades for its new Windows 8 operating system in the 10 weeks since its launch, one of the top executives of the company's Windows unit said at the Consumer Electronics Show on Tuesday.

The figure marks a

solid but unspectacular start for Microsoft's new flagship product, which has not

managed to revive lagging personal computer sales, while new touch-screen Windows devices have not yet captured consumers' imaginations.

Windows 8 sales are growing in line with those of Windows 7, Microsoft's last operating system, launched in 2009, said

Windows 8 sales steady, hit 60 mln since October launch

Tami Reller, chief financial officer of the Windows division, in a presentation to analysts and investors at the annual tech show in Las Vegas.

The latest Windows 8 figure means Microsoft sold around 20 million Windows 8 licenses and upgrades since the end of November, when it announced 40 million sales in the first month on the market.

That puts sales broadly in line with Windows 7, which averaged 19.4 million sales per month in its first nine months on the market, when PC sales were running at a lower level than today.

Reller did not say how many of the Windows 8 sales were bulk orders from PC manufacturers and did not break out the proportion of full license sales and

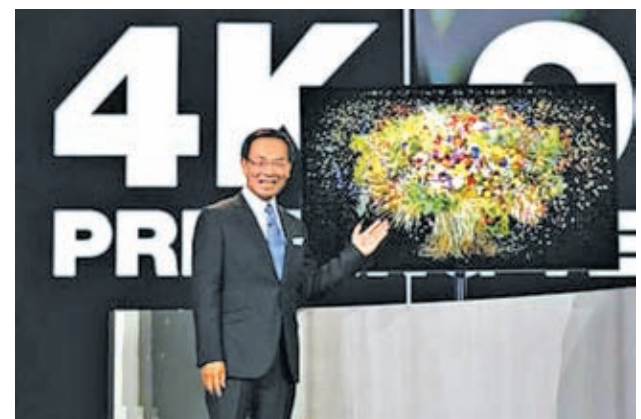
cheaper upgrades from earlier versions of Windows. She also did not say how many Surface tablets—designed to tackle Apple Inc's iPad head on—Microsoft had sold.

Final figures for PC sales in 2012, due in the next week or so from industry tracking groups, are expected to show the first year-on-year decline in a decade as consumers move toward mobile computing on powerful tablets and phones.

Microsoft's app-based, touch-friendly Windows 8 system is an attempt to adjust to that shift.

Microsoft shares fell 0.5 percent to \$26.55 on the Nasdaq on Tuesday. They are down 6 percent since the launch of Windows 8 on 26 October.

Reuters



Panasonic chief Kazuhiro Tsuga introduces the company's new 4K OLED 56-inch television during the Panasonic opening day keynote at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 8 January, 2013.—REUTERS

electronics arena.

"Panasonic's future is being built on far more than a single product category," Tsuga said. Panasonic and Japan's two other big TV makers, Sony and Sharp Corp, have been hammered by competition from Korean rivals led by Samsung.

Japan's share of the world's flat panel TV market this year likely contracted to 31 percent from 41 percent in 2010, according to the Japan

Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association.

Tsuga has also vowed to deliver the details of a revival plan by the end of March. So far, he has said that businesses that fail to achieve a 5 percent operating margin within two years will be shuttered or sold. Sales of its weakest units may start next business year. Panasonic is forecasting a net loss of \$8.9 billion in the year to 31 March.

Reuters



The company logo is displayed at the Samsung news conference at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 7 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

DNA pioneer James Watson takes aim at “cancer establishments”

NEW YORK, 10 Jan— A day after an exhaustive national report on cancer found the United States is making only slow progress against the disease, one of the country’s most iconic — and iconoclastic — scientists weighed in on “the war against cancer.” And he does not like what he sees.

James Watson, co-discoverer of the double helix structure of DNA, lit into targets large and small. On government officials who oversee cancer research, he wrote in a paper published on Tuesday in the journal *Open Biology*, “We now have no general of influence, much less power ... leading our country’s War on Cancer.”

On the \$100 million US project to determine the DNA changes that drive nine forms of cancer: It is “not likely to produce the truly breakthrough drugs that we now so desperately need,” Watson argued. On the idea that antioxidants such as those in colourful berries fight cancer: “The time has come to seriously ask whether antioxidant use



Dr James Watson, co-discoverer of the DNA helix and father of the Human Genome Project.

REUTERS

much more likely causes than prevents cancer.”

That Watson’s impassioned plea came on the heels of the annual cancer report was coincidental. He worked on the paper for months, and it represents the culmination of decades of thinking about the subject. Watson, 84, taught a course on cancer at Harvard University in 1959, three years before he shared the Nobel Prize in medicine for his role in discovering the double helix, which opened the door to understanding

the role of genetics in disease. Other cancer luminaries gave Watson’s paper mixed reviews.

“There are a lot of interesting ideas in it, some of them sustainable by existing evidence, others that simply conflict with well-documented findings,” said one eminent cancer biologist who asked not to be identified so as not to offend Watson. “As is often the case, he’s stirring the pot, most likely in a very productive way.”

There is wide agree-

ment, however, that current approaches are not yielding the progress they promised. Much of the decline in cancer mortality in the United States, for instance, reflects the fact that fewer people are smoking, not the benefits of clever new therapies.

“The great hope of the modern targeted approach was that with DNA sequencing we would be able to find what specific genes, when mutated, caused each cancer,” said molecular biologist Mark Ptashne of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York. The next step was to design a drug to block the runaway proliferation the mutation caused. But almost none of the resulting treatments cures cancer. “These new therapies work for just a few months,” Watson told *Reuters* in a rare interview. “And we have nothing for major cancers such as the lung, colon and breast that have become metastatic.”

The main reason drugs that target genetic glitches are not cures is that cancer cells have a work-around.

Reuters

VW, BMW favourites to gain market share in auto sector

DETROIT, 10 Jan— Volkswagen AG (VOWG_p.DE) and BMW (BMWG.DE) are the favourites to add market share in the global auto industry over the next five years, according to a survey of top automotive executives released on Wednesday. Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) saw a big rebound in its standing, and while the combination of Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) and its Kia Motors Corp (000270.KS) affiliate still ranked fourth, the number of executives who felt they will gain market share declined, according to the survey conducted by advisory firm KPMG.

VW topped the list for the third consecutive

year, and the percentage of executives who believe the German automaker will gain market share globally jumped 11 points to 81 percent, according to KPMG. BMW was second at 70 percent, up 7 points from last year’s survey.

“VW has been No 1 for the last three years, but to continue and to have an 11-point increase, I was taken aback by it,” said Gary Silberg, national auto industry leader for KPMG.

Toyota, which suffered a hit to its image when it recalled nearly 19 million cars globally from 2009 through early 2011, showed the biggest gain, KPMG said. It finished third at 68 percent, up from 44 percent last year.—*Reuters*



Fallen autumn leaves are seen on the bonnet of a BMW parked in a street in London on 16 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

IMF maintains growth outlook on “fiscal cliff” deal



International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde.

REUTERS

ABIDJAN, 10 Jan—The IMF will maintain its 2013 economic growth forecast at 2.1 percent after last week’s

“fiscal cliff” deal but looming debt ceiling negotiations and sequestration pose risks, its managing director

said on Tuesday.

“We had a growth forecast of 2.1 percent for the United States in 2013. With what has been agreed, properly implemented of course, we will be within the parameters that we had set,” Christine Lagarde told journalists during a visit to Ivory Coast. “The uncertainty related to the debt ceiling discussion and sequestration are still two big question marks for the stability going forward of the US economy,” she said.

Reuters

Nissan to sell new lower-priced version of Leaf electric car

NEW YORK, 10 Jan—Nissan Motor Co (7201.T) will introduce a lower-priced version of its electric car, called the Leaf S, as it rolls out the 2013 models, the company said on Wednesday.

Pricing for the new versions of the Leaf, including two that have been sold for two years, has not yet been announced.

The 2013 Leaf is expected to be at dealerships in February, said Brian

Brockman, Nissan spokesman.

Two versions of the Leaf will come with a standard 6.6-kilowatt on-board charger that will cut charging time in half compared with 2012 models, Nissan said.

That onboard charger will be optional equipment on the new Leaf S, Nissan said. Pricing for that option was not released by Nissan.

Leaf cars sold in North

America for the past two years have been made at Nissan’s plant in Japan. Production has shifted to the company’s Smyrna, Tennessee plant, where output ramped up this week for 2013 models, Brockman said.

The 6.6-KW onboard charger will allow owners to charge the Leaf’s lithium-ion battery in less than four hours using a 220-volt outlet.

Reuters

Qatar Airways chief dismisses Dreamliner concerns

DOHA, 10 Jan— Qatar Airways’ chief executive played down safety concerns over Boeing’s new (BA.N) 787 Dreamliner aircraft on Wednesday, dismissing a series of recent incidents involving the plane as “teething problems” and saying he had no plans to cancel orders.

“Of course there will be teething problems from time to time, but this is foreseen with any new aircraft programme,” Akbar al-Baker told reporters at an event in Doha on Wednesday.

Qatar Airways is the largest customer of the Dreamliner in the Middle East with an order for up to 60 of the aircraft — 30



Seats and screens are seen in the economy class cabin of Qatar Airways new Boeing 787 Dreamliner are seen after it arrived on its inaugural flight to Heathrow Airport, west London on 13 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

firm orders plus an option on acquiring 30 more. It currently has a fleet of five 787 jets.

“Since the first issues we had with our newly-delivered airplanes, we’ve had no other technical issues with the fleet of five Dreamliners we are operating now,” he added.

Japan’s All Nippon Airways Co (9202.T) cancelled a Dreamliner flight scheduled to fly from Yamaguchi prefecture in western Japan to Tokyo on Wednesday due to brake problems.

This came just a day after a fuel leak forced a 787 operated by Japan Airlines (9201.T) to cancel its take-off at Boston’s Logan International Airport.—*Reuters*

WORLD

UK man sentenced in Texas for bid to sell weapons parts to Iran

SAN ANTONIO/EL PASO, 10 Jan—A British businessman was sentenced in Texas on Wednesday to nearly three years in prison for selling weapons parts to Iran in violation of international sanctions.

Christopher Tappin, 66, was sentenced to 33 months in a federal prison after he pleaded guilty to one count of aiding the illegal export of defence articles from 2005 to 2007. The sentence was the result of a plea agreement that prohibits Tappin from appealing his conviction or his sentence.

That agreement could allow Tappin, the owner of a shipping company, to serve part of his sentence in Britain.

"I look forward to returning home and being near my friends and family,

especially my sick wife," Tappin told reporters after the sentencing in El Paso, Texas.

The wealthy businessman from Kent was convicted of trying to sell components for Hawk Air Defence Missile Systems to Iran. Prosecutors said that if the scheme had succeeded, Tappin stood to collect a relatively modest profit of \$11,000.

The six-year-long saga began when US Homeland Security Investigations agents learned of a plot to use phony freight invoices and complicated cash transfers to attempt to send zinc/silver oxide reserve batteries for the weapons systems to Iran. Exporting the batteries from the United States requires a license or written authorization from the US State Department.

"Those who violate federal law for monetary gain, and in the process put the national security of the United States and its allies at risk, will face prosecution and punishment for their callous disregard for the public's safety," US Attorney Robert Pitman said following the sentencing.

Tappin was also ordered on Wednesday to pay a fine of \$11,357.

He spent two years fighting extradition from Britain to the United States until he exhausted his appeals. Since his extradition in February 2012 to face the charges, he has been in and out of custody.

Two associates in the plot were also arrested and have been sentenced to prison terms of 20 months and 24 months.

Reuters

126 bushfires burn in Australia's New South Wales, 15 uncontrolled

SYDNEY, 10 Jan—Firefighters are battling 126 bushfires in Australia's state of New South Wales (NSW), with 15 of those remaining uncontrolled, the authorities said on Thurs-

day. NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons urged people to remain vigilant and informed as fire conditions are still very high in the northern part of NSW.

"We've got 126 fires still, with 15 of those yet to be contained — a lot of work for firefighters," he told the Australian television network Channel Seven on Thursday.—Xinhua

Pakistani girl shot by Taleban honoured with prize

TOKYO, 10 Jan—France has honoured a Pakistani girl shot by the Taleban with a prize for promoting women's rights.

Fifteen-year-old Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head last October because she had criticized the Taleban for denying education to girls. She was seriously injured and is now being treated in Britain.

At an award ceremony in Paris on Wednesday, Malala's father, Ziauddin, accepted the Simone de Beauvoir Prize on her behalf. He urged the Taleban to abandon weapons and adopt a peaceful and humanitarian approach.

Also on the screen, her picture and message was shown to the attendants, expressing that she wants education and is not afraid of anybody or any violence.

The audience praised her courage for risking her life on behalf of women's educational rights.—NHK



A citizen shows ornaments in the shape of cartoon snake in celebration of the "Year of the Snake" starting from on 10 Feb, at a shopping mall in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 9 Jan, 2013. The lunar year 2013 is the "Year of the Snake" in the Chinese zodiac. XINHUA

US slaps sanctions on two key operatives of Mexican cartels

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan—The US Treasury Department announced on Wednesday that it is slapping sanctions on two key operatives of the Sinaloa Cartel, a drug-trafficking syndicate from northwestern Mexico.

The department designates top Sinaloa Cartel member Damaso Lopez Nunez and Ines Coronel Barreras, the father-in-law of Sinaloa drug lord Joaquin "Chapo" Guzman Loera, for their roles in drug-trafficking, according to a statement released

by the department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

The designation prohibits Americans from conducting business transactions with these two individuals, and also freezes any assets they may have under US jurisdiction.

"Today, OFAC designated Chapo Guzman's right-hand man and his father-in-law," said OFAC Director Adam Szubin in the statement. "Working with our federal law enforcement partners, we will continue to go after



Photo shows a Boeing 787 Dreamliner operated by Japan Airlines Co after the jet arrived at Narita airport from Boston on 9 Jan, 2013. The jet was forced to return to the terminal at Boston's Logan International Airport on 8 January after a fuel leak was found just before takeoff, the second time in two days a brand-new Boeing 787 in JAL's fleet has been hit by trouble at the airport.—KYODO NEWS

Russia to formally commission new strategic submarine

MOSCOW, 10 Jan—Russia's newest strategic nuclear submarine *Yuri Dolgoruky* is to be put into service on Thursday, the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

The fourth-generation Borei-class sub, with new and improved ballistic missile capabilities, is one of the eight major projects to be completed by 2020 that aim to form the core of the Rus-

sian Navy's nuclear deterrence strategy over the coming decades.

Designed by the Rubin bureau in St Petersburg, the submarine is 170m long and 13.5m wide, with a diving depth of 450 metres.

Later this week, Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit the naval base in the

northern port city of Severomorsk, where the submarine is stationed. He will participate in the commissioning ceremony via video link, according to the Kremlin Press service.

The total cost of the new submarine was estimated at 23 billion rubles (750 million US dollars).—Xinhua

Car blast in Damascus' suburb kills 10: activists

DAMASCUS, 10 Jan—As many as 10 people were killed and 50 others injured when a car bomb tore through a restive suburb of Syria's capital Damascus on Wednesday evening, activists said.

The Local Coordination Committee (LCC), an activists' network documenting the crisis in Syria, reported the blast at al-Muadamiyah, which has emerged as a stronghold for the armed rebels.

Details surrounding the blast remain murky with the absence of official comments. The LCC posted on its Facebook page a video footage purporting to show the destruction caused by the car blast and accused the administration of stag-

ing the incident. However, a pro-government News website said the blast site is under the rebels' control.

Most of Syria's blasts were claimed by the al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front, which has recently been labeled by the US as a terrorist organization. But activists often accuse the government of carrying out blasts to tarnish the opposition fighters.

According to UN estimates, more than 60,000 people have been killed in Syria since the unrest erupted in early 2011. Also, the World Food Programme said that around 2.5 million people in Syria are in need of food assistance but only 1.5 million can receive supplies from the agency.

Xinhua



A flock of snow cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*), one of China's Class-I State-Protected Species, are seen at the Shahu Wetland of the Poyang Lake, in Jiujiang City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 9 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Volleyball athletes invited to respect paying ceremony

YANGON, 10 Jan—The respect paying ceremony and prize presentation for outstanding students will be held by Kyaukse Township Association at Dhamma Beikman at the corner of West Shwegondaing Road and New Yedashe Road in Bahan Township on 13 January.

Volleyball athletes may

attend the ceremony. Those wishing to make cash donation may contact U Myint Thein through 09-8610158, U Tint Lwin through 09-43180038, U Win Myint through 09-73132295, U Ko Ko Naing through 09-5010306 and U Kyaw Win through 09-5175915.

Myanma Alinn

Sunflower plantations thriving in Indaw Township



SAGAING, 10 Jan—Almost all the sunflower plantations are thriving along the bank of Meza Creek in Indaw Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region.

“We set a plan to grow sunflower on 9981

acres of farmland in 2012-2013 cultivation season. At present, our township has grown 8787 acres of sunflower. The remaining areas will be put under sunflower at the end of January. Almost all the sunflower plantations are

thriving,” said Staff Officer U Saw Htwe Oo of Indaw Township Settlement and Land Records Department.

Sunflowers are cultivated along the banks of Meza Creek, Namee and Laydan creeks in Indaw Township.—Myanma Alinn

Talks on anti-trafficking in person given

PYINMANA, 10 Jan—Talks on combating human trafficking and book donation was held in Yeaye and Nyuntlunt villages in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area on 31 December and 3 January. Police Col Win Khaung (writer Htet Khaung) of Myanmar Police Force and Police Major Khin Maung Hla of Anti-

Human Trafficking Central Committee of MPF gave talks on prevention against trafficking in person. It was attended by over 300 local people.—Myanma Alinn

Myanmar traditional arts show displayed



YANGON, 10 Jan—Myanmar Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association (Central) displays the Painting and Sculpture Show at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, here, as of 4 January.

Secretary of the Association (Central) U

Ni Po Oo disclosed that the show was aimed at preserving the Myanmar cultural heritage, flourishing 10 kinds of traditional arts, handing down the arts to new generations, keeping abreast of other nations and exchanging knowledge about culture with other

countries.

A total of 702 artists from countryside display 992 works of paintings including works of water colour, oil colour, acrylic and wax paintings. People may enjoy panoramic views of arts at the show.

Myanma Alinn

Newly-repaved road commissioned into service

YANGON, 10 Jan—In commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, the self-reliant concrete road was opened in Dala Township of Yangon Region on 4 January.

At the Independence Day ceremony, Township Administrator Assistant Director U Tun Tun Win

read the message sent by the President.

After that, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Win, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Kyaw Win and retired teacher U Than Htut formally opened the newly-repaved road.

Myanma Alinn



Reproductive knowledge course for youth opened

NGAPUTAW, 10 Jan—As part of efforts to share reproductive knowledge to the youths, the youth information corner course was conducted in Sangyoung-Sinohpo Village in Ngaputaw Township of Ayeyawady Region on 22 December.

It was attended by 42 trainees.

The training course was sponsored with the assistance of by German Project, JOICFP and UNFPA in addition to Ministry of Helath.

Secretary of the Supervisory Committee for Youth House U Han Win Aung called all the trainees to contribute to reduction of infant mortality and mother death rate.

Myanma Alinn

GANGAW, 10 Jan—The 19th Sarsodaw Day, organized by Village Library Committee, was marked in the compound of Ledi Monastery in Shonshi Village of Gangaw Township on 28 December evening.

Members of the library sang the song for literati in chorus.

Next, children poem recitation, tale telling and extempore talks were held at the ceremony.

Myanma Alinn

24th outbreak of fire occurs at Padaukpin oil field

THAYET, 10 Jan—A fire broke out for the 24th time in Padaukpin oil field in Thayet Township of Magway Region at 2 pm on 4 January.

The outbreak of fire occurred at the test well of Golden Season Co (ES).

While Myo Min Zaw, 33, son of U Nyan Shwe of InU Village in Migyaungye of Magway, Tun Tun Wai,

Sports trials for swimmers, divers

YANGON, 10 Jan—Organized by Myanmar Swimming Federation, the sports trials for setting records of swimmers and divers was held at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township on 3 January morning.

At the sports trial, Aung Myo Oo set the record of 18 minutes 25.60 sec for men’s 1500-m freestyle event, Arnt

Khaung Htut, 20 min 17.73 sec the second, Thet Ko Ko Tun, 21 min 55.22 sec the third.

Ei Ei Thet stood the first with 10 min and 15.80 sec, Khant Khant Su the second with 10 min 75.11 sec and Sabei Thin the third with 11 min 44.66 sec in the women’s 800-m free style event.

After that, another recording setting sports trial continued.—Myanma Alinn

Pyapon gets new concrete street

PYAPON, 10 Jan—A ceremony to inaugurate Aungthukha 3rd street placed with concrete was held at the archway of the street in Ward 3 of Pyapon of Ayeyawady Region on 4 January.

The deputy commissioner of the District General Administration Department, the executive officer of Development Affairs Committee and townselder

formally cut the ribbon to open the repave street.

The 2000 feet long facility was built with K 3.2 million by the local people and K 9.52 million by the Township Development Affairs Committee .

As Pyapon Township is in the rainy area, the street was constructed with the use of concrete for resistance of rains.—Myanma Alinn

Sarsodaw Day marked in Gangaw Township



25 of Dawposi Village of Dimawso Township and Han Myint (a) Ko Min, 31 of Kyeetaing Village in Thayet Township were drilling the well to 670 feet depth, oil

from the well pumped up and caused outbreak of fire.

The local people could not control the fire up to 12 noon on 4 January.

Myanma Alinn

Take Fire Preventive Measures

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 11 January, 2013

Efficiency and effectiveness

In management, it is important to achieve high efficiency as well as effectiveness. The relative emphasis to be given to efficiency and effectiveness varies from one situation to another. Efficiency and effectiveness are both commonly used management terms. Yet, while they sound similar and start with the same letters, they both mean different things. Efficiency refers to doing things in a right manner. Scientifically, it is defined as the output to input ratio and focuses on getting the maximum output with minimum resources.

Effectiveness, on the other hand, refers to doing the right things. It constantly measures if the actual output meets the desired output. Since efficiency is all about focusing on the process, importance is given to the 'means' of doing things whereas effectiveness focuses on achieving the 'end' goal.

Since efficiency is about doing things right, it demands documentation and repetition of the same steps. Doing the same thing again and again in the same manner will certainly discourage innovation. On the other hand, effectiveness encourages innovation as it demands people to think, the different ways they can meet the desired goal.

In order to be a successful organization, there needs to be a balance between effectiveness and efficiency. Only being efficient and not meeting the requirements of the stakeholders of the organization is of little use to anybody. And effectiveness may result in success but at what cost? Organizations should establish baselines for efficiency, effectiveness, and adaptability metrics. In other words, they should determine their current performance levels. Then they should benchmark best-in-class or world-class organizations and set aggressive goals or targets for improvement. Finally, they should determine root causes of problems and eliminate them or minimize their impact. Organizations have to be both effective and efficient in order to be successful.

Fundraising and seeking sponsorship for XXVII SEA Games coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— A work coordination meeting on fundraising and seeking sponsorship for the XXVII South-East Asian Games was held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, here, yesterday.

Chairman of fundraising and prize-giving subcommittee Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Chairman

of the leading committee for organizing the XXVII South-East Asian Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu spoke on the occasion. Next, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik and officials made clarifications on their respective tasks.

In his concluding remarks, Union Minister U Win Shein stressed the need to make collaborative efforts between the subcommittees and the Ministry of Sports, calling for transparency and accuracy in keeping records.

MNA



NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Committees, Commission meet



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann attends coordination meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees and Commission at Zabuthiri Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— Pyithu Hluttaw Committees and Commission held a work-coordination meeting at Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairmen of the committees and commission, commission members and those from

the Hluttaw Office. During the meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivered an address and heard reports presented by the committee chairmen on ongoing tasks and works to

be carried out.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Hungarian Parliamentary Affairs Minister



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party pose for documentary photo with Mr Zsolt Nemeth, Minister of State for Hungarian Parliamentary Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, received a Hungarian delegation led by Mr Zsolt Nemeth, Minister of State for Hungarian Parliamentary Affairs of

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw complex here today.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to promotion of friendship and cooperation

between the two parliaments and the two peoples.

Also present at the meeting were U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of the International Relations Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw and Secretaries

of the committee Dr Soe Yin and U Ko Ko Tun, Members of the Committee U Than Tun, officials of the Hluttaw Office and Hungarian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Denes Tomaj.

MNA

Social Security Board Management System Programme launched

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— "The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has implemented Social Security Board Management System Programme for conservation of insurance worker's data, drug purchase, conservation and distribution for labour hospital, clinics, systematic carrying out investments,"

said Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint who attended putting records of insurance workers from Social Security Board on computer programme and demonstration for issuing of new social security insurance scrutiny cards at the meeting hall of the ministry here on 7 January.

The Union Minister pointed out the importance of newly-issued cards and urged those present to strive to be qualified ones and accept the change.

Afterwards, Managing Director U Aung Soe Moe of Assembler Computer Co Ltd explained the work procedures of the computer programme and donated K

6 million and fifteen sets of computer, and General Manager U Than Oo from Trust Link Co Ltd eight air-conditioners and desks.

The Union Minister, the deputy minister and departmental heads viewed data putting, photo and finger print recording and demonstration for issuing social security insurance scrutiny cards of the staff from the ministry.

MNA

NATIONAL

New political culture resuscitate long lost...*(from page 1)*

like to say that the door is always open for the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)/the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) to discuss ceasefire terms and to have meaningful political dialogue with the government. While the Government is striving to achieve peace in the country with our utmost efforts, the Tatmadaw has not only made sacrifices in blood and sweat for the security of the State but also done everything they possibly can to make positive contributions to the peace process.

I also want to inform you all that the various peace committees have tried to do their utmost in trying to establish genuine trust between the government and ethnic armed groups. Furthermore, in order to be able to intensify the activities that need to be undertaken to achieve lasting peace and to design and implement the plans for rehabilitation and development works after the achievement of peace, the government has recently established the Myanmar Peace Center.

Alongside these political reforms, the government has also undertaken several economic reforms. These reform measures include the introduction of a floating exchange rate, financial sector reforms, the creation of an investor-friendly business environment, the resuscitation of the tourism sector and the creation of safeguards to ensure that business practices do not damage the environment. The government has worked closely with local and international experts and international agencies in order to find solutions

to the perennial problems of the national economy. Such collaboration has also enabled the government to formulate successfully the framework for economic and social reforms, as well as poverty alleviation and economic development. Short- and long-term plans are being implemented in accordance with these frameworks. In addition, most of the economic sanctions that had been a severe impediment to economic growth have also been lifted. In January 2012, Australia lifted the sanctions it had imposed on Myanmar. While the European Union suspended most of its sanctions on Myanmar in April 2012, the United States began to allow American business companies into Myanmar in July 2012 and lifted the ban on imports from Myanmar in November 2012. Additionally, we have, with the support of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, promulgated a new foreign investment law. Last year, both domestic and foreign investment created over sixty thousand jobs. Expansion of the private sector investments have created major job opportunities for the citizens. In addition, workers and peasants have also been allowed to form labour and peasant unions and associations and enabling them to express their will and wishes freely. Such measures have begun to make the country freer and more open to inputs from the grassroots level.

With regard to improving the social sector, the Government has undertaken reforms in the education and health sectors and raised the pensions of retired public servants to a certain extent. Furthermore, the Government and the Hluttaw have discussed the budget bill for the coming year transparently and effectively, taking into account various inputs from different constituencies. As a result, the passage of the budget bill will become more and more systematic over time. Citizens now have access to information regarding all the discussions and hearings

on the budget bill in the Hluttaw. It is also worth noting that starting in the upcoming fiscal year, civil servants will receive a raise in their allowance.

Regardless of the aforesaid political, economic and social reforms, the country has experienced a plethora of difficulties and challenges during the transition period. Drawing on lessons learned from the experience in dealing with the problems associated with the Letpadaung Taung project, land rights, riots in Rakhine State and the breakdown of peace in Kachin state, the Government will continue to try to improve its management skills in the future.

The Government will consult with the Hluttaw regularly in undertaking political, economic and social reforms. On the basis of the legislative experience we have gained in the last 12 months or so, the Government will try to function more effectively and efficiently in the future. In undertaking the tasks entrusted to it, the Government recognizes the important role the Hluttaw plays in the reform process and in enhancing the reputation of the country in the international community and among different political groups in the country.

It is inevitable that we experience many hardships and challenges on the way to becoming a modern democratic society. The Government will try to intensify its efforts to improve the state of the rule of law and eradicate corruption in the country. We will also continue to work very hard in fostering good governance and the creation of a clean government. I send this felicitation to all of you believing that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will contribute to the inculcation of a democratic culture in Myanmar society by passing laws and bills that will serve the wellbeing and interests of the public at large.

Union Minister calls for durability and quality of rural construction works

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Secretary of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Central Committee Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay met companies and organizations of national entrepreneurs who have won tender for implementation of rural development works for 2012-2013 fiscal year at the ministry here yesterday.

The Union minister

stressed the need for quality and standardization of construction works. Next, those businessmen reported on challenges and made suggestions for rural development works.

A total of 97 companies competed in the tender and 43 companies won the tenders for 67 rural construction works including construction of roads and bridges, water supply, rural electrification

and rural model housing construction with K 37762.30 million. Rural construction works will be implemented in self-administered division/zones such as Wa, Kokang, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Naga regions under the arrangement of respective authorities and necessary machinery will be provided by the Border Affairs Ministry.

MNA

Low-priced housing projects to be implemented in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin called for durability of buildings and use of quality materials as he addressed the coordination meeting on construction of Ayeyawun and Yadana housing projects at the ministry here yesterday.

The two housing projects will be developed between Ayeyawun, Yadanar and Strand streets in No.61 Ward and No.67 Ward in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and sold at low-price to the public.

The Union minister also held discussions with Laotian Minister of Public Works and

Transport Mr Somad Pholsena on construction of Mekong river-crossing bridge between Myanmar and Laos.

The bridge will be constructed between Kyaiklat on Myanmar side and Zingok on Laos' side, aiming to shorten the transportation route for bilateral trade.

MNA

Chin State Planning Committee holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai delivered an address at the work-coordination meeting of Chin State Planning Committee (1/2013) held at the meeting hall of the state government's office

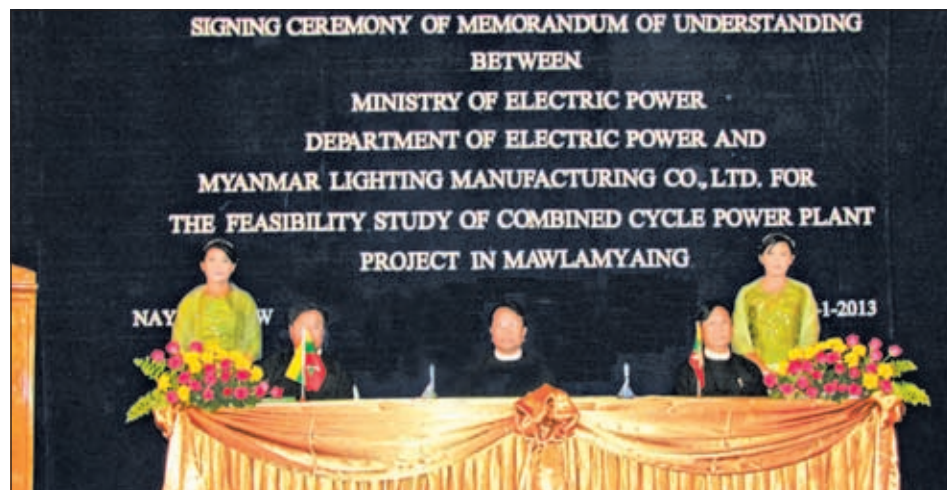
yesterday morning.

He called for making concerted efforts for implementation of sector-wise development tasks starting from 2013-2014 FY after explaining the guidelines of the President who is the chairman of

the third meeting of the committee. Those present later presented reports on their respective sectors.

The meeting came to an end making seven decisions.

MNA

Electric Power Department, Myanmar Lighting Manufacturing Co., Ltd sign MoU

Electric Power Department and Myanmar Lighting Manufacturing Co Ltd sign MoU on feasibility study of combined cycle power plant project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Electric Power Department and Myanmar Lighting Manufacturing Co Ltd signed MoU on feasibility study of combined cycle power plant project in Maw-lamyine here yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Union Election Commission U

Tin Aye, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and Union ministers of related ministries, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and personnel from Myanmar Lighting Manufacturing Co Ltd.

The project is aimed to increase the volume of

power supply to Mon and Kayin states and to add the surplus to the national grid. Director-General of Electric Power Department U Khin Maung Zaw and Chairman of Myanmar Lighting Manufacturing Co Ltd U Sein Wan signed the MoU.

MNA

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw's fifth regular session continues

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—The fifth regular session of the first Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw continued for seventh day at the region Hluttaw hall yesterday morning, with the attendance of Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Hsint and

69 representatives and invited persons.

The Hluttaw saw question-and-answer session, and held discussions about submitting reports on assessments by the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw legislative affairs committee.

It announced the

days on which rules and regulations on fresh water fish enterprise of Ayeyawady Region and two proposals would be discussed, and approved legislative affairs committee to proceed with the bill on presenting honorary certificates and prizes to the outstanding monks.—MNA

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Hungarian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint met a delegation led by Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary Mr Zsolt Nemeth, at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Hluttaw Complex, here this afternoon. Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairpersons U

Sai Paung Nut, Col Maung Maung Htoo, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Daw Khin Waing Kyi, and officials from Hluttaw Office.

They had a cordial discussion on cooperation between parliaments of both countries for further promoting friendship between the two countries, sharing experience for capacity building of parliamentary staff, background and experiences of two countries' parliaments and current national races affairs in Myanmar.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint meets Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary Mr Zsolt Nemeth.—MNA

KIA destroys bridge on Myitkyina-Sumprabum road

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—KIA group is constantly doing destructive acts in Kachin State. On 2 January,

a KIA group attacked three trucks loaded with construction materials of Public Works out of 54 trucks heading from Myitkyina to Putao, at Hteinbaine Village at Milepost No.9 on Myitkyina-Sumprabum road. In the incident, 16 tons of cement worth K 3.2 million and eight tons of steel rod/sheet worth K 6.6 million on board were destroyed.

On 3 January, a KIA group also destroyed 60 barrels of diesel worth K 12 million of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

and threw it into the ravine. The same day, a 30-member KIA group stopped 15 cars laden with construction materials, fuels, rice, edible oil and other foodstuff and set fire to them.

They also set fire a 20-ft-long Bailey Bridge near Zanan Village at Mile Post No.110 on Myitkyina-Sumprabum road. KIA group's destructive acts have triggered an impediment to development tasks in the State as well as to local people's daily life.

MNA



KIA blasts Nabar-Myitkyina train, killing one, injuring four

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—One railway policeman was killed and four passengers were injured in a bomb blast that hit a local passenger train in Hopin, Kachin State yesterday.

The bomb planted by KIA on railway tracks went off at Mile Post No 654 between Hopin and Nannkhwin stations at 10.5 pm while the Nabar-Myitkyina Train No 49 was

passing on the area.

Two passenger coaches and one freight coaches were derailed in the accident. The explosion left a hole about 2 ft wide and 1 ft deep. Personnel of the Myanmar Railways are repairing the tracks to resume the training services along the route.

After the blast, about 20 passengers were sent to Hopin Station. KIA has carried out sabotages since

2011, and so far, they blasted the Mandalay-Myitkyina rail route 53 times and the Mandalay-Lashio rail route two times.

The sabotages of KIA have cut the main transportation route to Kachin State, causing high prices for commodity in the state and hindrances for the people to travel other regions and states in the country.

MNA

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Sein Lwin of Myanma Pearls Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines on expiry of one-year probationary period.

Trainees of USDP Training School visits Hluttaw complex

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Trainees from Union Solidarity and Development Party Training School visited Hluttaw Complex today. A total of 82 including the principal, administrators/instructors and trainees observed the first day sixth session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and looked round Hluttaw buildings.—MNA

Myanmar, Hungary eye for closer cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Affairs of Hungary and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Zsolt Nemeth, Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary and party at his office, here, this morning. They exchanged views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.

MNA

Corrigendum

Please read Energy Development Committee instead of Energy Management Committee under the Notification No 12/2013 of the President Office which appeared in Paragraph-1, sub-paragraphs 3 and 4 on Pages 10 and 11 of this daily issued on 10-1-2013.—NLM

WORLD

Seven militants killed, 22 arrested in Afghan operations

KABUL, 10 Jan—Up to seven militants have been killed and 22 others detained in operations in different Afghan provinces within the last 24 hours, the country's Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

"Afghan National

Police, army, NDS or intelligence agency and Coalition Forces launched 11 cleanup operations in Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Baghlan, Uruzgan, Maidan Wardak, Khost, Paktika and Helmand Provinces, killing seven

armed Taleban insurgents and detaining 22 others over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement providing operational updates. They also found and seized weapons, the statement said, without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces.

The Taleban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments. The Afghan security forces and more than 100,000 NATO-led coalition troops continue to press Taleban and other militant groups in the country, despite a decrease in violent attacks due to cold weather in an imminent winter in the militancy-hit country.

Xinhua



A foreign tourist carries her child as they walk out the Church of the Nativity while snow falls over the West Bank City of Bethlehem, on 9 Jan, 2013. Heavy rain and snow has affected the West Bank since Monday, resulting in two deaths and causing traffic chaos.

XINHUA



Former New Mexico Gov Bill Richardson (C) and Google Inc Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt (2nd R) visit an electronic library reading room at the Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 8 Jan, 2013. A US delegation including Richardson and Schmidt visited North Korea's top university on Tuesday and saw students using the Internet with desktop computers. The nine-member delegation arrived in Pyongyang on Monday for a "private humanitarian visit" to DPRK.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Singapore to have by-election following speaker's resignation

SINGAPORE, 10 Jan—Singapore will have a by-election for a single-member constituency after former parliament speaker Michael Palmer resigned recently over an extra-marital affair, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Wednesday.

The nomination day for the Punggol East constituency will be 16 January, and the polling day will be 26 January if more

than one candidate stand for nominations, according to the writ of election issued by the president. It will be the fourth election since May 2011 in Singapore, after the general elections, the presidential election, and a by-election after opposition lawmaker Yaw Shin Leong was expelled in February in 2012 by his party over an extra-marital affair.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he had

decided to hold a by-election in Punggol East to give the residents their own member of parliament, before Singapore focuses back on national issues.

“We have a busy national agenda this year. The White Paper on Population will soon be debated in Parliament. Budget 2013 is around the corner. The Our Singapore Conversation is translating the views of citizens into programmes to

improve our lives,” he said in a statement. Several opposition parties have either voiced or shown their interest in running in the by-election. The People's Action Party, which has been ruling the city state over the past decades, has 81 of the 87 elected seats in the parliament, despite losing a five-member group constituency for the first time in the general election in May 2011.—Xinhua



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Hwang Woo Yea, chairman of South Korea's ruling Saenuri Party, shake hands at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 9 Jan, 2013. Hwang, a close aide to South Korean President-elect Park Geun Hye, was visiting Japan as leader of a delegation of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union.—KYODO NEWS

Singapore to tighten rail regulations

SINGAPORE, 10 Jan—Singapore's Land Transport Authority announced on Thursday that it plans to tighten the regulatory framework for the metro operators, aiming at improving rail service reliability.

According to the authority's statement, they are exploring moving towards shorter train headways to reduce waiting time for commuters. “We are aiming to bring down maximum headways outside the peak periods to no more than 5 minutes, except for periods where there is extremely low ridership.” it said.

The target is said to be

achieved gradually regarding to each line's existing train fleet and expansion plan in the future.

The authority will also tighten standards on train disruptions and delay. For example, financial penalties will be imposed if train disruptions lasting more than 30 minutes occur more than once in any four-week period. Besides, excessive occurrences of shorter train delays which inconvenience commuters will also be penalised.

They also intends to peg the maximum penalty for each train disruption to a percentage of operators' annual fare revenue

from the affected subway line, which means that the maximum fine will increase from its current ceiling of 1 million Singapore dollars (813,008 US dollar) per incident.

“This is in order for the maximum penalty to be sufficiently commensurate with its emphasis on ensuring a safe and reliable Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system, and we aim to complete the required legislative changes later this year.” it added.

Singapore has encountered various accidents and delays in subways during recent years.

Xinhua



Vietnam's Le Luong Minh, new Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, speaks at the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta on 9 Jan, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Chill weather in Nepal kills 49 in one month

KATHMANDU, 10 Jan—Chill weather in Nepal has killed at least 49 people across the country in the past one month, Nepal Police said on Wednesday.

“Among the dead, 21 were women, 24 men and 4 children,” said Keshab Adhikari, Deputy Inspector General of Police at Nepal Police Headquarters.

Most numbers of deaths were reported from Terai, the southern plains of Nepal.

In Rautahat District, 12 have been reported dead, while in Dhanusha, seven were dead. In Saptari and Siraha Districts each, six

succumbed to death, while in Parsa District, the numbers of deaths were four.

Last winter, a total of 81 individuals were reported to have died of chill weather or cold wave, of which, 31 were women, 48 men and 2 children.

Meanwhile, the temperature of capital Kathmandu continued to record minimum temperature below zero degree even on Wednesday since it started slipping on Monday. The day time temperature in Kathmandu, however, has been warm recording 15 C in an average. According to Meteorological Forecasting Division, foggy cold wave conditions were likely to be continued even today in Terai, while the rest of the country will remain mainly fair.

Xinhua

5.0-magnitude quake hits off the west coast of northern Sumatra

HON KONG, 10 Jan—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted off the west coast of northern Sumatra at 21:05:01 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 14.90 km, was initially determined to be at 0.7579 degrees north latitude and 92.7268 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 9 Jan, 2013 shows a coloured lantern in the shape of a tree at a square in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. Various coloured lanterns were decorated in Suzhou to greet the upcoming Spring Festival, which falls on 10 February this year.

XINHUA

Indonesian police officers run in Tangerang, near Jakarta, in December 2012 as part of the Tangerang police's weight-loss programme. KYODO NEWS



Mongolia launches

“Year of Protecting the Gobi Bear”

ULAN BATOR, 10 Jan—Mongolia officially launched its “Year of Protecting the Gobi Bear” on Wednesday with a conference to discuss ways to protect the endangered “national treasure”, as only 22 of them remains in the country.

At the event organized by the Ministry of Environment and Green Develop-

ment, specialists and scholars said they hope relevant government agencies could take actions to protect the bears.

Only 22 gobi bears remain in Mongolia, 14 males and eight females, according to government officials and experts. The country set up a gobi bear breeding center in 2010.

Experts told the con-

ference the decrease in gobi bear numbers was related to their worsening natural environment. In addition, the bear's fertility cycle was long. It usually gives birth to one bear every two years and the cubs' survival rate is very low.

They suggested expanding the ecological protection zone for gobi bears.

Xinhua

Japanese Foreign Minister to visit Singapore

SINGAPORE, 10 Jan—Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida is scheduled to pay a two-day official visit in Singapore from Thursday to Friday, the city-state's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said

on Wednesday.

During his visit, Kishida will call on Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and meet with his counterpart K Shanmugam. This will be Kishida's first official visit to Singapore in

his current capacity.

Kishida is on his visit for three Southeast Asian countries — the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei, and Australia as his first overseas tour.

Xinhua

Philippines plans to purchase coast guard vessels from Japan

MANILA, 10 Jan—Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said on Wednesday that the plan to acquire 10 coast guard vessels from Japan would be among topics of his meeting with visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Thursday.

At a Press briefing held here Wednesday, del Rosario said he would also discuss with Kishida the expansion of the Light Rail Transit — South line from Baclaran to Cavite and East line from Marikina to Antipolo.

The two officials are also expected to finalize Manila's acquisition of 10 Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRV).

Del Rosario said these projects will be implemented through soft loans or loans that have low interest rates with flexible payment terms under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (020)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (110)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (110) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR:TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

"INVITATION"

The 125th Anniversary of the Hindu Temple Sri Sri Durga Bari, No.307, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon, which was founded in the year 1888 will be celebrated from 16th January 2013 to 21st January 2013 in a befitting manner.

The INAUGURATION CEREMONY will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, the 17th January 2013.

All are cordially invited.

Celebration Committee

Musical held in Seoul with actors on military duty

TOKYO, 10 Jan—A musical has opened in the South Korean capital of Seoul starring pop singers and actors on compulsory military duty.

South Korea's Defence Ministry organized the event with a group of musical theaters to mark the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

The story depicts the tragedy of the severe conflict and the bravery of soldiers.

Seven popular singers and actors serving in the South's military are playing leading roles. They include Leeteuk, who is a member of a popular idol group, Super Junior, and Yoonhak from Supernova. The supporting dancers are also soldiers.

About a third of the audience on the opening day Tuesday was Japanese fans, reflecting a boom in K-pop culture in Japan.

This is the first time that as many as 7 popular stars on military duty in South Korea have performed together on a single stage.

The Defence Ministry wants to raise awareness of the importance of national security among young people and erase the negative image of the country's draft system.

The musical will run in Seoul until 20th January.—NHK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NEPTUNE LEADER VOY NO (38)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEPTUNE LEADER VOY NO (38) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR:NYK LINE.**

Phone No: 256924/256914



New Year's lectures at Imperial Palace

TOKYO, 10 Jan—The Emperor and Empress have attended New Year's academic lectures in an annual event at the Imperial Palace.

Three experts spoke over a 1-hour session on Thursday morning, with other members of the Imperial family and academics also attending.

The first lecture was given by Mitsutoshi Nakano, Kyushu University Professor Emeritus and scholar on Japanese literature of the Edo and Meiji eras. He said clues to resolve contemporary problems can be found in the culture of the Edo period that lasted from the 17th to 19th centuries.

He said that to make use of past wisdom, it is necessary to master the reading of "kuzushiji", or characters written in the cursive style used in the Edo period.

Professor Kotaro Suzumura of Waseda University's School of Political Science and Economics lectured about a social system that can fairly distribute resources and draw on the will of the public. He said Japan needs to adopt a new economic system that is not a copy of Western society

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Dated: 11 January 2013

Invitation to open tender for building of factory manager house and new factory building at Myanmar Radio and Television of Ministry of Information

1 Open tenders are invited for building of factory manager house and new factory building at three retransmission stations from Myanmar Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

2 Open tender forms may be drawn from Myanmar Radio and Television ,Nay Pyi Taw(Tatkon) from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during the office days from (14- 1 -2013) to (17-1 2013).

3 Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of the Tender board at Myanmar Radio and Television ,Nay Pyi Taw(Tatkon) from 09:30 hr to 16:30hr.

4 The open tender forms and detailed information are available at the following address.

Construction Management Committee
Myanmar Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information
Ph:067-79483 79135

Delayed Japan Airlines jet arrives in Tokyo

TOKYO, 10 Jan—An advanced Boeing jet operated by Japan Airlines has arrived at Narita Airport near Tokyo after its departure from the United States was delayed because of a fuel leak. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner leaked about 150 liters' fuel while taxiing on a runway at Boston's Logan International Airport on Tuesday.

The jet eventually left Boston 3 and a half hours behind schedule after un-

dergoing an inspection. It landed at Narita Airport at around 7:30 PM on Wednesday, local time.

Japan Airlines blames the leak on a defective valve between the center of the fuselage and the left wing. The valve had been left open.

The carrier says it will check the fueling system and the parts around the valve and will continue to investigate the cause of the problem.—NHK



**What you can do today,
don't postpone
until tomorrow.**

ENTERTAINMENT

Julia Roberts to star in HBO film on early AIDS epidemic

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan— Julia Roberts will star as a paraplegic physician treating patients early in the AIDS epidemic in the stage-to-screen adaptation of the Tony Award-winning drama “The Normal Heart,” US cable television network HBO said on Friday.

“The Normal Heart,” set to air on HBO in 2014, tells the story of the dawn of the epidemic in 1980s New York.

Oscar-winner Roberts plays Dr Emma Brookner, who treats several early patients infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Co-star Mark Ruffalo plays

Ned Weeks, an eyewitness to how the disease ravaged the city’s gay community.

The film will be directed by “Glee” creator Ryan Murphy and was adapted by the play’s author, Larry Kramer, an early advocate for AIDS prevention and care.

“Ryan has assembled an extraordinary cast to bring Larry Kramer’s landmark theatrical achievement to the screen for the first time, and we couldn’t be more thrilled to bring this important film to HBO,” Michael Lombardo, HBO’s president of programming, said in a statement.



“The Normal Heart” debuted on stage in 1985 in New York and was revived on Broadway in 2011, winning the Tony Award for best revival. The movie version was originally envisioned as big screen release before HBO took it up as a television film.—PTI

Executive Producer Julia Roberts.

Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana break-up again

NEW DELHI, 10 Jan— Bradley Cooper and Zoe Saldana have split up again.

The Silver Linings Playbook actor and the Avatar actress—who reconciled their relationship in Septem-

ber after a six-month split - decided to break up before the Christmas holidays, even though they had been planning to spend the festive season together.

A source told the New York Post newspaper: “Zoe had

planned to spend the holidays with Bradley and his family in Europe. They all were going to Paris, but things didn’t work out between them. Zoe spent New Year’s Eve (31.12.12) with friends in Miami. If Zoe was upset over the split with Bradley, she didn’t show it.”

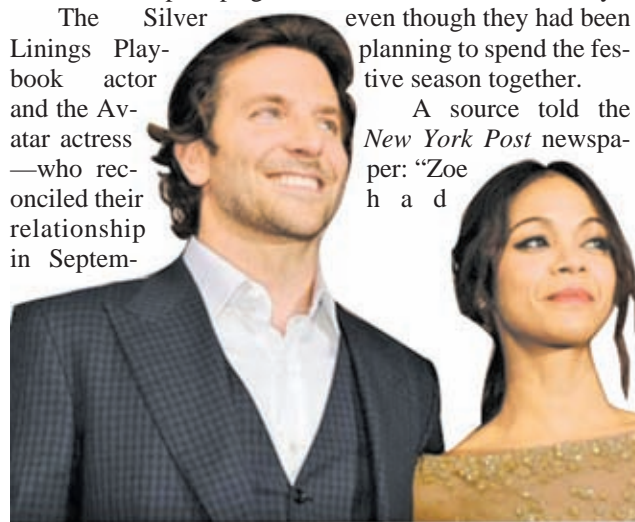
Sources say the romance fizzled out once more as they were both busy with their careers— Bradley is currently promoting Silver Linings Playbook as well as shooting a commercial while Zoe has been filming Star Trek and Blood Ties. Bradley, 37, and Zoe,

34, met on the set of their movie The Words and dating for three months before splitting last March.

Recently it was claimed Bradley’s mother, Gloria, was keen for him to settle with Zoe and had been spending time with her to discover if she was the right woman for her son.

A source said: “Gloria loves Zoe, but she wants to know what her intentions are with the relationship. She knows Zoe isn’t getting any younger and is hoping that if she is the one that they will settle down soon.

“Ideally, she wants a grandchild so the pressure is on for Bradley to put a ring on it.”—PTI



Bradley, 37, and Zoe, 34, met on the set of their movie The Words and dating for three months before splitting last March.—PTI

Naomi Campbell attacked in Paris

PARIS, 10 Jan—Supermodel Naomi Campbell is said to have suffered a leg injury when she was attacked and robbed on a street here over a month ago, reports nypost.com.

According to a source, she has not spoken about the assault, at the request of French police who are hunting down the thugs.

She was attacked by thugs as she tried to hail a cab and was “knocked over and robbed”, says the report. She suffered a torn ligament, and reported the incident to the police.

“It was terrifying. Naomi believes the assailant had been watching her, chasing her out, and waited for a moment to strike when she was alone. She was attacked in the street as she hailed a cab, and robbed,” said one source.

“Her leg was injured as she was violently pushed to the ground. She was understandably very upset and shaken,” added the source.

PTI



Supermodel Naomi Campbell

Oscars to feature special James Bond movie tribute

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan— The Oscars are jumping on the James Bond anniversary bandwagon, featuring a special salute to the 50-year-old franchise at the annual awards ceremony in February, producers said on Friday.

“We are very happy to include a special sequence on our show saluting the Bond films on their 50th birthday,” Oscar show producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said in a statement.

While no details of the segment were revealed, the producers added that “starting with ‘Dr No’ back in 1962, the 007 movies have become the longest-running motion picture franchise in history and a beloved global phenomenon.”

Friday’s announcement was likely to fuel hopes for a best picture Os-

car nomination next week for the current Bond film, “Skyfall,” which has broken the \$1 billion mark at the box office and become the biggest hit in the series’ 23-film franchise. It was released by Sony Corp’s movie studio.

The critically-acclaimed blockbuster got a big boost earlier this week when producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson were among nominees for the Producers Guild Award, alongside producers for such prestige films as “Lincoln” and “Zero Dark Thirty.”

Bond films have historically received only a handful of Oscar nominations, most for technical categories or music, and the Producers Guild nod marked the first ever nomination from the influential Hollywood guild for a Bond film.

Reuters



Cast member Daniel Craig arrives for the German premiere for the film ‘Skyfall’ in Berlin on 30 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Helen Mirren gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES, 10 Jan— British actress Helen Mirren, who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Elizabeth II in The Queen, on Thursday received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The 67-year-old Mirren saw her star unveiled in front of the Pig ‘N Whistle, one of Tinseltown’s historic pubs, on Hollywood Boulevard. American playwright David Mamet and US director Jon Turteltaub attended the event.

Mamet just directed Mirren in an as yet untitled HBO film about American rock producer Phil Spector, who was sentenced to 19

years in prison in 2009 after being convicted of murdering a one-time actress.

In the film, which co-stars Al Pacino as Spector and is expected to air later this year, Mirren plays the producer’s attorney.

Turteltaub worked with Mirren on National Treasure: Book of Secrets in 2007. Born in 1945 in the London suburbs, Mirren began her career on

stage and was a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company. She first appeared in films in the 1960s, tackling all genres from historical drama to musical comedy to action.

She took home an Oscar in 2007 for Best Actress for her work in The Queen—a role for which she also won a BAFTA and a Golden Globe. Mirren has earned three other Oscar nominations.

Since then, she has appeared in spy thrillers The Debt and Red, and currently stars in Hitchcock as the famed director’s wife Alma—a role for which she has again been nominated for a

Golden Globe.—PTI



British actress Helen Mirren

SPORTS

Ronaldo hat-trick as Real Madrid reach quarter-finals of Copa del Rey

MADRID, 10 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo overcame his disappointment at once again losing out to Leo Messi in Monday's Ballon d'Or by scoring a hat-trick to help his side overcome a 2-1 first leg Copa del Rey defeat to Celta Vigo. Ronaldo's three goals, and one from Sami Khedira gave Madrid a 4-0 win on the night and a 4-2 aggregate win to qualify them with relative ease, despite playing the last 20 minutes with just 10 men.

Real Madrid coach, Jose Mourinho, decided to start with Iker Casillas in goal ahead of Antonio Adan, who had been first choice in the last two matches. Casillas earned a round of applause from the fans in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium who, nevertheless, booed and whistled Mourinho when his name was given on the stadium PA system.

Two goals from Cristiano Ronaldo were enough to see Madrid into the last eight. His first after just two minutes was a spectacular effort from 25 yards, which dipped and curled away from Celta keeper, Sergio Alvarez.

The visitors paid the price for leaving several key players, such as striker Iago Aspes out of their starting 11 when Ronaldo double Madrid's lead after 22 min-

utes and it was not until the second half, with Aspes on the pitch that Celta began to threaten the Madrid goal. Sergio Ramos was sent off for two yellow cards with 20 minutes remaining and Celta began to pressure the Madrid goal, but were denied by several good saves from Casillas. Ronaldo completed his hat-trick after 87 minutes and Khedira rounded off the scoring a minute later and Real Madrid will now face Valencia for a place in the semi-finals.

Zaragoza also qualified for the last eight thanks to a 3-0 aggregate win

over Levante.

Zaragoza kicked off on the back of a away win in the first leg and had few problems in sealing their qualification. Franco Zuculini opened the scoring after 23 minutes and Fernando Montanes doubled their lead on the hour to assure their place in the next



Cristiano Ronaldo

round. Wednesday's other game saw Mallorca win 2-1 in Sevilla, a result that had little importance given that Sevilla had won 5-0 in Mal-

lorca in the first leg.

Manu del Moral had put Sevilla in the lead after 21 minutes, but Brandon Thomas and Alfaro turned the result around to give Mallorca a win that will at least serve to raise their morale after a win and a draw in their last two league matches. Tuesday saw Malaga and Valencia qualify for the last eight of the competition.

Malaga will almost certainly face Barca, who defend a 2-0 first leg lead against Cordoba in the

Camp Nou Stadium.

Xinhua



John Isner of US hits a return to compatriot Ryan Harrison during their men's singles match at the Sydney International tennis tournament on 9 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

World number 13 Isner out of Australian Open

SYDNEY, 10 Jan — John Isner has pulled out of the Australian Open because of the knee injury that forced him to quit last week's Hopman Cup and hampered him in his defeat to Ryan Harrison at the Sydney International warm-up.

The big-serving 27-year-old American, top seed in Sydney, said after Wednesday's 6-4, 6-4 loss to Harrison that he was contemplating pulling out of the year's first grand slam because the injury, a bone bruise, needed rest.

"I am extremely disappointed to announce that I have to withdraw from

the AusOpen," the world number 13 was quoted as saying on the Australian Open Twitter feed (@AustralianOpen). "I have been feeling some discomfort in my knee and have recently learned that I have a bone bruise.

"Doctors have told me that continuing to play on the knee could result in a more serious injury." Isner's withdrawal leaves the United States with Sam Querrey as their only representative among the 32 seeds in the men's draw for the tournament, which starts on Monday.

Reuters

Timberwolves' Love to miss 8-10 weeks after surgery

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — The Minnesota Timberwolves' playoff hopes were dealt a blow as leading scorer Kevin Love will miss up to 10 weeks because of surgery to repair his fractured right hand, the National Basketball Association team said on Wednesday.

Love reinjured his hand during the team's 3 January game at Denver. The 24-year-old forward had already missed the first three weeks of the 2012-13 season with a broken right hand. Details of the surgery, which will sideline Love for eight to 10 weeks, are expected to be announced on Thursday, the team said in a statement.

The loss of Love is a blow for the Timberwolves (16-15), who currently stand ninth in the Western Conference, one place out of a playoff berth. The two-time All-Star, a member of the gold-medal



Minnesota forward Kevin Love

winning US team at last year's London Olympics, leads the Timberwolves in scoring with an average of 18.3 points per game and 14 rebounds. — Reuters

Varejao to miss up to two months

CLEVELAND, 10 Jan — Cleveland Cavaliers' Brazilian center Anderson Varejao will be sidelined in the next two months after it was revealed he needs surgery on his right knee. Varejao suffered the injury during the Cavaliers' 113-99 defeat to the Toronto Raptors on 18 December.

He will undergo surgery on Thursday before being sidelined for six to eight weeks, according to team doctor Richard Steadman. Cavaliers coach Byron Scott says he expects the 30-year-old could return before the end of the season.

"I may just go up to him and give him a big hug



Cleveland Cavaliers' Brazilian centre Anderson Varejao

and tell him it's going to be OK," Scott said. After an injury-ravaged two seasons, Varejao was quite on form this season, averaging 14.1 points and 14.4 rebounds a

game. Varejao missed 51 games in 2011 with a torn ligament in his foot and 41 games last season after breaking his wrist.

Xinhua

Saints sign suspended coach Payton through 2017 season

TORONTO, 10 Jan — The New Orleans Saints have signed suspended head coach Sean Payton to a five-year contract extension that will run through the 2017 National Football League (NFL) season, the team said on Wednesday.

Payton is a former Super Bowl-winning coach who missed the 2012 season because of suspension for his role in the team's bounty scandal that saw



The New Orleans Saints have signed suspended head coach Sean Payton

players given cash rewards for knocking opponents out of games from 2009-2011. During Payton's absence,

the Saints went from a 13-3 team that won the NFC South division title to a 7-9 team that missed the post-season.

"We have already begun preparations for the 2013 season and I look forward to getting Sean back in the building as soon as possible, as I know our fans do as well," Saints owner Tom Benson said in a statement.

Reuters

GENERAL

Earthen road upgraded to laterite one in Nyaunglebin Tsp



NYAUNGLEBIN, 10 Jan—As of 1 January, local people collectively participate in upgrading the earthen road to laterite one linking Mawauk and

Thaunggyi Village of Nyaunglebin Township.

Due to flooding of Sittoung River, the earthen road was in poor transport condition. Thanks to K 500,000 contribution of Captain Khin Win (Rtd)-Daw Mu Mu and family and K 1 million by U Myo Min Htet-Daw Khin Moe and family of Nyaunglebin, the 1.5 miles long and 10 feet wide road is being upgraded with concerted efforts of the local people day and night.—NLM

Redskins' Griffin undergoes successful knee surgery

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — Washington Redskins rookie quarterback Robert Griffin III underwent successful knee surgery on Wednesday and is expected to be ready for the 2013 season, his doctor said.

The 2011 Heisman Trophy winner, one of the top first-year players in the National Football League this season, underwent reconstructive surgery on his right knee to repair torn lateral and anterior cruciate ligaments suffered in Sunday's wildcard playoff loss to Seattle.

"Robert Griffin III had successful knee surgery early this morning," his doctor, James Andrews, said in a statement. "He had a direct repair of his LCL and a re-do of his previous



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) smiles on the sideline as time runs out in his team's victory over the Dallas Cowboys at the end of their NFL football game in Landover, Maryland, on 30 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

ACL reconstruction. We expect a full recovery and it is everybody's hope and belief that due to Robert's high motivation, he will be ready for the 2013 season."



Angelique Kerber of Germany plays a backhand in the quarterfinals of women's singles match against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia on the 4th day of Apia Sydney International tennis tournament at Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre in Sydney, Australia, on 9 Jan, 2013. Angelique Kerber won 2-0. — XINHUA

The surgery was deemed necessary after Andrews discovered a complete tear of the patellar graft that was used to repair Griffin's torn ACL when he was at Baylor in 2009.

Reuters

Juventus knock AC Milan out of Coppa Italia

ROME, 10 Jan — Mirko Vucinic hit in an extra-time winner to help Juventus beat AC Milan 2-1 in the quarterfinals of the Coppa Italia on Wednesday. The Milan side went ahead in the sixth minute through Stephan El Shaarwy, and six minutes later, Sebastian Giovinco equalized for the Old Lady with a free kick. Then they had to wait until five minutes into the extra time when Vucinic scored on a fast counter-attack.

With the win, Juventus head coach Antonio Conte insisted he received "a great response from everyone". "It is always a tough game between these two great teams and clubs who have won so much," Conte said. "Our hunger was huge and I received a great response from everyone, especially as I included many players who hadn't featured in a while. I told them that what happened against Sampdoria must never

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-1-13 09:30 am ~ 12-1-13 09:30 am) MST

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MYANMAR TV

(11-1-2013, Friday)

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning News
- 7:40 am 4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am 5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am 6. Health Programme
- 8:05 am 7. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
- 8:35 am 8. International News
- 8:40 am 9. Myitta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw
- 4:00 pm 10. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm 11. Song of National Races
- 4:15 pm 12. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:20 pm 13. Songs of Yester Years
- 4:30 pm 14. Teleplay (Health)
- 4:40 pm 15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Physics)
- 4:55 pm 16. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm 17. Myanmar Leaguage
- 5:30 pm 18. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm 19. Evening News
- 6:15 pm 20. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm 21. Amazing World
- 7:00 pm 22. News
- 7:10 pm 23. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm 24. News
- 8:00 pm 25. Nostalgia to Myanmar Cultural Arts
- 10:00 pm 26. News
- 27. Teleplay

happen again," he added, referring to Sunday's 2-1 defeat to 10-man Samp.

AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri felt Milan "deserved more" than a loss. "It was a balanced game and on the second goal we made a mistake in defence that allowed the counter-attack," he said. "In any case, I am happy with the performance because we had several chances to equalize after Vucinic's goal. "It's a shame about the result, especially Marco Storari's final save. We can improve, but also deserved more from this match," he said.

Xinhua



Juventus head coach Antonio Conte

Final eight teams set for playoff battle

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — The National Football League's (NFL) four top-rated teams join the fray this weekend by hosting divisional round playoff games that will set the stage for the Super Bowl semi-finals. Following first-round

byes, the Denver Broncos, New England Patriots, Atlanta Falcons and San Francisco 49ers should all be rested and well-prepared to do battle with last week's wild-card playoff winners. Quarterbacking kings

Peyton Manning and Tom Brady are a win away from a tantalizing AFC championship duel, with top-seeded Denver big favorites over the Baltimore Ravens on Saturday and the Patriots expected to beat the Houston

Texans on Sunday. Manning, riding an 11-game winning streak with the Broncos, steered them to a 34-17 victory last month over Baltimore, while Brady led his Patriots to a 42-14 thumping against Houston.—Reuters

Fifth five-year short-term National Plan aims to develop agriculture sector more, translate nation into industrialized one ensuring all-round development



Sixth regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan— In his greetings at the sixth regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held today, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint pointed out that only when livelihood of farmers who have been living below the poverty line and rights of workers be improved, could poverty alleviation scheme

be achieved. The Speaker urged Public Accounts Joint Committee to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently as the onus was on Hluttaw to scrutinize the budget whether it is in conformity with financial rules and regulations.

Next, the New Year Message sent by the President to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was

put on record and clarification on use of brooch by Hluttaw representatives was made and approval was sought at the Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw explained establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and the Republic of Armenia.

Reshuffle and

appointment of ministers in Taninthayi Region government and resignation, reshuffle and appointment of ministers in Sagaing Region government, renaming and extending the boundary of districts, townships, villages and village-tracts of regions and states, the President's attendance at the 21st ASEAN Summit and related

meetings in Cambodia and the President's visit to Brunei were put on record at the today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw read out the fifth five-year short-term National Plan (from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016) (draft) of the Union government, and the Joint Bill Committee explained findings and comments.

The fifth five-year short-term National Plan was drawn in accord with the policies that encourage to more develop agriculture sector, to translate the nation into an industrialized one ensuring all-round development, to bring about equitable development to regions and states and socio-economic development for the entire people and accuracy and precision of statistics.

Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (1) and Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Township Constituency expressed

their views on the national plan.

Next, the Union Minister read out National Plan Bill for 2013-2014 fiscal year of the Union government. The Joint Bill Committee read out the findings on comments of the President on the bill amending the Attorney-General of the Union Law and bill amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law.

Today's session included 23 agendas and the second-day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held at 10 am on 14 January.

MNA

Correction

Please read Securities and Exchange Bill instead of treasury bonds bill which appeared in the second paragraph, 5th column under the headline "Speaker urges MPs to coordinate, cooperate with authorities to help address challenges of people" on the back page of this daily issued on 10-1-2013.—NLM

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—U Win Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, delivered a speech at the signing ceremony of the implementation agreement between MAPT and Bio Fuel Co., Inc (Japan) for improved operability of Rice Husk Gasification Power Generation in Myanmar at Conference Hall, Ministry of Commerce on 8 January.

In the speech, the Union Minister addressed that gasifiers for domestic use are being produced by local entrepreneurs and it is unable to clean accumulation of tar during rice husk gasification so as to occur some weakness such as unstable power generator operations, decrease in engine's performance and often need tar cleaning inside the engine and so on. It can result in harming environmental conservation and, in this regard, responsible persons from METI and NEDO visited Myanmar in August 2012 and held negotiations with responsible persons from MAPT, Myanmar Rice Millers Association (MRMA) and Myanmar

Rice Mill Company Ltd (MRMC), and ground survey of project site as well, aftermath MAPT and METI signed the meeting minutes on agreement for cooperation of this research project with the assistance of NEDO on 10 September 2012.

Then, Union Minister added that this research project will be successful in cooperation of Japanese technicians and Myanmar technicians as well and they will surely issue a recommendation to facilitate dissemination for good achievements from this research. And with the accomplishment of the project, the people will be able to use widely gasification power generation system in rice mills in the country, thereby contributing much to rural electrification and continuously ensure rural small industry development and rural sector development. Meanwhile, this research project will bring about mutual benefits for two countries and Ministry of Commerce will cooperate

Agreement on cooperative research for improved operability of Rice Husk Gasification Power Generation signed

in completing this project and also would like express special thanks to NEDO for its kind support and contribution.

Afterwards, Mr Kazuo Furukawa, Chairman of NEDO explained the brief report on outline of the project. Then Managing

Director for Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and Mr Tomitake Maruyama, Chairman of Bio-Fuel Co., Inc signed the agreement and took the record photo of the ceremony.

This project will be implemented by Bio-Fuel

Co., Inc and its partners companies such as Enbiotech., Inc and Tokyo Electric Power Company, organized by the METI and NEDO. Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading (MAPT), Myanmar Rice Millers Association (MRMA) and Myanmar Rice Mill

Company Ltd (MRMC) will cooperate for the project from the Myanmar side.

The project is going to be implemented up to February 2013 with the contribution of Japan Yen 90 million from NEDO and Japan Yen 40 million from Bio-Fuel Co., Inc.—NLM



Union Minister for Commerce delivers speech at signing ceremony of the Implementation Agreement between MAPT and Bio Fuel Co., Inc (Japan).—MNA