

SMEs lie at the core of national economic growth in developing countries and some developed countries: President U Thein Sein



foreign investments during the course of economic reforms as a prerequisite for economic development before capital and technology and human resources are sufficient. He called for higher competitiveness of small and medium business

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at Small and Medium Enterprises Development Central Committee meeting at Presidential Palace.—MNA

at home through enhancing capacity and productivity in order not to harm interests of citizens. Like other developing countries and some developed countries where small and medium enterprises lie at the core of national economic growth, they account for major proportion of respective industrial zones established and it is small and medium enterprises that run the national economic mechanism today, noted the President making clear the overall objectives of forming small and medium enterprises development

central committee and work committee.

The President urged the work committee to proceed with establishing a cluster of organizations in respective industries as necessary, citing the wide range of small and medium businesses from agriculture, education and health to hospitality, retailing and financial services.

The President warned against the challenges of foreign investment influx and free trade agreement of ASEAN Economic Community, and called for
(See page 7)

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Chairman of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Central Committee President U Thein Sein called for encouraging and protecting domestic small and medium enterprises as he addressed the committee meeting at Presidential Palace here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, central committee members Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, region/state chief ministers, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and others.

The President stressed the need for invitation of



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Investigation Commission Press Release No. 1/2013 14th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME (11 January 2013)

1. The third plenary meeting of the Investigation Commission was held at I-12 Hall in the Hluttaw's compound at 13.00 pm on 10 January. The meeting accessed the commission's functions and coordinated the future work programmes.
2. Two experts who are well-informed in mining and legal affairs have been appointed under the arrangement of the President Office in order to be able to thoroughly review the contract signed between Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and Wanpaung Co as to Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project. A team led by the Commission chairman together with the experts

3. on 9 January held a discussion with the chairman of UMEHL and party over the contract and other matters.
3. The Investigation Commission in its full capacity has formed the Myanmar Environmental Science Group inclusive of experts of various fields and assigned duty to it to review whether international provisions for environmental conservation and relevant technologies are being applied in the aforesaid copper project.
4. The MESG from 24 to 30 December 2012 made a field trip right down to Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project and Sabaitaung and Kyesintaung Copper Mine Project and studied about-
 - (a) Ecology
 - (b) Social aspect and cultural heritage
 - (c) Project management and development analysis
5. Besides, the MESG since 4 January 2013 also reviewed the existing baseline ambient air status in the surrounding areas of the projects, and on 10 January presented a preliminary report to the commission.

6. The Deputy Director-General of General Administration Department, member of the commission, from 8 to 10 January conducted a field trip to villages near Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project for study.
7. As the government is taking responsibility for medical treatment of patients who sustained burns in Letpadaungtaung incident, the commission continues to make coordination on fulfilling the requirements. All the warded patients at Mandalay General Hospital have already been discharged as they were fully recovered. The condition of Ashin Sijjana, one of the two monks, who underwent medical treatment in Thailand has improved significantly and he is now in a position to return to Myanmar soon. The condition of U Tikhañana has also improved but he still needs further medical attention, according to the commission.

**Investigation Commission
11 January 2013**

Roads, bridges construction, maintenance inspected



NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected the repaving of Yangon-Nyaungdon-Sakkawt-Danubyu road, Nyaungdon-Sekkawt and Danubyu-Kyonpyaw road sections, and construction of Akyaw Bridge, Kyontanaw and Kyontani bridges on the road on 6 January.—MNA

Kawthoung Township organizes risk management course

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan — Jointly-organized by Taninthayi Region Relief and Resettlement Department and Myanmar social organizations, a township-level risk management course was held at Hanthawady hall of Kawthoung Township General Administration Department on 26 December. Kawthoung Township Administrator U Pa Si made an opening address, and course instructors gave lectures at the four-day course.—Kyemon

Landslide kills a gold panner

INDAW, 11 Jan — A landslide occurred at Inddinekon valley, one-mile south of Mawtake Village in Indaw Township of Katha District of Sagaing Region on 7 January.

Zaw Win Naing of Tapaw Village of the township was killed by the landslide while he was

Naypyidaw International Exhibition & Car Show kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan — The opening of Naypyidaw International Exhibition & Car Show, organized by Myanmar Anwrahta Company, took place at the festive ground in front of Uppatasanti Pagoda on Razahtarni Road in Pobbathiri Township, here, yesterday. Nay Pyi Taw Council Members U Than Htay and Col Myint Aung Than, Managing Director U Tin Tun Aung and Administrative Director U Aye Chan Min of Myanmar

Anawrahta Company, and Executive Director Retired Col Tha Aung of Father Land Company, main sponsor, formally opened the exhibition and viewed round the booths. A total of 140 booths from more than 100 companies will be displayed from 9 am to 9 pm at the exhibition that will be held up to 19 January.

Companies will offer discount ranging from 5 to 30 per cent to the customers including gift and lucky draw programme. Personal goods, foodstuff,

electronics and electrical appliances, automobile and low-cost housing, apartment, condominium and houses will be on sale at the exhibition.

During the five-day period, Po Chit drama troupe, R Zarni, Zaw Paing, Po Kar, Helay, Aw Ratha, So Tay, Thar Soe, Ni Tar, William, Eine Eine, Waing Su Khine Thein, Sandi Myint Lwin, Chan Chan, Chit Snow Oo, Khine Hninn Wai, May Thet Khine and other artists will perform entertainment, and funny programmes will be available for children at the playground. — Kyemon

Mawlamyine University organize first-aid course

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan — The opening of a first-aid course (1/2013) organized by the Red Cross Society (branch) of Mawlamyine University took place at the main hall of the university

Mawlamyine on 8 January. Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint spoke on the occasion. A total of 500 students are taking the five-day course.

MNA

panning for gold in the valley.

While Sub-Police Inspector Kyaw Mya Aung of Mawtake Police Station and party arrived there, the victim was buried beneath the landslide and found dead. Investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

UAB's eleventh branch starts its banking service in Pathein

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan — The opening of the eleventh branch (Pathein Branch) of the United Amara Bank Limited was held at the bank building on Mahabandoola street in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region on 9 January.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein

Aung, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko, Chief Executive Officer of United Amara Bank Limited U Than Win Swe and a townselder formally opened the bank and viewed round the banking service.

Next, the manager of the

newly-opened bank branch explained the functions of the bank and the senior managers of risk and credit department and public relations department, loan service, hire purchase and foreign banking services and services to be given in future.—MNA



MMCWA, IPPF organize Prevention of Unsafe Abortion Course

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan — Jointly-organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and IPPF, an opening of (MYA/11/A3) Prevention of Unsafe Abortion course was held at the meeting hall of MMCWA Building in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, on 8 January.

Chairperson of

MMCWA Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung made an opening address at the ceremony.

Next, Director Dr Aung Tun of Health Department gave talks on the relationship between prevention of abortion and Millennium Development Goals, MMCWA Secretary Daw Thazin Nwe, on labor rooms of MMCWA

and reproductive health promotion programme and Executive Director of IPPF Dr Ko Ko Maw, on ongoing tasks between IPPF and MMCWA.

A total of 30 trainees from Mingaladon, North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships of Yangon Region are taking the five-day course. — MNA



Arson fire in Tamway Township

YANGON, 11 Jan — An arson fire broke out in the bedroom of an apartment in Kyaukmyaung of Tamway Township, here, at about 4 am on 5 January.

The fire was started by

an arsonist who set fire to the mattress in the bedroom of the apartment on the first floor of Building No (84) on Mahlwagon street in the township. Two fire engines rushed there and firefighters

put out the arson fire that caused slight damage. The arsonist has been detained in Tamway Police Station as he confessed his perpetration.

Kyemon

Counseling meeting organized

YANGON, 11 Jan — A counseling meeting was held at Kyaukse Dhammayon on Shwegondine road, here, on 9 January.

Professor Daw Win Win Kyi of Bergen Community College, Yale University,

the United States of America gave talks on counseling services and answered the questions raised by those present.

The meeting was attended by 130 trainee counselors from social

welfare department and social organizations that offer counseling service to the people with different kinds of problems caused by health, worksite, natural disaster, social conflicts.

MNA

Information Centre for Industrial City opened

MANDALAY, 11 Jan—A ceremony to make clarification on Myohta Industrial City Project to be jointly established by Madnalay Industrial Development Authority

of Mandalay Region Government and Tawwin Advanced Technology Co Ltd was held in conjunction with the establishment of Information Centre at the Hi-Tech A-1 (Log House)

on 62nd Street in Pyigyidagun Township on 2 January morning.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.—Myanma Alim

WORLD

Obama nominates Jacob Lew as Treasury Secretary

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US President Barack Obama on Thursday picked White House Chief of Staff Jacob Lew as the next Treasury Secretary succeeding Timothy Geithner, a big step of shaping his economic team.

If confirmed by the Senate, Lew will become Obama's second Treasury Secretary replacing Geithner, the last remaining major economic aide from Obama's original economic team four years ago.

Lew, a budget expert, served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in US President Bill Clinton's cabinet from 1998 to 2001. During his tenure at the OMB, he helped the US federal government achieve



US President Barack Obama (L) speaks while White House Chief of Staff Jacob Lew stands by during a nomination ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 10 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

budget surpluses for three consecutive years.

Lew served in the Obama administration as Deputy Secretary of State

from 2009 to 2010 and as the OMB Director from Nov. 2010 to January 2012. He served as White House Chief of Staff from January

2012 to present.

Lew is the best person to continue Geithner's work at the Treasury Department, Obama said during a White House nomination event.

Lew "has my complete trust," stressed Obama, adding that "over the years, he's built a reputation as a master of policy who can work with members of both parties and forge principled compromises."

"Jack has the distinction of having worked—and succeeded—in some of the toughest jobs in Washington and the private sector. As a congressional staffer in the 1980s, he helped negotiate the deal between President Reagan and Tip O' Neill to save Social Security.

Xinhua

Russia Navy to hold biggest-ever exercises in Mediterranean

Moscow, 11 Jan—Warships from all Russia's naval fleets will gather in the Mediterranean Sea to hold the biggest-ever exercises, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Thursday.

"Russian warships are staying in the Mediterranean in line with their programme. They are preparing for the biggest inter-fleet exercises in the country's history," the minister said after a secure video conference with President Vladimir Putin.

The Defence Ministry said earlier that an inter-fleet force, comprising ships from the North,

Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific Fleets, would conduct exercises in the Mediterranean and Black Seas in late January under a plan for the Russian Armed Forces training in 2013.

Shoigu gave no further details as to the exact date range of the exercises.

"The main goal of the exercises is to practice the formation of a combined group of forces outside of the Russian Federation, plan its use and perform joint operations within a Navy group under the common plan," the Interfax quoted the press service of the ministry as saying.

Xinhua

US, Afghanistan discuss "last chapter" in war aims: Panetta

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta and Afghan President Hamid Karzai discussed on Thursday the

"last chapter" in building a sovereign Afghanistan that can provide its own security, including the nature of US involvement after

combat troops withdraw in 2014.

Panetta said he and Karzai made "very good progress" on the issues they discussed, but he declined to say whether they had agreed on the size of any residual US force that would remain in Afghanistan to do counterterrorism operations and training once combat troops withdraw.

Panetta said both sides were committed to the goals approved at the NATO summit in Chicago in May, which calls for a continuing effort by members of the alliance to train, advise and assist Afghan forces.—Reuters



President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai (L-R) and US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta stand for a full honours welcome at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, on 10 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

116 killed, 235 injured as four blasts rock Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 11 Jan—Thursday marked a bloody day for Pakistan as four blasts rocked the country, leaving at least 116 people killed and 235 others injured.

Out of the four blasts, three hit Quetta, capital city of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan Province bordering Afghanistan and Iran, while another hit a preaching centre in the country's northwest District of Swat.

On Thursday afternoon, at about 3:50 pm local time, a bomb hit a checkpoint of Frontier Corps, a paramilitary force in Pakistan, at the Bacha Khan area of the downtown Quetta, leaving at least 12 including a FC member

killed and 50 others injured. The injured include seven FC personnel and many kids and women.

The bomb was fixed under a chassis of a vehicle parked nearby the checkpoint and an estimated 25 kg of explosives were used in the bomb, said bomb disposal squad officers.

The blast was so huge that it left a two-feet-deep and eight-foot-wide crater on the ground, said eyewitnesses.

At least 13 vehicles including two FC pickups were also destroyed in the blast. The explosion also caused serious damage to the nearby shops, offices and homes as the checkpoint is set up at a densely popu-

lated area in the city.

About two hours later, there came a report saying a blast hit a preaching centre in the Swat District in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

The blast took place at about 5:40 pm local time inside a preaching center in Mingora, a small town in Swat District, which is some 115 kilometres northwest of the country's capital Islamabad.

Hundreds of people were gathering inside the preaching centre for Friday prayers when the blast went off. Initial reports said that it was a gas cylinder blast, but local officials later confirmed it was a blast of terrorist nature.—Xinhua



Working staff gather at the site of explosion in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 10 Jan, 2013. A loud explosion rattled Tel Aviv on Thursday noon in what appears to be part of a feud between criminals, police sources confirmed to Xinhua. Two people were lightly injured.

XINHUA

Italy's Berlusconi enters lion's den to close gap ahead of vote

ROME, 11 Jan—Seeking a fifth term as Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi took his election campaign into risky and unfamiliar territory on Thursday when he appeared on a television programme run by some of his fiercest critics.

Desperate to close a wide gap with the centre-left less than seven weeks before the vote, Berlusconi surprised many observers when he said he would attend a talk show hosted by a journalist who has made a career out of criticizing him. Italy's most proven political campaigner and savvy media mind appears to have made the right choice ahead of the 24-25 February parliamentary election.

Berlusconi successfully made some of his key campaign points and deflected thorny questions about "bunga bunga" sex parties, which he denies staging, and his claims that he was the victim of an international plot to oust him from power.

Mario Monti took his place to save Italy from a disastrous Greek-style debt crisis that threatened the ex-

istence of the euro.

Berlusconi's latest appearance on Santoro's "Public Service" talk show on La7, a private channel he does not own, was the latest in a dizzying series of radio and television interviews he has done to try to close the gap ahead of the vote.

Most recent polls put Berlusconi's centre-right around 26 percent, trailing Pier Luigi Bersani's centre-left which has a commanding lead at around 38 percent, with outgoing Monti's centrists around 15 percent of the vote.

Monti shed his image as a non-partisan technocrat when he announced

last month he would seek a second term in office and has been campaigning furiously at the head of a coalition of centrist parties.

The telecoms authority AGCOM said that after two weeks of the campaign there had been unacceptably uneven coverage of the parties contesting the election, and it called for an "immediate adjustment".

In particular, it said Monti was being given too much air time on the news programmes of two of RAI's three channels and was also getting the lion's share of coverage on private broadcasters Sky Italia and La7.—Reuters



Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi appears as a guest on the RAI television show Porta a Porta (Door to Door) in Rome on 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Studies find hardy Earth microbes may resist conditions on Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida) 11 Jan— A hardy bacteria common on Earth was surprisingly adaptive to Mars-like low pressure, cold and carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere, a finding that has implications in the search for extraterrestrial life. The bacteria, known as *Serratia liquefaciens*, is found in human skin, hair and lungs, as well as in fish, aquatic systems, plant leaves and roots.

"It's present in a wide range of medium-temperature ecological niches," microbiologist Andrew Schuerger, with the University of Florida, told *Reuters*.

Serratia liquefaciens most likely evolved at sea level, so it was surprising to find it could grow in an experiment chamber that reduced pressure down to a Mars-like 7 millibars, Schuerger said. Sea-level atmospheric pressure on Earth is about 1,000 millibars or 1 bar.

"It was a really big sur-

prise," Schuerger said. "We had no reason to believe it was going to be able to grow at 7 millibars. It was just included in the study because we had cultures easily on hand and these species have been recovered from spacecraft."

In addition to concerns that hitchhiking microbes could inadvertently contaminate Mars, the study opens the door to a wider variety of life forms with the potential to evolve indigenously.

To survive, however, the microbes would need to be shielded from the harsh ultraviolet radiation that continually blasts the surface of Mars, as well as have access to a source of water, organic carbon and nitrogen.

NASA's *Curiosity* Mars rover is five months into a planned two-year mission to look for chemistry and environmental conditions that could have supported and preserved microbial life.

Scientists do not expect

to find life at the rover's landing site — a very dry, ancient impact basin called Gale Crater located near the Martian equator. They are however hoping to learn if the planet most like Earth in the solar system has or ever had the ingredients for life by chemically analyzing rocks and soil in layers of sediment rising from the crater's floor.

So far, efforts to find Earth microbes that could live in the harsh conditions of Mars have primarily focused on so-called extremophiles which are found only in extreme cold, dry or acidic environments on Earth.

Two extremophiles tested along with the *Serratia liquefaciens* and 23 other common microbes did not survive the experiment, which not only replicated Mars' low pressure, but also its cold temperature and carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere.

A follow-up experiment on about 10,000 other microbes retrieved from boring

40 to 70 feet into the Siberian permafrost found six species — all members of the genus *Carnobacterium* — that could survive and grow in the simulated Mars chamber, located at the Space Life Sciences Laboratory adjacent to NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The next step is to see how the microbes fare under even more hostile conditions, such as higher salt levels, more radiation and less water.

Related studies to analyze the genetics and metabolism of the common bacteria *Serratia liquefaciens* also are under way.

"In the search for life on another planet, we have to start with something that we at least have access to. We don't have a Martian bacterium we can experiment with, not yet, so we keep trying to see if some of our own hardy micro-organisms have the ability to grow at another location," Schuerger said.

Reuters



The Google signage is seen at the company's headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Google drops key patent claims against Microsoft

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan— Google unit Motorola Mobility has asked a trade panel to drop two key patents from an infringement complaint that it filed against Microsoft, according to a filing at the International Trade Commission.

The ITC has been considering accusations by Motorola Mobility, which has since been purchased by Google, that Microsoft infringed on its patented technology to make its popular Xbox.

Google filed a motion with the ITC on Tuesday, asking that two patents be withdrawn from the case. One patent remains, according to the filing.

The withdrawal was required under an agreement that Google made with the Federal Trade Commission last week settling a pair of long-running antitrust investigations.

The FTC, US Department of Justice and US Patent and Trademark Office assert that companies should not request sales bans when filing patent infringement lawsuits based on patents that are essential to a standard in most cases. Standard essential patents

ensure that devices are interoperable.

Microsoft identified the two patents withdrawn from the ITC case as standard essential patents.

"We're pleased that Google has finally withdrawn these claims for exclusion orders (sales bans) against Microsoft, and hope that it will now withdraw similar claims pending in other jurisdictions," David Howard, Microsoft's deputy general counsel, said in an emailed statement.

Google did not immediately respond to requests for a comment.

Microsoft said that standard essential patents had been asserted in cases in Wisconsin and Washington District Courts, both of which have been stayed. Sales bans, or injunctions, were requested in both cases, Microsoft said.

The ITC is a popular venue for patent lawsuits because it can bar the importation of infringing products and because it issues decisions relatively quickly.

The International Trade Commission case is No 337-752.

Reuters

AMD's Su says engineers transitioning from PC culture

LAS VEGAS, 11 Jan— A senior executive at Advanced Micro Devices said the chipmaker's plan to expand beyond the struggling PC market has involved a difficult shift in company culture but is well under way.

Lisa Su, AMD's Senior Vice President and General Manager of Global Business Units, told *Reuters* at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas that veteran engineers who for years have specialized in designing PC chips based on Intel's "x86" architecture are warming to new ways of doing things.

Su joined AMD as part of a new management team hired by CEO Rory Read, who came from PC maker Lenovo in 2011 promising to make the chipmaker more efficient.

She previously worked on embedded chips at Freescale Semiconductor and IBM, and she has been described on Wall Street and in Silicon Valley as one of AMD's most promising executives.

Su said her lack of experience in PCs, the source of 80 percent of AMD's business, has been an asset in developing new strategy.

"I'm a big believer in using the best IP for a given application. It's because I'm not a long-time AMDer," Su said. "There is a mentality that if you're a long time

AMDer that we're x86, we know what we're doing and it's just about building better x86 devices," she said. "Much of the transition over the past year is that now we're a system-on-a-chip company. That's the future and we'll deliver the best technology for our growth markets." A system on a chip, or SoC, is a chip that integrates several features found in a computer into a single piece of silicon.

Like top chipmaker Intel, Sunnyvale, California-based AMD was caught flat-footed in recent years with the emergence and fast growth of mobile devices, which led to an unexpected slump in the PC industry.

But while Intel has deep pockets to fund research on new products to catch up, AMD faces declining cash flows and a more modest balance sheet.

One of Silicon Valley's oldest chipmakers, AMD has laid off engineers and some analysts are concerned it may not find new markets for its chips in time to reverse a declining cash reserve.

"We spent a couple of months in the summer as the PC market was taking its very tumultuous reset as a team thinking, what do we want to be when we grow up? It was very much an introspective period of time," Su said.

Reuters



A Hewlett-Packard Pavilion dv2 laptop with an AMD Yukon platform (L) is shown next to a laptop displaying the "Engine Room" Notebook Design Contest winning design during an Industry Insider session on the first day of the 2009 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 8 Jan, 2009.

REUTERS

Rolls hires lawyer Gold for internal ethics review

LONDON, 11 Jan— Rolls-Royce (RR.L) has appointed lawyer David Gold to lead a review of its compliance procedures after allegations of possible corruption by some of its overseas intermediaries emerged last month.

The British aerospace and defence group may face prosecution after Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) ordered it to hand over details of possible bribery and corruption in China, Indonesia and other overseas markets.

The world's second-largest maker of aircraft engines said Gold, who was a solicitor at international law firm Herbert Smith for 37 years, serving as a sen-

ior partner between 2005 and 2010, would report to the ethics committee of the board.

Gold, who is also a Conservative life peer in Britain's House of Lords, last year set up a strategic

litigation advisory firm — David Gold & Associates.

"He (Gold) is one of the UK's most senior litigators and has extensive experience working at the highest levels with corporations, governments and regulators

around the world," Rolls said on Thursday.

The SFO has asked Rolls to conduct an internal inquiry into dealings involving some of its intermediaries, and report the results.

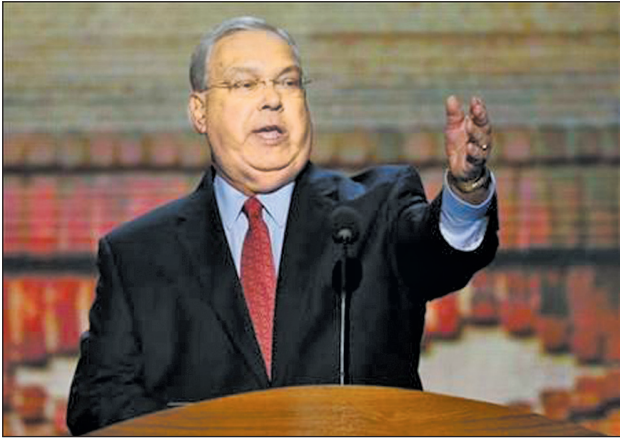
Aerospace and defence companies use intermediaries, which can be individuals or companies, in countries where they do not have a large presence. Intermediaries cover tasks from sales to coordinating maintenance and support contracts. Rolls-Royce's operations span the civil aerospace, defense, marine and energy sectors. The company has not disclosed which units are involved in the probe.—*Reuters*



A Rolls-Royce aircraft engine of a British Airways (BA) Boeing 747 passenger aircraft is seen at Heathrow Airport in west London on 7 April, 2011.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Boston declares health emergency amid US flu outbreak



Boston Mayor Thomas Menino addresses delegates during the second session of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 5 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

BOSTON, 11 Jan—With flu cases in this city up tenfold from last year, the mayor of Boston declared a public health emergency on Wednesday as authorities around the United States scrambled to cope with a rising number of patients.

US health authorities say the flu arrived about a month earlier than usual this year, and the flu strain making most people sick — H3N2 — has a reputation for causing fairly severe illness, especially in the elderly.

As a result, hospitals

around the country have been forced to find additional space to treat the ill, and some have had to turn people away.

Mayor Thomas Menino said the number of reported infections in Boston is already 10 times higher than last season's reported caseload, and said the city would begin offering free flu vaccinations on Saturday in an effort to stem the spread.

"The latest reports show an increasingly tough flu season," Menino told reporters. He urged residents to get vaccinated, saying, "We are less than halfway through the flu season."

Part of the alarm this year, experts say, is that the flu seems so much worse when compared to last year's very late and very mild flu season, in which

hospitalization rates were low.

"That is in the recent memory of many people. They can tend to underestimate the effects of flu, but it puts several hundred thousand people in the hospital every year. It can kill up to 50,000 people every year, and there are certain groups — people with underlying medical conditions, the elderly and the very young — who are at risk for severe illness from flu," said Dr Michael Jung, a flu expert at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although it varies widely from year to year, the flu season typically starts in December, builds to a peak in January or February and fades away by late March or early April.—Reuters

UK retailer Jessops enters administration

LONDON, 11 Jan—Camera specialist Jessops called in administrators PwC on Wednesday, becoming Britain's first high street casualty following a tough Christmas for retailers.

The group, which operates from 192 stores and has around 2,000 employees, has seen demand for its

investors and key suppliers have been in talks in recent days but to no avail.

"Trading in the stores is hoped to continue today but is critically dependent on these ongoing discussions," he said. "However, in the current economic climate it is inevitable that there will be store closures."



Men stand outside a Jessops shop in central London on 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Chrysler 2012 Jeep sales topped 700,000 worldwide for first time

DETROIT, 11 Jan—Chrysler Group LLC's Jeep brand sold more than 700,000 vehicles worldwide for the first time in 2012, an increase of 19 percent from the previous year, Chrysler said on Wednesday.

Mike Manley, head of the Jeep brand, said he expects 2013 sales to continue to climb as upgraded versions of Jeep's biggest seller Grand Cherokee, as well as a new midsize Jeep SUV, are introduced.

Jeep's 2012 sales of 701,626 topped the previous global high sales mark of 675,494 set in 1999. Among Chrysler's four main brands, Jeep is the one that has the most global reach.

The Grand Cherokee



A wet Jeep logo and grill is shown at the Criswell Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Fiat-Ram truck dealership in Gaithersburg, Maryland on 7 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

full-sized SUV, the compact SUV Compass, and the Wrangler, are the three nameplates of Jeep that are most aggressively marketed outside Jeep's North American base. Sales

of the Grand Cherokee rose 26 percent at 223,196 worldwide. Compass sales rose 20 percent at 103,321, and Wrangler sales rose 16 percent at 194,142.

Sales in Asia in 2012

rose 94 percent, were up 29 percent in Europe and up 18 percent in Latin America. Jeep's sales were up 13 percent in the United States at 474,131.

The new midsize Jeep SUV will replace the Jeep Liberty in the brand's lineup.

In the United States, Chrysler's top-selling brand last year was Dodge, which sold 825,917 vehicles, up 16.5 percent. Chrysler Group is majority-owned by Italy's Fiat SpA (FIA.MI).

Reuters

digital products come under pressure from the rising use of camera phones and online rivals. Many British retailers have struggled recently as inflation, muted wages growth and government austerity measures squeeze household budgets.

PwC said Jessops core marketplace has seen a significant decline in 2012 and forecasts for 2013 indicate that this decline would continue.

Joint administrator Rob Hunt said the directors,

Jessops was not immediately available for comment. In 2012 a raft of firms fell into administration, a form of protection from creditors, including British electricals group Comet, Clinton Cards, Game Group and JJB Sports.

Last year Jessops' Chief Executive Trevor Moore left to join fellow high street struggler HMV and in 2009 the firm managed to avoid administration after securing a debt-for-equity swap with its lenders HSBC.—Reuters

Lenovo entering 'PC plus' era, CEO says

LAS VEGAS, 11 Jan—China's Lenovo Group Ltd, on track to become the world's No 1 personal computer maker, is leveraging on what it calls the "PC plus" era as the company ramps up its plant capacity in major markets including the United States.

PC demand growth has waned over the past year as more consumers flock to ultraportable and increasingly powerful tablets and smartphones for basic computing.

Hewlett Packard (HP), Dell and other stalwarts of the PC industry are now fighting to sustain growth as tablet computers eat into their PC-related businesses.

But PCs aren't disappearing anytime soon.

"We don't live in a post-PC world," Lenovo Chief Executive Yuanqing Yang said in an interview in Las Vegas on Wednesday. "We are entering the PC plus era."

Yang said it is a post-

PC world for one group: companies that do not innovate in PCs.

"In our industry many players think PCs have become a commodity product," he said. "We have never thought this way."

Lenovo, he said, has redefined the category with products like Yoga, a

Lenovo vaulted into the PC market by buying IBM's personal computer division in 2005. It has become a force through aggressive pricing, overseas acquisitions and taking advantage of a fast-growing home market. Lenovo is lagging HP in PC shipments in the third quarter by



Lenovo CEO Yang Yuanqing stands after a news conference in Sao Paulo on 5 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

laptop running Microsoft Corp's Windows 8 that can be converted to a tablet PC by flipping the screen all the way backwards, and Twist, another laptop that has a screen connected through a hinge.

The two laptops have had brisk sales in the United States with Lenovo capturing 40 percent consumer market share in the \$900 and above category.

less than half a percentage point, according to IDC, a consultancy. IDC placed HP at the No 1 spot with a 15.9 percent market share, marginally ahead of Lenovo's 15.7 percent share. But Gartner, a rival to IDC, said Lenovo held the lead, with a 15.7 percent market share in the third quarter of 2012 compared to HP's 15.5 percent.

Reuters

KFC's parent apologizes to China customers over handling of food scare

SHANGHAI, 11 Jan—Fast-food chain KFC's parent Yum Brands Inc apologized to customers in China over its handling of a recent food scare that has hit the company's sales in its biggest market.

"We regret shortcomings in our self-checking process, a lack of internal communication," Su Jingshi,

chairman and chief executive of Yum China, wrote on the company's Weibo

microblog.

Yum, which gets more than half of its revenue and operating profit from China, warned on Monday that bad publicity from the safety review of its chicken suppliers had hit sales in China harder than expected in the fourth quarter.

Subsequent findings by the Shanghai Food and Drug Administration found the levels of antibiotics and steroids in Yum's current

batch of KFC chicken supply were safe, though the watchdog found a suspicious level of an antiviral drug in one of the eight samples tested.

The scandal erupted when the official China Central Television reported in late December that some of the chicken supplied to KFC and McDonald's Corp contained excess amounts of antiviral drugs and hormones used to accelerate growth.

A spokesman for Yum told Reuters on Tuesday that the firm had stopped using the two suppliers before the official probe was announced, after its own random tests showed they were not meeting Yum's own standards.

Reuters

A woman walks past a KFC restaurant as a logo of McDonald is reflected on a door window, in Wuhan, Hubei province, on 18 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



Snow, rain to continue in S China

BEIJING, 11 Jan—Snow and rain will continue to sweep south China over the next three days, meteorological authorities said on Thursday.

From Thursday to Saturday, light to moderate snow or sleet will affect the Provinces of Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan and Yunnan, as well as parts of the Inner Mongolia auto-

nous region and northeast China, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said.

Heavy snow will fall in western Hunan and the southeastern parts of northeast China, while the central and western parts of Guizhou will see freezing rain, according to the NMC.

The NMC maintained a blue fog alert on Thurs-

day morning, as visibility has been reduced to less than 1,000 metres in parts of Sichuan, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Henan and Hebei Provinces, as well as Chongqing municipality.

Blue alerts rank lowest in China's four-tier colour-coded weather warning system.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 10 Jan, 2013 shows the ice on the roof in Yongsha Village of Shuangliu Township in Kaiyang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province. Lingering cold along with freezing rain and snowfall have left 17 counties in Guizhou in a state of disaster and forced local governments to relocate over 4,470 people, according to the provincial civil affairs authorities.—XINHUA



People look around at a gun shop in Chantilly, Virginia, the United States, on 10 Jan, 2013. US Vice President Joe Biden said on Thursday he will present proposals of the White House gun-control task force to President Barack Obama by next Tuesday.

XINHUA

Central African Republic rebels agree in principle on cease-fire

LIBREVILLE, 11 Jan—The rebel coalition Seleka attending talks here on the crisis in Central African Republic nodded head at a cease-fire on Thursday.

A Seleka spokesman said they agreed in principle on a truce of one week to see whether or not the government is worth trusting.

On the same day, President Francois Bozize arrived in Libreville, capital of Gabon, to attend the Summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the politico-military crisis that threatens to topple his regime, it was learned from diplomatic sources on Thursday in Libreville.

The presidents of the countries in the sub-region Denis Sassou Nguesso (Republic of Congo), Idriss Deby (Chad), Teodoro Obiang Nguema (Equatorial Guinea), are already in Libreville.

According to the source, Cameroon will be represented by deputy prime minister, while Burundi by its foreign minister and Sao Tome and Principe by the Minister of defence.

In an interview to the Press on Thursday morning, opposition politician Jean-Jacques Demafouth said the rebellion Seleka, the unarmed opposition, civil society and the CAR government are on the verge of reaching a political consensus which maintain the CAR president Bozize in office until the end of his term in 2016.

President Bozize would have to establish a national unity government to prepare for credible elections after his tenure, according to Demafouth.

On Wednesday, the talks among the parties were deadlocked because of the intransigence of the rebellion and the opposition who demanded the resignation of President Bozize and his transfer to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes allegedly committed by his regime.

British Prime Minister David Cameron and Salmond signed the Edinburgh Agreement in October, 2012, allowing Scotland to hold an independence referendum in autumn 2014 with a single question on whether Scotland should leave the United Kingdom.—Xinhua

US VP meets with advocates, opponents in push for more gun control

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US Vice President Joe Biden this week met with both the National Rifle Association and gun victims in a bid to shape new firearms legislation just weeks after the massacre of 20 school children shocked nations worldwide.

The string of meetings on Wednesday and Thursday came just weeks after a gunman opened fire last month in the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, spraying classrooms of six and seven-year-olds with bullets from weapons including a Bushmaster AR-15 assault rifle. The massacre has sparked a heated debate between those who want to ban assault weapons and gun advocates who say automatic weapons are needed to protect against

home invasions, robbery and murder.

Many Democratic lawmakers are calling on Congress to re-institute the 1990s ban on assault weapons, as well as close loopholes that allow buyers to circumvent criminal background checks.

Legislation aimed at an outright ban of certain weapons is likely to see stiff opposition from gun-rights proponents, but there is a chance that congressional Republicans will compromise on gun legislation, said Darrell M. West, director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution.

“(Republicans’) party base is opposed to meaningful legislation but the horrific nature of the Newtown killings may lead suburban legislations and female representatives to

reconsider their previous stance,” he said. “It may be possible to limit the sale of high volume ammunition magazines and to improve background checks so weapons don’t end up in the wrong hands.”

Republican strategist Ford O’Connell warned that Democrats will need to tread lightly if they want Republicans to compromise on firearms legislation, as any bill perceived as a naked power grab on guns is likely to fail.

Gun owners have long been skeptical of the government exercising what they view as too much control over their constitutional right to bear arms. Any bill seen as too heavy handed is unlikely to pass the GOP-controlled House of Representatives in a bitterly partisan Congress.—Xinhua



A Volvo hybrid vehicle is seen on the media day of the Brussels Motor Show at the Expo Centre in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 10 Jan, 2013. The Brussels Motor Show, presenting 10 concept or prototype cars this year, serves as the first show of the European important motor shows. The 10-day Brussels Motor Show will be opened to the public on 11 January.—XINHUA

UN agencies help Syrian refugees in Jordan combat severe weather conditions

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Jan—A UN spokesperson on Thursday said that UN agencies are trying their best to mitigate the effects of severe weather conditions across northern Jordan on the situation of Syrian refugees living at a camp there.

The Za’atari Syrian refugee camp in Jordan has been affected by severe

winter storms, said Martin Nesirky, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at the daily briefing.

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), “some areas have become very muddy and some tents have been affected. But the agency reports that the vast majority of the camp has withstood

the effects of the rainfall,” Nesirky said.

The deteriorating situation at the Za’atari camp comes amid a continuing influx of refugees from across the border, fleeing the violence in Syria, where more than 60,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began in early 2011.

The camp is home to over 62,000 Syrian refugees, and much of the camp faces flooding issues due to torrential rains over the last several days.

“The UN agency and its partners are working to drain the section of the camp affected and mitigate the effects of further rainfall.”

Xinhua

Cyclone Narelle off Western Australia intensifies to category four

SYDNEY, 11 Jan—Tropical Cyclone Narelle has strengthened to a category four system as it approaches the coast of northern Western Australia (WA), the Bureau of Meteorology of Australia warned on Friday.

The national weather agency says a cyclone warning continues for coastal areas of WA from Whim Creek to Coral Bay, including Karratha, Dampier, Onslow and Exmouth.

At 5:00 am local time on Friday, category four Cyclone Narelle was estimated to be 535 kilometers north of Exmouth and 505 kilometers northwest of Karratha and moving southwest at 15 kilometers an hour, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

Gales with gusts to 100km an hour are expected to develop in coastal areas between Whim Creek and Exmouth on Friday afternoon, then extend south to Coral Bay on Saturday morning, the Bureau said.

Residents on the Pilbara coast are being warned to prepare for possibly destructive wind gusts over 130 kilometers an hour overnight Saturday.

Xinhua

NATIONAL

Patron of MMCWA receives Vietnamese delegation

King Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jabar Al Sabah, Amir of State of Kuwait, felicitates President U Thein Sein

His Excellency, Greetings,

I would like to convey my sincere felicitations to His Excellency on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my confidence that the continued evolution and development of friendly relations between our two countries and the two friendly peoples.

With my best wishes for Your Excellency's continued good health and wellbeing and for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its friendly people progress and prosperity.

Please accept my sincere appreciation.

SMEs lie at the core of national economic...

(from page 1)

giving encouragement and protection to small and medium enterprises.

The President called for reviewing laws, and rules and regulations depending on such policies for small and medium enterprises development as encouraging their competitiveness, networking with international organizations for technology catch-up and capital transfer, market development, human resource development and increasing job opportunities and focusing on research and development works.

The President urged the work committee to draw up small and medium enterprises development plans to be suited to national plan and national comprehensive development plan to be formulated soon.

Small and medium enterprises account for 99.4 per cent (126237 in number) of overall industries across the nation totaling 126,958 in number with nearly 620,000 unregistered, said the President urging the region/state governments

and respective ministries to record accurate facts and figures and report to the work committee.

In conclusion, the President called for accuracy of facts and figures, proper assessment of the success and failure of businesses to offer assistance as necessary, effective reduction of transaction costs in face of commodity influx under ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, high quality of products, formation of task forces as necessary, cooperation with local and foreign organizations to acquire technology and capital, and effective government-private partnership for continuous improvement.

Committee Secretary Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein elaborated on nature of small and medium enterprises and inbound investments, followed by discussions between Union ministers and region/state chief ministers. Their discussions ranged from formation of new villages to agricultural development.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, patron of MMCWA and Vietnamese delegation pose for documentary photo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and patron of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, received a Vietnamese delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Viettle Group from Vietnam Mr Nguyen Mahn Hung, and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phug.

During the meeting, Mr Nguyen Mahn Hung said that Viettle Group company would make investment in Myanmar and expressed their willingness to donate 500 sets of computers to basic education schools in the country as part of their assistance to the education

sector and to donate US\$100,000 to MMCWA.

Daw Khin Khin Win thanked the Viettle Group for its investment in Myanmar

Hluttaw urges UPMCC, KIO/KIA to...

(from page 16)

It is also cooperating with Commerce Ministry and Energy Ministry to meet the domestic demand of fertilizer input. It is also mobilizing for emergence of finished product manufacturers as the country currently is exporting agricultural produce including rice in raw.

As to the question of preventive measures against floods and distribution of seeds to flood-hit farmers, the deputy minister replied

and doing their investment in accordance with the policy of the country. She also thanked for donation of computers and USD100,000, pledging that

the cash would be injected

into the education sector. She also briefed on the education, health and social activities of the association.—MNA

that funds have been sought for implementation of seven flood prevention projects in Bago Region, three in Ayeyawady Region, four in Yangon Region, one in Rakhine State and repair and maintenance works in respective regions and states in 2013-2014 fiscal year. Seeds reserves were established in regions vulnerable to floods and seeds could be distributed for 209,030 acres out of 278,582 acres of flood-hit farmland in 2012 alone. The

government, the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry and private donors contributed seeds for regeneration of farm works, concluded the deputy minister.

The Bill Committee submitted report on the bill amending the emoluments, allowances and facilities of Region/State level personnel which is aimed at enabling national races affairs ministers to have the equal rights with region/state ministers.

MNA

Myanmar to see more investment opportunities

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—A group led by Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Investment Commission

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein discussed investment opportunities with Vice Chairman Mr George Yeo of Wilmar Investment Holding Pte., Ltd and party of Singapore at the President Office, here this morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Soe Thein underscored sooner implementation of works in line with investment laws and bylaws while the visiting delegation focused on world-class hotels project, industries in Thilawa Industrial Zone, Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and

Mr. Mourad MEDELICI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, sends felicitations of Union FM

Excellency,

I am very pleased to address to you my warm congratulations and my best wishes of health, happiness and success on the occasion of the national day celebration of your country.

I would like to seize this opportunity to assure you of my full availability to work, with you, for the development of the friendship and cooperation relations between our two countries.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mandalay regions as well as construction of fertilizer factory.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for

Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for Hotels and Toursim U Htay Aung, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, region/state chief ministers, deputy ministers and responsible personnel.—MNA



Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thein makes discussion with Singaporean delegation.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 12 January, 2013

Because we are....

With the warm rays of the January Sun shining over the entire nation, hopes have flared up in Kayin State for lasting peace in the festive atmosphere of its New Year celebration following the fruitful peace negotiations between the President, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the KNU. The power of diplomacy, dialogues and engagement had almost ceased the gunshots there, to free the dove from the cage of doubts and discords and let it fly high in the clear Kayin skies.

In his message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the President noted the revival of the long-lost practice of finding solutions through negotiation in Myanmar society. There are basically two styles of negotiations—winning at any cost (competitive) and discussing for mutually satisfactory result (collaborative). Unlike the former, the focus shifts in the latter from efforts to beat the rival to defeat a problem and to find a mutually acceptable result. The latter is a win-win negotiation, yielding benefits to either side of the negotiation table whereas the former is I win, you lose attitude and would result in nothing except for confrontation.

In collaborative style negotiation, building trust is the first and most important step as mutual trust is the mainstream of win-win negotiation. Guns create fear and not the trust. Armed conflicts contribute chaos and not the rule of law. Acts of sabotage destroy and not develop a nation. Mine blasts kill and not cure. Finally, an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind, to quote what Gandhi had said.

Peace established or maintained at gunpoint would not last long and it is none other than a sham. The President said the government is determined to proceed with ceasefire agreements to enter into political dialogues and is currently working on the formulation of a framework for it. At the same time, we are obliged to do our fair share to end the gunshots, to end the loss of lives because we are also humans, because we are brothers, because we live on the same land and drink the water of same river and because we have once shared laughter and tears.

Mandalay stadium under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint inspected Mandalay stadium construction site in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region on 9

January. In meeting with officials concerned at the briefing hall, the chief minister left instructions on timely completion of the construction works, worksite safety and greening tasks.—MNA



Bahan Aye Min

NATIONAL

President receives Hungarian delegation



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein greets Minister of State for Hungarian Parliamentary Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Zsolt Nemeth.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a Hungarian delegation led by Mr Zsolt Nemeth, Minister of State for Hungarian Parliamentary Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Credentials Halls of the Presidential Palace here today.

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan— A cordial discussion between Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and a delegation led by Vice-President Mr. Prasit Gamrong Chietanon of C.P Inter Trade Co Ltd based in Thailand took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry, here, this afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the ministry was striving for the ensuring smooth process of export/import and trade sectors, and urged the delegation to cooperate with the ministry in technical transfer and promoting export sector as the C.P Inter Trade Co had made investments in agricultural and livestock breeding sectors in the country. Mr. Prasit Gamrong

During the meeting, Mr Zsolt Nemeth said that Hungary sent the delegation to Myanmar to show its firm support for the reforms in Myanmar and Hungary was willing to provide necessary assistance to Myanmar when Myanmar became the chair of ASEAN in 2014.

He also pledged to cooperate in capacity building

between the parliaments of the two countries.

They also discussed matters on human resource development, lifting remaining sanctions against Myanmar, getting GSP, cooperation in health, water utilization, agriculture sectors, maintenance of river system and hydro power generation. Also

present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, officials of the President Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungarian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Denes Tomaj and high-ranking officials of Hungary.—MNA

Thai company to assist in Myanmar agricultural sector



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint holds discussion with Vice-President Mr. Prasit Gamrong Chietanon of C.P Inter Trade Co Ltd.—MNA

Chietanon for his part said the company is one of the biggest rice exporters in Thailand and expressed his

strong desire to assist in Myanmar agricultural sector.

Next, the Union minister, deputy ministers

and officials concerned answered the queries raised by the delegation.

MNA

Course for tour guides with expired license on 4 Feb

YANGON, 11 Jan— The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been launching many courses for tour guides and implementing the four objectives laid down for

convenience of tourists visiting the country.

As Myanmar, at present, sees an increasing influx of tourists, the ministry has planned to open the refresher

course No. 4 on 4 February for guides whose licenses have expired.

Interested persons may submit applications with a copy of the old license to the tourism training school (No. 458/460) on the second floor of Yatha Condo at the corner

of Maha Bandoola Street and 31st Street, here, starting from 16 to 29 January.

The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism will issue tourist guide licenses to the trainees who pass the two-week course.

MNA

NATIONAL

Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—*The following are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

**From Mr Antonis C. Samaras,
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the National Day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity, progress and welfare of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Raja Pervez Ashraf
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Excellency,**

On behalf of the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I feel pleasure to convey to Your Excellency our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close cordial relations. I am confident that the existing friendly bilateral ties would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia
His Excellency,**

On behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia, I wish to express my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar, on this joyous occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Under Your Excellency's able stewardship, the Myanmar people have many reasons to celebrate as they look ahead to the future with great optimism and anticipation. Malaysia will continue to be supportive of Myanmar's efforts in achieving all of its national priorities. We stand ready to intensify our co-operation in all fields to support Myanmar as it advances further in its reform and takes on more responsibilities in ASEAN. I am confident that our excellent bilateral relations will further strengthen as Myanmar ushers in a new era of rapid transformation.

I would also like to express my deepest and sincere appreciation to your and the people of Myanmar for the warm reception and hospitality extended to me and the Malaysian delegation during my visit on 28-29 March 2012. My wife and I will always cherish the kindness and friendship we received from the Myanmar people. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend once again my invitation to you and Madam Daw Khin Khin Win to visit Malaysia in the near future.

Please accept Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
Crown Prince
Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
His Excellency,**

I am pleased on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of your country, to express to Your

Excellency, my heartfelt Congratulations and Best Wishes for good health and happiness and to the people of Myanmar the most Progress and Prosperity.

My Best Regards for Your Excellency.

**From Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan
Excellency,**

On the 65th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warm congratulations.

Japan and Myanmar have enjoyed cordial bilateral relations as long-standing friends in the Asian region. I fondly recall my first-ever visit to your country in 1983, when I accompanied my late father who was the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the kind hospitality you personally extended to me during my visit a year ago. During our meeting I was impressed with the strength of your will to press ahead with political and economic reforms.

Japan welcomes the continued progress of reform in your country, and is committed to doing all that it can to support the reform efforts while strengthening bilateral relationship with your country even further.

I wish you and your country great success and prosperity.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, it is my great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar our warmest greetings and heartiest felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my firm conviction that the existing close ties and intense cooperation between our two countries is a matter of great satisfaction. There exist enormous potentials for further deepening and widening our relations in various areas of cooperation. On this joyous occasion, let us take a fresh pledge to work together for the mutual benefit of our two people.

I wish you good health, happiness, and long life and peace and prosperity for the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of Myanmar, my heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have enjoyed long-standing friendship and close cooperation in all fields, bilaterally and in the framework of ASEAN. I would continue to working closely with Your Excellency to strengthen our warm ties for the benefits of our two countries and peoples

as well as for building the ASEAN Community.

May I take this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your personal good health, happiness and greater success in fulfilling your noble tasks.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Mr Nguyen Tan Dung
Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the State, the Government and the people of Viet Nam and in our own names, we have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Myanmar our warmest congratulations.

We would like to convey our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on important achievements recorded in the last more than six decades. We firmly believe that, under your clear-sighted leadership, the people of Myanmar will achieve greater achievements in their cause of national construction and development, making Myanmar a prosperous country with an ever-increasing role in the region and the world.

We are very delighted to witness strong and rapid development in the traditional friendship and multi-sided cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar recently. More significantly, the frequent exchange of high-level visits has helped reinforce and strengthen mutual trust and understanding as well as bilateral existing fine cooperation between the two countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. We are deeply convinced that, with the concerted efforts of our Leaders and people, Viet Nam-Myanmar relations will further blossom, moving towards a new height, in the interests of our people and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific.

On this occasion, we wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and success in your noble position.

**From Dr Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of the Republic of India
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend to you my warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

India and Myanmar enjoy close and friendly relations, based on the enduring foundations of shared history and common links of culture, religion and ethnicity. The joint initiatives taken by our two governments over the past year have significantly broadened our bilateral cooperation and deepened our multi-faceted relationship. I look forward to working closely with your to take our relationship to new heights.

I greatly appreciate your recent visit to India to attend the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit. Your presence not only enriched the proceedings of the Summit, but also gave us an opportunity to review our rapidly growing bilateral relations.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for your personal well being and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Furniture donated to basic education schools

MOHNYIN, 11 Jan—The school furniture donation ceremony took place at basic education primary schools in Mohnyin Township on 9 December.

At the ceremony, owner of Aung Hospital in Aungthabye Ward of Mohnyin retired District Law Officer U D Sim Ram donated 20 desks, 40 chairs and one wall

clock to school heads of BEPSs in Ohnsanhsaing and Lonjakaung villages.

Ohnsanhsaing Basic Education Post-Primary School in Bilumyo Village-tract was built in 2010-2011 fiscal year with K 19.5 million contribution of the Union government and K 10 million by the local people.

Lonjakaung BEPS

in Aungthabye Ward of Mohnyin was built by KIA with K 20 million contribution during the previous ceasefire period.

The school furniture donation ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Sai San Win, wellwisher, members of the school committees and respective school heads.—NLM-001

Plans to organize literary talks

MOHNYIN, 11 Jan—Arrangements are being made for organizing the literary talks in major towns of Kachin State in January 2013.

The enthusiasts will organize the literary talks at Abbot Training School in Myitkyina on 17 January, Ashaykyang Pariyatti Monastery in Mohnyin on 18 January evening and

Namkaung Hall in Mogaung on 19 January.

This year, well-known writers Kyaw Yin Myint, Nay Win Myint and Nyi Pu Lay from Upper Myanmar would give literary talks to the enthusiasts, said U Than Swe (Uttara Lamin) of Myitkyina who is an organizer for the literary talks.

NLM-001

Salin gets new repaved road

SALIN, 11 Jan—The 2080 feet long and 10 feet wide gravel road was commissioned into service in Kyundaw U of Salin Township on 1 January. It was built at a cost of K 12.788 million funded by Salin Township DAC. Township Administrator U Tun Thein and officials formally opened the newly-built road.

Myanma Alinn

Seized Argentine naval ship gets jubilant homecoming

MAR DEL PLATA, 11 Jan—An Argentine navy ship was given a triumphant homecoming on Wednesday three months after it was seized in Ghana on behalf of a hedge fund suing over defaulted government bonds.

The *ARA Libertad*, a tall sailing ship used as a training vessel, was detained in the West African nation on 2 October due to a court order obtained by NML Capital Ltd as it

fighters to get full repayment for the bonds in the courts.

Argentina's government, which calls funds like NML "vultures," asked a UN maritime court to intervene and the Hamburg-based tribunal ordered the ship's release last month.

The detention of the *Libertad* during a tour of Africa was a blow for Argentina's efforts to put the 2002 debt crisis behind it and drew a furious response from left-leaning President

Cristina Fernandez.

Fernandez hailed the *Libertad*'s return as a triumph of sovereignty over "anarcho-capitalism."

"The vultures were there (but) we didn't listen to them, we listened to the people's demand," she said.

"We're going to keep on fighting because no one's going to get anything out of Argentina with extortion and strong-arm tactics," she told crowds of supporters and vacationers in the seaside town of Mar del Plata. Plumes of white and sky blue smoke — representing the colours of the national flag, and a celebratory fly-past greeted the ship as it pulled into harbour.

Latin America's third-biggest economy has yet to return to global credit markets 11 years since staging the biggest sovereign debt default in history and legal wrangling with creditors continues.

A US appeals court will start hearing oral argu-

ments next month in a case that could eventually force Argentina to pay bondholders who rejected two debt restructurings in 2005 and 2010 to battle for full payment in the courts.

In order to avoid the risk of having the presidential plane seized by holdout creditors, Fernandez has hired a private aircraft for a four-nation tour of Asia and the Middle East at a cost of \$880,000, the government said this week.—Reuters



Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi (R) meets with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt, on 9 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA



Acrobatic aircrafts perform a flypass as Argentine navy vessel *ARA Libertad* arrives at the harbour of the seaside resort of Mar del Plata on 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Abduction of Iranians in Syria harmful to region's stability

TEHRAN, 11 Jan—Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the abduction of Iranians in Syria last summer was inconsistent with the human principles and harmful to the security and stability of the region, Press TV reported.

Some 48 kidnapped Iranians were released on Wednesday as part of a prisoner swap between rebels

and the Syrian government under the mediation of several regional countries.

The released Iranians were abducted by Syrian militants in the capital of Damascus in August 2012. Iran claimed them to be pilgrims, while the Syrian rebels alleged that they were Iranian military officials in Syria.

In a statement on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign

Ministry expressed gratitude to Syria for securing the release of those kidnapped. It also thanked Turkey and Qatar for their aid in securing the freeing of the Iranian citizens.

The ministry meanwhile expressed hope for lasting peace and security in Syria, with the immediate cessation of hostilities and violence in the country.—Xinhua

Senior US envoy to visit South Korea, Japan

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan—US Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell will visit the Republic of Korea and Japan next week over a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues, the State Department said on Wednesday.

Mark Lippert, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian and Pacific security affairs, and Daniel Russel, National Security Council sen-

ior director for Asian affairs, will accompany Campbell on the trip slated for 14-17 January, the department said in a statement.

It said the trio will meet their counterparts in Seoul and Tokyo to discuss "a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues."

"It's a good chance for us in an interagency way to see both countries after the elections," State Department

spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said at a regular News briefing.

A new president and prime minister were elected respectively in Japan and the Republic of Korea last month, and Japan's new Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has agreed to visit the United States on 18 January at the invitation of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Xinhua



Citizens walk on the Jiefangbei Street in south-west China's Chongqing, on 7 Jan, 2013.

Many roads and squares in the city were decorated with lights to greet the Spring Festival which falls on 10 February this year.

XINHUA



Artists of the National Ballet of China (NBC) perform the Chinese version of "The Nutcracker" at the Tianqiao Theatre in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 Jan, 2013. The Chinese version of "The Nutcracker" is prepared by the NBC for the upcoming Spring Festival which falls on 10 February this year. — XINHUA

Turkey peace plan aims at PKK laying down arms

ANKARA, 11 Jan—The Turkish government is working on a peace plan over the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) after having talks with the Kurdish leader, which aims to disarm PKK and make them leave the country, the local newspaper *Today's Zaman* said on Wednesday. "Our sincerity can be seen in the steps that

we have taken in the last few days," Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a joint Press conference during his visit in Niger, citing the talks between the imprisoned leader of the PKK Abdullah Ocalan and Turkish government.

The prime minister said the aim of the talks is to have the PKK's cadres leave Tur-

key, lay down their arms and leave Turkish territory at once. Erdogan also accused the separatist group of "committing provocations" by attacking a military station in the eastern Province of Hakkari on Monday night.

Turkish government is recently working on a peace plan through talks between PKK leader Ocalan and

Afghans say total US pullout would trigger disaster

the government.

KABUL, 11 Jan—Afghan lawmakers said on Wednesday disaster and civil war would follow if Washington pushed ahead with a suggestion to withdraw all its troops from the country after 2014.

The White House said a day earlier it was considering the so-called "zero option" of a complete pullout — despite earlier recommendations from the top military commander in Afghanistan to keep soldiers there to help

the meeting was already likely to be tense, given ongoing strains in their relationship over the war.

"If Americans pull out all of their troops without that option and the angry reaction from Afghan officials are likely to dominate talks between President Barack Obama and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai in Washington on Friday.

The meeting was already likely to be tense, given ongoing strains in their relationship over the war.

"If Americans pull out all of their troops without a plan, the civil war of the 1990s would repeat itself," said Naeem Lalai, an outspoken lawmaker from volatile Kandahar Province, the birthplace of the Taliban.

"It (full withdrawal) will pave the way for the Taliban to take over militarily," Lalai told *Reuters*.

When the Soviets left Afghanistan in 1989 after a decade-long war, financial aid dried up and the Afghan communist government collapsed, leading to infighting between warlords.

A civil war paved the way for the Taliban's rise to power.

The United States has about 68,000 troops there and that number was already expected to reduce sharply ahead of 31 Dec 2014 — the official end of the NATO-led combat mission in the country.

NATO and its partners are racing against the clock

to train up Afghanistan's 350,000-strong security forces though questions remain over how they well they will be able to tackle insurgents in the face of intensifying violence.

Many leading Afghan officials had assumed some US troops would stay.

"If American forces leave Afghanistan without properly training the Afghan security forces, and equipping them, it would be a disaster," said influential member of parliament Mirwais Yasini.

Member of parliament Shukria Barezai said a total withdrawal after 2014 would be equivalent to the United States "accepting defeat".

The Taliban said it was still considering whether to respond to the White House statement when contacted by *Reuters* on Wednesday.

Reuters

REGIONAL

Philippines, Japan agree to enhance maritime cooperation



Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario (L) shakes hands with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in the Department of Foreign Affairs building in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 10 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

MANILA, 11 Jan—Philippine and Japanese foreign ministers agreed on Thursday to enhance maritime security cooperation.

Speaking after a bilateral meeting, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said he and his Philippine counterpart Albert del Rosario agreed on “strengthening policy dialogue, enhancing maritime cooperation and other measures.” “As the strategic environment in the region is changing, it is necessary for us as Foreign Ministers to share recognition of the situation, enhance the strategic partnership between the two countries, and cooperate towards shaping peaceful and prosperous Asia-Pacific region,” he said.

Del Rosario welcomed Kishida’s official visit to Manila, noting this “reaffirms the strategic partnership” between the two countries.

Abe’s Cabinet approves 20 trillion yen stimulus package

TOKYO, 11 Jan—The Japanese cabinet on Friday approved a stimulus package worth 20 trillion yen (about 224 billion US dollars), aiming to shore up Japan’s current stagnant economy by beating chronic deflation and tackling the strong yen, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a Press Conference.

Abe said, “Beating deflation and curbing yen’s appreciation is crucially important...the new stimulus package is expected to add two percent points to Japan’s GDP growth.”

The package will also create 600,000 jobs, said Abe.

The package includes 10.3 trillion yen in central government funds.

The government will allocate 3.8 trillion yen to

He said the Japanese government will continue to help the Philippines strengthen capacity of its Coast Guard through human resource development and providing communications equipment for maritime safety including the possible purchase of multi-role vessels.

The two sides discussed other issues such as trade, investment, tourism, development assistance, people-to-people exchanges and the Mindanao peace process.

Japan is the Philippines’ biggest trading partner, with bilateral trade amounting to over 13 billion US dollars in 2012. Japan is the Philippines’ top export market, a leading source of investment and the third biggest source of tourism revenues.

Kishida said the Japanese government has agreed to extend loans to vital Philippine infrastructure pro-

ject: the construction of a new airport terminal in the central Philippine Province of Bohol; and the extension of the light rail transit system in Metro Manila.

Japan and the Philippines will continue to explore both short-term and long-term solutions to help Filipino healthcare workers to be accepted by Japanese healthcare institutions, del Rosario said. This will be coursed through the existing Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

“The Philippines wishes to maximize the opportunity to improve the Agreement and mutually reap its economic benefits,” del Rosario said. He also thanked the Japanese government for extending cash and relief goods to the victims of typhoon Bopha in southern Philippines, which left over 1,000 people dead.

The Japanese foreign minister also paid a courtesy call on Philippine President Benigno Aquino III at noon on Thursday.—Xinhua

Xinhua

jects: the construction of a new airport terminal in the central Philippine Province of Bohol; and the extension of the light rail transit system in Metro Manila.

Japan and the Philippines will continue to explore both short-term and long-term solutions to help Filipino healthcare workers to be accepted by Japanese healthcare institutions, del Rosario said. This will be coursed through the existing Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

“The Philippines wishes to maximize the opportunity to improve the Agreement and mutually reap its economic benefits,” del Rosario said. He also thanked the Japanese government for extending cash and relief goods to the victims of typhoon Bopha in southern Philippines, which left over 1,000 people dead.

The Japanese foreign minister also paid a courtesy call on Philippine President Benigno Aquino III at noon on Thursday.—Xinhua



A model presents a white python during a snake show held in a shopping mall in Hong Kong, south China, on 10 Jan, 2013. The snake show was held here to welcome Chinese lunar new year, the Year of Snake on the Chinese Zodiac. XINHUA

25 killed, 10 injured in road mishap in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 11 Jan—At least 25 people, including 11 children, were killed and 10 others injured in a major road mishap in eastern Indian state of Bihar on Thursday, a senior police official said.

“The mishap happened when the truck in which the victims — some 35 labourers — were travelling turned turtle and plunged into a ditch at Titai Bigha in the state’s Aurangabad District early this morning. While 25 people were killed on the

spot, the injured have been admitted to a government hospital,” he said on condition of anonymity.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that the a manhunt has been launched to track down the truck’s driver who has fled the spot soon after the mishap.

The state government has announced a compensation of 50,000 Indian rupees (914 US dollars) each for the families of the victims.—Xinhua

Senior CPC leader meets Portuguese delegation

BEIJING, 11 Jan—Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) leader Liu Yunshan on Thursday met with a delegation of the Socialist Party of Portugal headed by its president Maria de Belem Roseira.

Liu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said during the meeting that China and Portugal have expanded cooperation in various fields since the two countries established their comprehensive strategic partnership in 2005.

“China is willing to work with Portugal to enhance communication and strengthen cooperation to promote bilateral relations to a higher level,” he said.

Noting that the party-to-party relationship is a very important part of bilateral relations, Liu said the CPC attaches great importance to developing relations with the Socialist Party of Portugal and will continue to strengthen

relations at all levels and exchange views on issues of common concern so as to expand common understanding, increase mutual trust and promote pragmatic cooperation in various fields.

Liu also briefed the delegation on the 18th CPC National Congress.

Roseira agreed that



Liu Yunshan (2nd R), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, meets with Maria de Belem Roseira (1st L), President of the Socialist Party of Portugal, in Beijing, capital of China, on 10 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Vietnamese, Lao parties hold 1st theoretical workshop to promote ties

HANOI, 11 Jan—The Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party (LPRP) held their first theoretical workshop in capital Hanoi on Thursday under the theme, “Practical and theoretical issues during renewal process in Vietnam and Laos.”

Dinh The Huynh, Secretary of the CPV Central Committee’s Secretariat and Chairman of the Central Theory Council in his report highly evaluated the significance of this meeting between the two parties of Vietnam and Laos.

He said that the meeting aims at implementing the cooperative programme on theoretical research and reviewing the renewal process of the two countries and parties, which has been approved by both sides’ lead-

ers. Portugal and China enjoy a long history of good cooperation and their relations have made continuous progress in recent years. She said the Socialist Party of Portugal believes China will make greater and faster development with the implementation of the decisions of the 18th CPC National Congress.—Xinhua

It is of further significance as it is held soon after the two countries concluded the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Year 2012 that marked the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam-Laos relations and the 35th anniversary of the Vietnam-Laos agreement on friendship and cooperation, said Huynh.

Cheuang Sombounkan, head of the Propaganda and Training Organization of Lao Party Central Committee, said the meeting is a valuable opportunity for researchers and scientists from both countries to expand mutual understanding, exchange of information and experience in their specific areas, contributing to consolidating and enhancing the role of their respective party’s leadership.—Xinhua

Mongolian calligraphy awards promote traditional culture

ULAN BATOR, 11 Jan—The award ceremony of a national traditional calligraphy competition was held here on Thursday as part of Mongolia’s push to promote and restore its culture.

Presenting the awards to winners, Prime Minister Norov Altanhuyag said the competition would further

spark citizens’ interest in learning and using national traditional characters.

The country’s traditional writing system was abandoned in 1946 but restored in 2008, when the government formally introduced a policy of using Uygur Mongolian characters.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MATTYS VOY NO (1254)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATTYS VOY NO (1254) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-
SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (19)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV JUPITER ACE VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JUPITER ACE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.1.2013 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: J. STAR SHIPPING CO. LTD.**
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (325)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (325) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES.**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (010N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (010N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES.**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV AN QING JIANG VOY NO (172)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN QING JIANG VOY NO (172) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO. LTD.**
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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

- 1 Open tenders are invited for construction of (two) houses for factory manager and new factory building at three retransmission stations of Myanma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.
- 2 Open tender forms may be drawn from Myanma 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 Myanma 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 Supervisory Committee
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information
Ph:067-79483; 79135**

**Scottish First Minister
cleared of breaching
ministerial code over EU**

EDINBURGH, 11 Jan— Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond on Thursday was cleared of breaching ministerial code over debate concerning an independent Scotland's future EU membership.

Salmond appointed vice-chancellor of Reading University David Bell, an independent adviser to the Scottish government on the ministerial code, to conduct the investigation following a complaint by Catherine Stihler, Scottish labor member of European Parliament.

Bell said the Salmond did not try to mislead voters or opposition parties on purpose, but had been partly responsible for giving precise answers in a BBC

interview early in 2012.

"I have not found you (Salmond), or the Scottish government, to have breached the ministerial code in respect of any complaints made by Ms Stihler. I have though recommended that the Scottish Government considers revising those parts of the code relating to legal advice," concluded the independent report.

The report also noted that "the Edinburgh Agreement was the appropriate moment to seek specific legal advice from the Law Officers ... it was only when the details of the referendum process became clear that you were in a position to seek such advice."

Xinhua

Syria denounces peace envoy who hinted Assad must go

BEIRUT, 11 Jan—Syria denounced international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi as "flagrantly biased" on Thursday, casting doubt on how long the UN-Arab League mediator can pursue his peace mission.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry was responding to remarks by Brahimi a day earlier in which he ruled out a role for President Bashar al-Assad in a transitional government and effectively

called for the Baathist leader to quit.

"In Syria...what people are saying is that a family ruling for 40 years is a little bit too long," Brahimi told the BBC, referring to Assad, who inherited his post from his father Hafez al-Assad, who seized power in 1970 and ruled for 30 years.

The Foreign Ministry in Damascus said it was very surprised at Brahimi's

comments, which showed "he is flagrantly biased for those who are conspiring against Syria and its people".

The ministry later said it was nevertheless still willing to work with the envoy to find a political solution to the crisis.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague warned that violence in Syria might worsen and said the international community must

"step up" its response if it does. So far regional rivalries and divisions among big powers have stymied any concerted approach to the upheaval, one of the bloodiest to emerge from a series of revolts in the Arab world.

Russian and US diplomats, who back opposing sides of the war, will meet Brahimi in Geneva on Friday.

Reuters



Residents evacuate their houses after being targeted by missiles fired by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, in Aleppo's al-Mashhad District on 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

ENTERTAINMENT

Colin Farrell to be honoured at Oscars event

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — Irish actor Colin Farrell is set to be honoured at a pre-Oscars bash next month. The 36-year-old Total Recall star will be celebrated at the eighth annual Oscar Wilde: Honouring the Irish in Film party at in Santa Monica on 21 February, reported E! online.



The event was created by the non-profit US-Ireland Alliance to recognize the contributions of the Irish in film and television and as a glitzy networking event.—PTI

The father-of-two, who won a Golden Globe award for his role in In Bruges in 2009, is just one of a number of special honourees who will be celebrated at the prestigious event, which has previously recognised My Week With Marilyn star Michelle Williams, Bridesmaids actress Melissa McCarthy, Once Upon A Time star Sarah Bolger, Atonement actress Saoirse Ronan and 'The Tudors' star Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

land Alliance to recognize the contributions of the Irish in film and television and as a glitzy networking event. Dublin based acoustic indie folk duo the Heathers are set to perform at the red-carpet event, which is scheduled to take place in its traditional spot before the Academy Awards.

The event was created by the non-profit US-Ire-

PTI

Kate Winslet's husband wins UK photo court battle

LONDON, 11 Jan — British actress Kate Winslet's husband won a court battle on Tuesday stopping The Sun newspaper printing photographs of him "semi-naked" at a private fancy dress party several years ago. Lawyers for Ned RocknRoll, 34, who married the "Titanic" star last month, argued that there was no public interest in the Sun publishing the pictures, that it would be a breach of his privacy and it could lead to Winslet's children being bullied.

the reasons for his decision at a later date. "We have stopped The Sun from publishing semi-naked photos of Ned taken by a friend at a private 21st birthday party a few years ago," the couple said in a statement.

"The photos are innocent but embarrassing and there is no reason to splash them across a newspaper," they added. "We recognize that in the internet age privacy is harder and harder to maintain. But we will continue to do what we can, particularly to protect Kate's children from the results of media intrusion. "We refuse to accept that her career means our family can't live a relatively normal life."

Reuters



British actress Kate Winslet (L) and her husband Ned Rocknroll attend a promotional event for the Hong Kong international races in Hong Kong in this 9 Dec, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

"Idol" judges Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj play nice after feud

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan —New "American Idol" judges Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj shrugged off their widely publicized feud on Tuesday as a "trumped-up thing" that was merely a passionate difference of opinion over the TV talent show's contestants. In their first big media appearance ahead of the hit show's return to Fox television on 16 January, the two pop stars showered each other with praise while barely looking at each other.

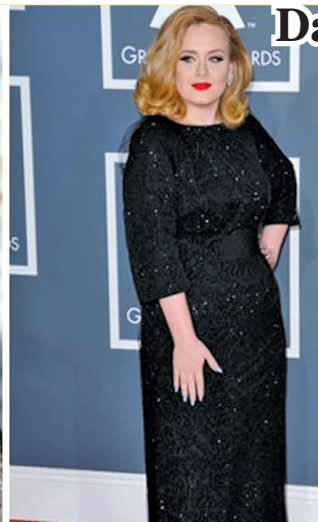
A day after the airing of an ABC TV interview in which Carey said she hired extra security following threats reportedly

made against her by Minaj last year, the "Hero" singer told reporters it was time to focus on the aspiring "Idol" stars. "This is a very passionate panel. There are a lot of strong personalities," said Carey, who is reportedly being paid \$18 million to be an "American Idol" judge. "The fighting is what it is. This is 'American Idol.' It is bigger than some stupid trumped-up thing. It's about the next superstar ... The whole thing is convoluted. It's a distraction from the show and the contestants," Carey said. Minaj, an outspoken 30-year-old rapper, called Carey one of her "favourite artists of all time."—Reuters



Judge Nicki Minaj gestures during a Fox panel for the television series "American Idol" at the 2013 Winter Press Tour for the Television Critics Association in Pasadena, California on 8 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS



Daniel Craig wants Adele to sing the theme of next Bond film

LONDON, 11 Jan —Actor Daniel Craig wants multiple Grammy winning singer Adele to sing the theme song for the next Bond film after her global smash with Skyfall. The 24-year-old singer would be the first repeat Bond singer since Shirley Bassey sang Goldfinger, Diamonds Are Forever and Moonraker, reported Daily Mirror online.

Craig, 44, has also reportedly pushed bosses at MGM to sign up Skyfall

director Sam Mendes for the next film. "Daniel wants to keep the winning team. He loved Adele and wants her back alongwith director Sam Mendes," a source said.

Adele's Skyfall track is predicted to score a nomination for Best Original Song at the 85th annual Academy Awards. Adele, who gave birth to a son last October, will reportedly make her first public appearance at the award ceremony in February.—PTI

Adele's Skyfall track is predicted to score a nomination for Best Original Song at the 85th annual Academy Awards.—PTI

Affleck, Spielberg, Bigelow among Directors Guild film nominees

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — Filmmakers Steven Spielberg, Kathryn Bigelow, Ben Affleck, Tom Hooper and Ang Lee received nominations from the Directors Guild of America (DGA) on Tuesday, ahead of the Oscar nominations this week. Affleck, 40, landed his first Directors Guild film award nomination for Iran hostage thriller "Argo," alongside fellow US directors Bigelow and Spielberg, Taiwanese director Lee and British filmmaker Hooper.

Bigelow received a nod for her Osama bin Laden-manhunt thriller "Zero Dark Thirty," Spielberg for his US Civil War-era drama "Lincoln," Lee for his 3D adaptation of best-selling novel "Life of Pi" and Hooper for his screen adaptation of hit musical "Les Miserables." "These directors represent the highest

standard of filmmaking, and their films are a testament to artistic achievement, innovative storytelling and the passion that filmmakers share with their audiences," DGA President Taylor Hackford said in a statement.

Notably absent from the list this year was

director Quentin Tarantino, whose latest film "Django Unchained," a spaghetti-western slave retribution tale, has been gain-

ing awards buzz after landing five Golden Globe nods including best director. Filmmaker David O Russell also didn't get a DGA nomination, despite his quirky comedy "Silver Linings Playbook" also building awards steam and going into the Golden Globe awards on Sunday with four nominations.

Reuters



Director Steven Spielberg speaks at The Hollywood Foreign Press Association's (HFPA) annual luncheon to announce financial grants to film schools and non-profit organizations at the Beverly Hills hotel in Beverly Hills, California on 9 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Neymar hints on new Santos deal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Jan — Brazilian sensation Neymar said on Thursday he could be convinced to remain at Santos beyond the 2014 World Cup.

The 20-year-old has been heavily linked with a move to Spanish giants Barcelona while Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester City are also reportedly keen to sign the striker.

"It's a step that I will take one day but I'm not looking for a move to Europe right now," Neymar

said after accepting the annual King of the Americas award for the best player in South America and judged by Uruguay's *El Pais* newspaper.

"For now I prefer to stay at Santos, to be with my friends and family. I have a contract until 2014 and I want to fulfill it. I could

even extend it. It's something that could be negotiated."

Neymar won the King of the Americas award for the second consecutive season with 199 votes, ahead of Peruvian striker Paolo Guerrero, who finished 50 votes behind.—*Xinhua*

Brazilian sensation Neymar



Manning puts winning streaks on line against Ravens

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Peyton Manning, who has mounted a remarkable comeback with the Broncos, will be aiming to extend two big winning streaks when Denver hosts the Baltimore Ravens in the National Football League playoffs

on Saturday. Manning and the Broncos are gunning for their 12th win in a row this season in the divisional round against the Ravens, a team he has beaten nine consecutive times, with eight of those com-

ing with the Indianapolis Colts dating back to 2002.

The 36-year-old

quarterback added to his winning streak against the Ravens with a 34-17 victory last month with a Denver team he joined after missing the entire 2011 season with the Colts after a series of neck surgeries. Manning picked up where he left off as one of the NFL's preeminent quarterbacks after joining the Broncos, producing a vintage season with his second most touchdown passes (37), second most yards (4,659), second best completion percentage (68.6) and just 11 interceptions. "Peyton Manning is one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history," Baltimore defensive lineman Haloti Ngata told reporters. "He has bounced back from injury. He has done a lot of great things for Denver. Hopefully, we can have a

Peyton Manning

good week of practice and stop him." Denver (13-3), as the top-seeded team in the AFC, is coming off a bye, while the Ravens (11-6) defeated the Colts 24-9 last week in their wild-card playoff game.

Quarterback Joe Flacco threw for 282 yards and two touchdowns against the Colts and is the only quarterback in NFL history to win a playoff game in his first five seasons but he is still striving to get all the way to the Super Bowl. Flacco made many of his biggest throws to veteran wide receiver Anquan Boldin, who had 145 receiving yards in the second half against Indianapolis. "We're looking forward to this," said Boldin. "I was hoping we'd get Denver again. This time we'll make it different."—*Reuters*

Putting masterclass puts Jaidee three clear in windy Durban

DURBAN, 11 Jan — Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee wielded a hot putter as he fired a seven-under-par 65 in blustery conditions to seize a three-stroke lead after the first round of the Volvo Golf Champions on Thursday. British Open champion Ernie Els of South Africa and compatriot Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open winner, carded 68s to lie joint second while Briton Paul Lawrie was among seven players on three-under.

Former paratrooper Thongchai, ranked 80 and who qualified courtesy of his Wales Open triumph last June, made light of the strong winds and posted five birdies in his outward nine holes for a score of 31. Further birdies at the 10th and 15th holes followed and he cancelled out his only bogey of the day at

the 17th with a fine up-and-down from the sand at the 18th for birdie. "I made long putts from everywhere. I had 24 or 25 putts today, and I haven't putted this well in a long time," Thongchai told a news conference.

"It's very, very exciting to come here because I've never been to South Africa before. I'm very happy to finish seven-under in the first round of 2013,"

he added. Gust- ing winds and steady rain affected play for much of the after-

Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand watches his shot from the 16th tee during the second round of the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai on 23 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

noon, but the 43-year-old remained unaffected and

called on the experience he gained from his victory in similar conditions in Wales last year. "We have no choice. Everyone has to play in this, and I enjoy it," said the five-times European Tour winner. "We play most of the time in Europe in conditions like this. Like Scotland, there is a lot of wind, and this is a links course - it's almost the same.

Reuters

Qatari wins Day 6 auto race in Dakar Rally

SANTIAGO, 11 Jan — Qatari auto racer Prince Nasser Al Attiyah won Day 6 of the legendary Dakar Rally on Thursday, behind the wheel of a Buggy.

Al Attiyah won the sixth stage of the rugged off-road race, between the Chilean cities of Arica and Calama, knocking French rival Stephane Peterhansel (Mini) out of the lead. The Qatari competitor covered the day's 455-kilometer tract in 3 hours, 32 minutes and 8 seconds, followed by Peterhansel, the 2012 rally champion, who trailed 8 minutes and 36 seconds behind.



Qatari auto racer Prince Nasser Al Attiyah

Halfway through the rally, which kicked off 5 January in neighboring Peru and concludes 20 January in Chile, France's Peterhansel holds the lead, followed closely by Al Attiyah, trailing by 1 minute and 18 seconds. In distant third place is South Africa's Giniel de Villiers, the 2009 rally champion, who trails the Frenchman by 42 minutes and 31 seconds.

Friday marks the seventh stage of the Dakar Rally, which features a 220-kilometre tract from

the Chilean city of Copiapo, over the desert sand dunes of Calama, to the Argentinean Province of Salta.

Day 6 Rankings:

1. Al Attiyah (QAT) 3h:32m:08s Buggy
2. Peterhansel (FRA) 8'36" Mini
3. Gordon (USA) 13'52" Toyota

Overall Rankings:

1. Peterhansel (FRA) 14h:36m:16s Mini
2. Al Attiyah (QAT) a 01'18" Buggy
3. De Villiers (SA) a 42'31" Toyota.—*Xinhua*

Djokovic starts Australian Open defence against Mathieu



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits the ball during a practice session at Melbourne Park on 10 Jan, 2013, ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament which begins on Monday.—REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 11 Jan — World number one Novak Djokovic will kick off the defence of his Australian Open title with a first round tie against unseeded Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu after the draw was made for the first grand slam of the season on Friday.

Seeking a hat-trick of titles, Djokovic has a relatively smooth draw in the tournament starting at Melbourne Park on Monday until the top seed faces a potentially dangerous quarter-final against fifth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych.

Four-time champion Roger Federer will also play an unseeded Frenchman when the second-seeded Swiss meets Benoit Paire in his opener with a fourth round clash against big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic likely to provide his first major test.

US Open champion Andy Murray will start his campaign against unseeded Dutchman Robin Haase but the third-seeded Briton is likely to have one eye on Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro, who looms as a possible quarter-final opponent.

In the women's draw, Serena Williams will start her bid for a sixth Melbourne title against Romania's Edna Gallovits-Hall, with a potential quarter-final clash against former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova awaiting her in the draw.

Top seed and defending champion Victoria Azarenka plays another Romanian, Monica Niculescu, while second seeded Russian Maria Sharapova opens against compatriot Olga Puchkova.

Reuters

GENERAL

Travel service development in Kalay

KALAY, 11 Jan— Kalay is situated in upper Sagaing region with a population of 400000. Visitor at home and abroad frequented there and their number stands at over ten thousands.

For the smooth transportation, the region is facilitated with airport, railway station and bus terminal.

There are 40 Bus Lines in Kalay and the buses are playing between Kalay and Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Tamu, Pakouku, Kalaywa, Haka, Falam



and Tetlan daily. For the convenience of travellers there are many Coaches, Luxurious cars and vans with best service.

Tetlan bus line makes up and down trip. From

Kalay two coaches depart at 10 am. From Yangon two coaches depart at 2 pm.

Travellers can go one day trip easily.

Kyemon

Argentine striker Barcos resigns with

Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Jan—Argentina international striker Hernan Barcos has ended speculation about his future by re-signing with Brazilian club Palmeiras until 2017.

outfit.1 “This is the start of a new era and we are already training as hard as we can to help deliver the best results,”

Barcos said in a message on the club’s website. Barcos, who has won four international caps for Argentina, scored 28 goals in all competitions last year to



Argentina international striker Hernan Barcos

The 28-year-old had been tipped to quit the club following its relegation to Brazil’s second tier last month. But a salary increase and the prospect of playing in this year’s Copa Libertadores are believed to have swayed the 28-year-old to remain with the Sao Paulo

provide one of the few highlights in a disappointing season for Palmeiras.

The club won the right to play in South America’s prestigious Copa Libertadores tournament by winning the Copa do Brasil in July. Under the new deal, Barcos’ buyout clause has increased from 15 to 22 million euros.—Xinhua

NFL’s Junior Seau had brain disease from blows to head

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Junior Seau, the 12-time Pro Bowl linebacker who killed himself last year, suffered from the same debilitating brain disease diagnosed in at least two other former NFL defensive players who also committed suicide, a study released on Thursday said. Seau, 43, died in May after shooting himself in the chest at his beachfront house in his hometown of Oceanside, California. He played mostly for the San Diego Chargers and two other teams in a 20-year career in the National Football League.

A study of Seau’s brain by a team of independent researchers found he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, likely brought on by two decades of blows to the head as a football player, the report said. Increased

awareness and knowledge about brain injuries have unsettled the National Football League, a \$9 billion a year industry that rose to popularity largely from the speed and power of its athletes colliding with one another. The league has attempted to institute rule changes protecting player safety while still preserving

the spectacle that fans enjoy.

CTE can be diagnosed only after death. Tissue from Seau’s brain was sent to the National Institutes of Health for analysis in July, at the request of Seau’s family, amid growing concern over the long-term effects of football-related head injuries. “The final



A picture of former San Diego Chargers and NFL linebacker Junior Seau is displayed as fans (rear) arrive at Qualcomm Stadium to participate in a “Celebration of Life” memorial, held in Seau’s memory in San Diego, California on 11 May, 2012.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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

- * News
- * Public Dental Health Care Donation
- * News
- * Song for you
- * Kid’s Talent
- * Welcome to the 5th South East Asian Archery Championship
- * News
- * Traveling in Shan Mountain Plateau (Myin Ma Hti Cave)
- * News
- * Seminar for Occupational Safety & Health Landscapes in Myanmar 2012
- * Hninzigone Home for the Aged
- * News
- * Framework on Economic & Social Reform
- * Engineered Floors made with Unique Technology
- * News
- * Taste of Myanmar (Shan Style Clay Pot)
- * Tapestry; A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
- * Myanmar Movies “Kyar Phyu”

MYANMAR TV

(12-1-2013, Saturday)

- 7:00 am South East Asian Games (Live) (Gold Finals) (Compound and Recurve Woman/Men)
- 7:15 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am 2. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:30 am 3. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am 4. Morning News
- 7:50 am 5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:10 am 6. Health Programme
- 8:30 am 7. Poem Graden
- 11:20 pm 8. Teleplay (Agri)
- 12:50 pm 9. Game For Children
- 1:50 pm 10. TV Drama Series
- 2:05pm 11. Music Serie
- 3:30 pm 12. Dance of National Races
- 10:00 pm 13. The 5th South East Asian Archery Championships and Test Mach for 27th
- 5:00 pm 14. Musical Programme
- 5:15 pm 15. Beautiful ASEAN
- 5:30 pm 16. Game For Children
- 6:00 pm 17. Evening News
- 6:15 pm 18. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm 19. Documentary
- 6:40 pm 20. International Science News
- 7:15 pm 21. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm 22. News
- 8:00 pm 23. Musical Programme
- 10:00 pm 24. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn
- 25. News
- 26. Teleplay

Swansea stun error prone Chelsea in fresh League Cup shock

LONDON, 11 Jan— Swansea produced the second surprise English League Cup semi-final first leg result in as many days after defeating Chelsea 2-0 at the European champions’ Stamford Bridge ground on Wednesday. If not as



great an upset as fourth-tier Bradford City’s 3-1 defeat of Premier League Aston Villa on Tuesday, Swansea’s victory over their top flight rivals was still a surprise.

Both Swansea goals in a backs-to-the-wall effort came as a result of two errors by Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic. In-form Spanish striker Michu, signed for just £2 million (\$3.21 million, 2.45 million euros) from La Liga side Rayo Vallecano, scored his 16th goal of the season in the 39th minute with a curling shot from the edge of the box after Ivanovic miscontrolled the ball. Chelsea boss Rafael Benitez brought Frank Lampard and Demba Ba off the bench in search of an equaliser but none came.

And in stoppage time, shortly after Ba had had a penalty appeal turned down on his home debut, Swansea’s Danny Graham scored for the fourth match in a row after another Ivanovic mistake. Now Welsh side Swansea will look to seal the tie in the second leg at the Liberty Stadium on 23 January, with the prospect of an improbable final against Bradford in their sights. “We’ve had some historic results already this season but to win here is very special,” Swansea manager Michael Laudrup told Sky Sports.

“We had to defend a lot, they had a lot of possession but to be honest they only had three good chances all night,” the Denmark great added.—Reuters

Hluttaw urges UPMCC, KIO/KIA to build trust through negotiations which pay heed to voices of the people to be able to ease military tensions



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book at Pyithu Hluttaw hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The debate at second day sixth regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw focused on armed conflict in Kachin State, Dawei Special Economic Zone, agricultural development and preventive measures for places vulnerable to floods. U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency submitted an urgent proposal. The proposal was that every second touches us with sadness for war victim local people of Kachin State who have to suffer the consequences daily and loss of both sides due to armed conflicts there. Myanmar

is marching toward the goal of democracy which places public wishes at the fore. Today is not a time to demand at gunpoint and neither to reject with the power of gun. No ways without negotiation can resolve the ongoing armed conflicts in Kachin State. Face-to-face negotiations have been currently reported to be difficult between the peace-making groups from government side and representatives from KIO/KIA side due to overall military tensions in the region. Hopes for peace and stability have become fader and fader while the

local people have to live amidst great fear and suffer untold miseries being stuck in the military preparations of two forces. Hence,

during the period of tension between the two sides as responsible personnel of the two sides find it difficult to enter into the negotiation at

the table, the Union Peace-making Central Committee and KIO/KIA are urged to release the electronic online negotiation to make the discussion transparent, to build trust through the negotiations which pay heed to the voices of the people to be able to ease the military tensions and to pave the way for the eternal peace.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann announced the disbandment of Parliamentarians Scrutiny Committee and hand-over of the responsibility for scrutinizing MPs to Hluttaw Rights Committee.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin explained about Dawei Special Economic Zone a part of MoU Myanmar and Thailand signed in 2008 with a view to economic development of pan-Greater Mekong

Sub-region and technology catch-up process from the special economic zone would contribute to comprehensive development of other regions.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw responded to the **question of measures for socio-economic development of farmers for agricultural development** that the ministry is helping farmers to be able to grow economically viable crops and get strong market, have access to GAPs, and use quality strains.

He added that Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has planned to increase the amount of loans to rice and sugarcane growers. The ministry is also focusing on research and development and encouraging the establishment of private seeds production companies.

(See page 7)

No plan to move Region offices in Sagaing Region to Sagaing: Dy Home Affairs Minister



Photo shows arrival of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives at Amyotha Hluttaw hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—Sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the second day today. With regard to the question of U Win Tint of Sagaing Region Constituency No.1, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that there was no plan to move Region offices in Sagaing Region to Sagaing. Bill Committee submitted Anti-Corruption Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw. And Amyotha Hluttaw approved

it and decided to submit it to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw so as to discuss two Hluttaws' different points.

The Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw about the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Rules and Village or Ward-tract Administration Rules sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4 submitted the proposal on urging the Union government

to establish Township Information and Public Relations Offices as Public Information Centres.

With respect to the proposal, Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No.1 said that most of the democratic countries released government's information at once. Myanmar saw more media freedom. And private newspapers were in circulation soon. People were going to have daily access to undertakings

of government, political parties and other social organizations in a journal alone. No need to go to Public Information Centers to get access to information. So, he made an objection to the proposal.

U Paw Htan Htai of Chin State Constituency **submitted the proposal on urging the Union government to carry out more development of education and health in the remote areas than other regions.—MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 4/2013
14th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(11 January, 2013)
Defence Services Personnel Region
Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw Election Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted one Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw representative stated hereunder in Notification No. 40/2012 of the commission dated 12-10-2012 with personnel shown against him.

Bago Region Hluttaw	BC 24860	BC 28687
Maj Htein Win		Maj Myo Kyaw
	By order,	
	Tin Tun	
	Secretary	
	Union Election Commission	