

# The New Light of Myanmar

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## Myanmar, Russian Federation focus on further cooperation in human resource development, technology, research works on health, education

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

Also present together with the President were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Science

and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and departmental heads. The Russian delegation led by the Foreign Affairs Minister was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B Pospelov.

Both sides held comprehensive discussions on fostering amity and friendship between the two countries, human resources development and technology and further cooperation in research works in the areas of health and education.—MNA



*President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov.—MNA*

## Myanmar-Russia FMs hold talks



NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, held talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today.

During the talks, they discussed matters relating to strengthening of the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. The discussion focused on enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade and investment,

*Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov holding talks.*  
MNA

information, culture and sports, health, education, science and technology, defence and security, tourism, mining and energy, human resource development and capacity building.

Moreover, the two ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues. The Union Minister also briefed his counterpart on the implementation of democratization and the efforts on national reconsolidation in Myanmar.

The two foreign ministers met the press at Myat Taw Win Hotel. The Union Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Russian delegation at the hotel.—MNA

## Fresher welcome of University of Forestry (Yezin) held

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — “Learning alone is not enough and it needs to apply theories and experience in actual practice,” said Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, at a fresher welcome of University of Forestry for 2012-2013 Academic Year, at the University yesterday evening.

University of Forestry (Yezin) has turned out 986 B. Sc (Forestry) graduates, 17 Post-graduate diploma and 35 master degree holders from 1992 to 2011-2012 academic years.—MNA

## KIA group returns to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — A KIA group returned to the legal fold along with arms and ammunition on 14 January.

A 7-member group from Brigade-4 of KIA led by Capt Ram Sai with the rank of captain contacted the military troops carrying out security activities near Mong Haung Village in Kutkai Township and returned to the legal fold along with one M-25 rifle, three KO rifles, one M22-rifle and three grenades used with one M-25 rifle, according to Ministry of Defence.—MNA

*Photo shows KIA group returning to legal fold.—MNA*





## Press meets on Medical Research Conference held daily

YANGON, 16 Jan—Press meets on Medical Research Conference organized by Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) at its office, here, from 7 to 11 January were held daily.

A responsible person of the conference said that brief clarifications on the papers read out daily at the conference were made at the press meets in order to inform the people of the

conference through media. For further information, media men would be able to interview the resource persons after the conference.

A total of 88 research papers and 26 posters were submitted to the conference and 12 seminars were also conducted at the conference which is annually held. This year's conference saw more research papers ever than before, it is learnt.

*Kyemon*

## Availability of self-reliant electricity in Thabyekon village



NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — The population of Thabyekon village in Zabuthirir Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is 3818 people— 1820 men and 1998 women. There are 1242 houses there. Arrangements are being made for availability of electricity on the self-reliant basis at the village where local people lack electricity since the time of their ancestors.

Officials of Pobbathiri Township Electric Power Enterprise carried out installation of power lines. So far installation of power lines and setting up of pylons and lamp posts have been completed. Installation of service lines from the lamp posts to the houses are in progress and it is set to complete at the end of May. Upon completion, each and every house in will be able to enjoy electricity. — *Kyemon*

## Agricultural loans disbursed in Maubin Township

MAUBIN, 16 Jan — A ceremony to disburse agricultural loans to 480 members of Linn Shwe Wah integrated farming and cooperative syndicate was held at the farmhouse of integrated farmlands owned by Farmer U Ne Win in Malatto village yesterday.

Vice-Chairman of the syndicate U Aye Tun explained interest rate on agricultural loan and Chairman U Ne Win presented an agricultural loan of K 42,340,000 for 3020 farmlands in the village to responsible persons.

*Kyemon*

## Corrigendum

Please read "Yangon Equestrian Club" and "Yangon Equestrian Club Chairman" instead of "Myanmar Equestrian Federation" and "Myanmar Equestrian Federation President" which appeared on column 4 on page-2 of this daily issued on 13-1-2013.—*NLM*

## Basic Education Teachers' Special Refresher Course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—The Basic Education Teachers' Special Refresher Course No 50 was opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) on 14 January morning with an

## Pakokku becomes good breeding ground for goat, sheep

PAKOKKU, 16 Jan — Pakokku district of Magway Region sees more breeding of sheep and goat that is suitable for the climate of the region in open season.

According to an official of Pakokku District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, there were 280000 heads of goat and sheep in the region—58000 in Pakokku, 510000 in Yezagyo, 570000 in Pauk and 200000 in Seikbyu in 2006-2007 fiscal year.

It is estimated that

## Kyaunggon Township celebrates Kayin New Year

MAUBIN, 16 Jan — Kayin New Year celebration was held at Wadaw village of Kyaunggon Township of Ayeyawady Region on 11 January.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Hsint and the Region Hluttaw representative of Pantanaw Township spoke on the occasion.

there are five million heads of goat and sheep across the nation. There has been a boom in goat and sheep trade in Pakokku region where brokers at home and abroad have come in flocks to buy goat and sheep. Six-month-old goats or sheep are priced at K 35000 per head.

As Pakokku region has a vast pasture land and favourable climate, there has been an increase in breeding of goat and sheep in each and every village in the region.—*Kyemon*

Next, Daw Khin Ma Lay, wife of the Region Hluttaw Speaker, and Deputy Region Hluttaw Speaker Dr Htain Win presented gifts to the members of organizing committee.

Then those present enjoyed the *Don* dance of Kayin nationals and prize presentation ceremony followed. — *MNA*

## Urban wards in Shweku Township enjoy 24-hour electricity supply



MYITKYINA, 16 Jan — Electricity plays an important role in daily lives of the people and it also a primary driving force to industrial development. Installation

of more transformers the length and breadth of the nation are being carried out by Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. A plan to supply 24-hour electricity to urban wards from Shweku Township sub-power station in Kachin State started on 5 January after installing the main transformer.

Although the urban wards used to enjoy electricity supply in rotation, now they have been able to enjoy adequate supply of electricity around the clock thanks to installation of new transformer.

Opening speech by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye. The Union Minister called them to try hard to become ones on whom the State can rely.

*MNA*

Although the urban wards used to enjoy electricity supply in rotation, now they have been able to enjoy adequate supply of electricity around the clock thanks to installation of new transformer.

*Kyemon*



## International hot-air balloon riders enjoy breathtaking panorama of Mandalay

MANDALAY, 16 Jan— Jointly-organized by Golden Express Tour and 28-member hot-air balloon riders from Britain, France and Germany led by Mr. Peter Blaser of Switzerland, the 15<sup>th</sup> Hot-air Balloon Ride was conducted at the designated places— Mandalay Hill, U Pein Bridge and Taungthaman Lake— in Mandalay on 1 January.

In the morning, hot-air balloon riders set off their journey from U Pein Bridge and made a landing on Mandalay ring road after

enjoying a breathtaking panorama of Mandalay. In the evening, their hot-air balloon took off from Swan Hotel and landed in a field, north of Mandalay Hill after enjoying an aerial view of Mandalay.

The hot-air balloon they used is 2000 cubic metres in size and 300 kilograms in weight. The hot-air balloon riding team arrived in Mandalay, Bagan and Innlay region in the last week of December since 1998. This year was the 15<sup>th</sup> hot-air balloon ride for them. — *Kyemon*

## SEA Games stadiums...

(from page 16)

Q: When did the construction of the swimming pool start?

Daw Khin May Win: The construction of the pool started in October, 2011. It has been completed by 66 percent. The training pool has been completed by 30 percent and the diving pool construction is underway. The overall construction of the whole pool has been completed by 66 percent.

Q: Who designed the pool and what is the capacity of the pool?

KMW: China designed the pool. Its seating capacity is 2474. It has the length of 217 metres and the width of 269 metres.

Q: Which rooms constitute the facility?

KMW: The building has four stories. The basement is composed of 22 rooms including chemical storage, water purifying room, temperature equalizers; the ground floor of 53 rooms including referee meeting hall, media hall, information centre, organizing committee office, recreation hall of athletes and dressing rooms; the first floor of

20 rooms including the rehearsal hall, recreation halls and rest rooms; the second floor of 10 rooms including commentators' room. These are almost complete.

Q: What is the progress of Zeyathiri Indoor Sports Stadium?

U Khin Maung Kyi: The badminton ground has been completed by 80 percent and volleyball ground 65 percent and the table tennis facility 80 percent.

Q: Which parts have yet to be completed?

KMK: Only interior decorations have yet to be completed. Seat, water, electricity and sound system installation will make the construction complete.

Q: Who designed the Indoor Sports Stadium and when will it be completed?

U Myint Naing: China designed Zeyathiri Indoor Sports Stadium. The construction started in May, 2011, and is scheduled to be completed by March, 2013.

*Myanma Alinn:*

13-1-2013

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Trs: HKA



## WORLD

## Explosions kill 83 at Syrian university as exams begin

BEIRUT, 16 Jan—Two explosions tore through one of Syria's biggest universities on the first day of student exams on Tuesday, killing 83 people and wounding dozens, a monitoring group said.

More than 50 countries asked the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday to refer the crisis to the International Criminal Court, which prosecutes people for genocide and war crimes. But Russia—Assad's long-standing ally and arms supplier—blocked the initiative, calling it "ill-timed and counterproductive."

Each side in the 22-month-old conflict blamed the other for Tuesday's blasts at the University of Aleppo, located in a government-held area of Syria's most populous city.

Some activists in Aleppo said a government attack caused the explosions, while state television accused "terrorists"—a term they often use to describe the rebels—of firing two rockets at the school. A rebel fighter said the

blasts appeared to have been caused by "ground-to-ground" missiles.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said 83 people were killed and dozens wounded, but it could not identify the source of the blasts.

"A cowardly terrorist act targeted the students of Aleppo University as they sat for their mid-term examinations," Syria's United Nations ambassador, Bashar Ja'afari, told the UN Security Council in New York. He said 82 students

had died and 162 more were wounded.

If confirmed, the government's report of a rocket attack would suggest rebels in the area had been able to obtain and deploy more powerful weapons than previously used.

The crisis has driven hundreds of thousands of people to flee the country, many to neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, where a fire at a camp in the country's southeast killed a pregnant Syrian woman and her three children on Tuesday.—Reuters



Syrian security personnel and civilians gather at the site where two explosions rocked the University of Aleppo in Syria's second largest city, on 15 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

## Russian nuclear icebreaker departs for Baltic operations

SAINT PETERSBURG, 16 Jan—The nuclear-powered icebreaker "Russia" has begun its weeklong journey from the northern port of Murmansk to join Russia's Baltic Fleet on Tuesday.

The icebreaker will pass along the Danish and Norwegian coasts for the second time before beginning a three-month stay in the Baltic on 23rd January.

The vessel was first deployed in the Baltic in 2011 when unusually thick ice left more than 200 vessels stranded. Similarly cold weather is feared over the coming winter months.

Xinhua

## US welcomes French military action in Mali

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—The United States welcomed the French military action in Mali and was providing support to the French forces, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said on Tuesday.

"It's absolutely critical to stop the offensive of terrorist groups towards southern Mali, to prevent the collapse of the government, and to accelerate the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Mali," Nuland told reporters at a briefing.

"So, it's in that context that the US very much welcomes the French military action in Mali, which came at the request of Mali's president, as well as support being offered by other governments," she said.

The al-Qaeda-linked

rebels in northern Mali are facing increasing pressure after days of bombardment by French war planes and the French decision to deploy more troops on the ground to help Mali's government forces.

During a visit to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, French President Francois Hollande said the French forces in Mali will increase from the current 750 to 2,500.

On Friday, Paris confirmed its military operations in Mali to back the government forces in fighting the rebels, who briefly seized the central town of Konna and threatened the southern part of Mali, including the capital Bamako.

Right now, the Malian military claims it has re-



A tourist takes photos on the Qianmen Street in Beijing, capital of China, 16 Jan., 2013. Beijingers on Wednesday saw their first sunshine in seven days, with a cold front dispersing the lingering smog in the city. XINHUA

## 17 killed, 133 wounded in bomb attacks in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan—Up to 17 people were killed and 133 wounded in two bomb attacks targeting offices of Kurdish parties in northern Iraq on Wednesday, the police said.

In one of the attacks, a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden truck into the entrance of the office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), headed by the regional Kurdish president Masoud Barzani, in Atlas Street in a commercial area in the city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, a local police source told

Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The powerful blast killed up to 15 people and wounded more than 105, many of them were officials and security members at the Kurdish office, the source said.

The toll could rise as many of the victims were transported by ambulances and civilian cars to hospitals and medical centers in the city, the source added. Earlier, the source put the toll at five killed and 90 wounded.

In a separate incident, at least two people were

killed and 28 wounded in a car bomb explosion near the office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a Kurdish party headed by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, in the city of Tuz-Khurmato, some 200 km north of Baghdad, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

The ethnically mixed cities of Kirkuk and Tuz-Khurmato are part of disputed areas claimed both by the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan and Baghdad central government.

Xinhua



Villagers have meals in the makeshift tents near the Gaopo Village in Zhenxiang County of Zhaotong City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 14 Jan, 2013. Forty-six people died and 2 others injured in a landslide which hit the Zhaojiagou area of Gaopo Village around 8:20 am on 11 January. More than 500 villagers have been moved to makeshift tents near the village.—XINHUA

## US House OKs 50-bln-USD aid for Superstorm Sandy

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—US House of Representatives Tuesday night passed a 50.7-billion-US-dollar bill that would aid those affected by Superstorm Sandy.

In a 241-180 vote, the House adopted the measure which would provide 17 billion dollars in immediate disaster funds for worst hit states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The bill also commits 33.7 billion dollars in funds for longer-term reconstruction. The Senate is expected to take up the measure on Wednesday.

The bill was the second of two steps House Speaker John Boehner said he would take to meet the demands of relief for those affected by Sandy. The House voted on 4 January to pass a 9.7-billion-dollar legislation that

would make payments to insurance claims related to Sandy.

The federal government has handed the Congress a sweeping relief bill that would provide over 60 billion dollars to those affected by Sandy, which struck late last year. The Senate swiftly passed it, but the House was criticized for its delay.

Xinhua

Two young models present entries of the 13th Hong Kong Footwear Design Competition during the awarding ceremony of the event in south China's Hong Kong, on 15 Jan, 2013. The ceremony is held on the second day of the Hong Kong Fashion Week for Fall/Winter, which lasts from 14 to 17 January at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.—XINHUA





## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Windows 8 fails to reignite PC market

LONDON, 16 Jan—Holiday season shoppers shunned Windows 8 desktops and notebooks in favour of tablets and smartphones, resulting in a 4.3 percent fall in PC sales in the fourth quarter, research firm Gartner said on Monday.

Worldwide PC shipments declined to 90.3 million units in the last three months of 2012, Gartner said, indicating that the sector was suffering from a shift in consumer habits as much as a weak global economy.



**An attendant checks a computer during the launch of Microsoft Windows 8 operating system in Hong Kong on 26 Oct, 2012.**

REUTERS

"Tablets have dramatically changed the device landscape for PCs, not so much by 'cannibalizing' PC sales, but by causing PC users to shift consumption to tablets rather than replacing older PCs," said Mikako Kitagawa, principal analyst at Gartner.

"Whereas as once we imagined a world in which individual users would have both a PC and a tablet as personal devices, we increasingly suspect that most individuals will shift consumption activity to a personal tablet, and perform creative and administrative tasks on a shared PC."

## Russia to launch spacecraft to Moon in 2015

MOSCOW, 16 Jan—Russia plans to launch an unmanned space vehicle to the Moon in 2015, federal space agency Roscosmos said on Tuesday.

"In 2015, the first launch from the Vostochny cosmodrome will be the Luna-Globe launch," Vladimir Popovkin, head of Roscosmos, told reporters. Vostochny is a new Russian space center under construction in the Far Eastern Amur region.

The Luna-Globe vehicle would carry a minimal set of scientific equipment because the mission was mainly aimed to work out the Moon landing operation itself, he said. The 1,400-kg spacecraft would drop a 500-kg landing module on the Moon's South Pole, he added.

The unmanned Moon landing mission was de-

The industry was hoping that the latest version of Microsoft's Windows, released in October, would revitalize a sector which had been buffeted by competition from tablets and smartphones over the past year.

But Gartner said the new operating system did not have a significant impact on PC shipments in the quarter, in part because the first Windows 8 devices lacked the excitement of the touch interface found in tablets.

Hewlett-Packard regained the top spot from

China's Lenovo Group in the quarter, Gartner said, thanks to its strength in the consumer market, which is a stronger driver than corporate sales in the holiday season. However, the Silicon Valley company's shipments did not grow compared to a year ago.

Despite losing the top spot, Lenovo recorded the strongest growth of the top manufacturers, with a 8.2 percent rise in shipments on a year ago. Dell was in third place, although its sales fell 21 percent year-on-year, while Acer, down 11 percent, was in fourth position.—Reuters

signed to prove Russia's ability to land on other space objects, Viktor Khartov, General Director of the Lavochkin Research and Production Association, told local media.

Russia's space strategy charted by Roscosmos until 2030 regards the Moon missions as a step toward a manned flight to Mars.

Russia also plans to launch in 2018 from Vostochny a brand-new manned spacecraft that would gradually replace the Soyuz spaceships, Russia's space working horse since 1967, Popovkin of Roscosmos said.

The Soyuz has become the world's only manned link to the International Space Station since the retirement of the US space shuttle program last year.—Xinhua

## India significantly hit by cyber-espionage, says Russian firm

MUMBAI, 16 Jan—India is among the nations hit by a cyber espionage that has been targeting diplomatic, governmental as well as scientific research organisation at least for five years, according to a Russian cyber security firm.

Termed as 'Red October', the campaign (named after the famous novel 'The Hunt For The Red October' by Tom Clancy) has significantly hit Russia, Kazakhstan, India, Azerbaijan and Belgium, among others, Kaspersky Lab said in a report on Monday.

The cyber espionage campaign 'Rocra' (short for Red October) has infected hundreds of victims worldwide across eight categories 'Government, Diplomatic/embassies, Research institutions, Trade and commerce, Nuclear/energy research, Oil and gas



companies, Aerospace and Military'.

"The earliest evidence indicates that the cyber-espionage campaign was active since 2007 and is still active at the time of writing (January 2013)," the firm said.

Based on Kaspersky Security Network (KSN), the list of countries that have seen most number of infections is topped by Russia at 35. It is followed

by Kazakhstan (21) while India, Azerbaijan and Belgium witnessed 15 infections each.

Other nations impacted include Afghanistan (10), Armenia (10), Iran and Turkmenistan (7 each), Ukraine, Vietnam and the US (6 each), Pakistan (5) and Brazil (4).

Only countries that have seen more than five infections have been included in the list.

Reuters

## Cisco eager to regain ground as network security leader

NEW YORK, 16 Jan—After failing to land a big acquisition in the security space last year and suffering a steady decline in market share, Cisco Systems Chief Executive John Chambers is determined to turn around his company's lagging security business - whatever the cost.

The growing expectation, from Silicon Valley to Wall Street, is that Chambers will not be able to do it with its SecureX product range, and needs to go back to the deal table to boost the business with an acquisition in the coming months.

In December, Chambers said he had granted Chris Young—Cisco's first executive for security at a senior vice president level—a "blank check" for the next two to three years to hire and acquire as he sees fit to overhaul Cisco's security business and spark

a rebound. Cisco has lost around 10 percent of its market share in network security over the past five years to smaller, more innovative rivals such as Juniper Networks Inc, Checkpoint Systems Inc, and Palo Alto Networks Inc. The network equipment company fell behind in web applications, social media and video streaming that call for more complex security protection than traditional firewalls provide. Mike Rothman, analyst and president at security research and advisory firm Securosis, said Cisco was "years behind in terms of a lot of capabilities" and that Young "better get his M&A people in order".

Cisco is aware of the deficiency and has been actively looking for acquisitions to beef up its network security offerings for some time, three sources familiar



A Cisco office is pictured in San Diego, California on 12 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

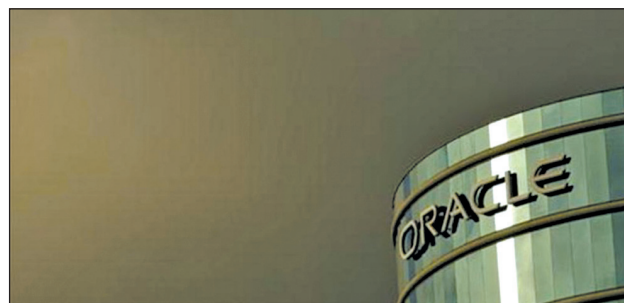
with the matter said.

However, there are only a handful of top picks—such as Palo Alto Networks, FireEye, Sourcefire, Fortinet and Barracuda Networks—and Cisco already struck out with at least one before Chambers' "blank check" strategy.

Cisco tried snapping up Palo Alto Networks before the company went public in July 2012, but they

could not agree on a deal valuation, two of the sources said. "They tried and they were billions of dollars apart on value," one of the sources said. The skyrocketing valuations of startups such as Palo Alto Networks or human resources software provider Workday have been out of reach for large tech companies looking to buy over the past 12 months.—Reuters

## Java still risky, even after security update, says US



NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—The US Department of Homeland Security warned that a security update of Oracle Corp's Java software for Web browsers does not do enough to protect computers from attack, sticking to its previous advice that

the programme be disabled.

"Unless it is absolutely necessary to run Java in web browsers, disable it," the Department of Homeland Security's Computer Emergency Readiness Team said on Monday in a posting on its website.

The software maker released an update to Java on Sunday, just days after the government issued its initial warning on the software, saying that bugs in the program were being exploited to commit identity theft and other crimes.

Security experts have warned that PCs running Java in their browsers could be attacked by criminals seeking to steal credit-card numbers, banking credentials, passwords and commit other types of computer crimes.

The Java software plat-

form, created in the mid-1990s, enables developers to write one set of code that will run on PCs running on Microsoft Corp's Windows, Apple Inc Macs and servers running on the Linux operating system.

Security experts say the bugs only affect one part of the platform software that plugs into Internet browsers. While some researchers have long complained the software was buggy, it started generating more public scrutiny last year after a security scare in August.—Reuters



## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Dell in talks to go private, shares surge



A man wipes the logo of the Dell IT firm at the CeBIT exhibition centre in Hannover.

REUTERS

NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Jan—Dell Inc is in talks with private equity firms on a potential buyout, two sources familiar with the matter told *Reuters*, confirming reports that sent shares in the world's No 3

PC maker soaring 13 percent to nearly a eight-month high.

The firms are now holding discussions on a deal with billionaire Chief Executive and founder Michael Dell, who owns about

14 percent of the company, according to one source with knowledge of the matter.

*The Wall Street Journal* cited unidentified sources as saying TPG and Silver Lake could team up on an offer, possibly in conjunction with other investors such as pension funds. JP-Morgan Chase & Co was also involved in the negotiations, it added.

The first source told *Reuters* any potential deal could be structured as a management-led buyout with Michael Dell at the helm. Talks had progressed for two to three months, heating up in late 2012, and a deal could be reached in six weeks, the *Journal* cited sources as saying.

Dell, which has steadily ceded market share to

Hewlett Packard and China's Lenovo, declined to comment on what it called rumours and speculation.

The company has lost 40 percent of its value since last year's peak, and is trying to reinvent itself as a seller of higher-margin services to corporations — an internal overhaul that might be conducted away from public scrutiny.

Some analysts say taking the company private, an idea that has surfaced sporadically in past years, makes sense.

But others pointed to the sheer expense of such a deal, an outsized debt burden of some \$4.5 billion and murky prospects as a major player in a PC market that's dwindling with the advent of tablets such as Apple Inc's iPad.—*Reuters*

## Facebook shares rise in buildup to mystery event, earnings



The Facebook logo is seen on a screen inside at the Nasdaq Marketsite in New York on 18 May, 2012.

REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Jan—Facebook Inc's stock opened on Monday above \$32 for the first time since July as anticipation about upcoming products and financial results underscored Wall Street's renewed confidence in the online social network.

Facebook will on Tuesday host its first major Press event at its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, since its troubled initial public offering in May, triggering a guessing game among technology observers and online blogs about what it could unveil — everything from a smartphone to a search engine.

"There's a lot of speculation. Nothing to me seems to be that certain," Jefferies & Co analyst Brian Pitz said. "If I were to bet, I'd think it was something that was ad-platform related. I'm not convinced on the phone," said Pitz, citing previous comments by Facebook's leaders including CEO Mark Zuckerberg that making a smartphone would be the "wrong strategy" for Facebook.

In an email to reporters last week, Facebook invited the media to "come and see what we're building" without providing details.

Some analysts said

the stock's recent gains — shares are up roughly 17 percent since the start of the year—may have more to do with the company's upcoming fourth-quarter financial results, slated for 30 January.

"The stock is up because they have driven a dramatic increase in the ad load of their mobile app which is giving investors hope that they exceeded expectations," BTIG analyst Richard Greenfield said.

Shares were down about 1.3 percent to \$31.30 in mid-afternoon trading.

The world's No1 social network with 1 billion users, Facebook became the first US company to debut on stock markets with a value of more than \$100 billion. Its value subsequently plunged by more than 50 percent on mounting concerns about slowing revenue growth and the challenges of making money as users shift from personal computers to mobile devices. Facebook surprised Wall Street in the third quarter by announcing that mobile ads accounted for 14 percent of its total ad revenue. Some analysts expect the company to report further growth in its nascent mobile ad business for the fourth quarter.

*Reuters*

## Boeing, engineers set to resume contract talks on Wednesday

SEATTLE, 16 Jan—Negotiators representing 23,000 Boeing Co (BA.N) engineers are due to restart contract talks on Wednesday after digesting the full terms of the company's latest offer, delivered by email on Monday afternoon. But prospects of an agreement over a new contract seem as far away as ever, even as the US Federal Aviation Administration opens an investigation into the safety of Boeing's 787 aircraft, which will require thorough scrutiny of Boeing's engineering operations.

"The documents just came in two minutes ago, so we haven't even had a chance to look at them," said Ray Goforth, Executive Director of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), on Monday.

"The negotiating team intends to spend tomorrow looking at them and then we will be meeting with the company at 1 pm Pacific time (2100 GMT) on Wednesday".

The latest offer, made on paper on Friday, and delivered in full electronically on Monday afternoon, boosts raises for professional workers by 5 percent in each of the first two years of the four-year agreement, and 4 percent in each of the remaining years.

*Reuters*

## Wal-Mart plans to hire 100,000 veterans over five years

NEW JERSEY, 16 Jan—Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMTN), the world's largest retailer, said it plans to hire more than 100,000 veterans in the United States over the next five years, a move supported by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Most of the veterans will be placed in the company's stores and clubs, and some will be employed in distribution centres, Walmart US Chief Executive Bill Simon said in a speech to be delivered on Tuesday at the National Retail Federation conference.

The retailer will start issuing job offers to veterans from Memorial Day in May. The offers will be given to any honourably discharged veteran within his or her first twelve months off active duty.

"Hiring a veteran can be one of the best business decisions you make ... veterans have a record of performance under pressure," Simon said in the speech,



People push loaded shopping carts at a Walmart store, on Thanksgiving day in North Bergen, New Jersey on 22 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

a copy of which was provided to *Reuters*. Wal-Mart said in a statement that it had spoken with the White House about the hiring commitment and First Lady Michelle Obama's team had expressed an interest in working with the retailer.

"As our wars come to an end and our troops continue to come home, it's more important than ever that all of us — not just government, but our businesses

and non-profits as well - do our part to serve those who have served us so bravely," Michelle Obama said in the Wal-Mart statement.

Walmart US is the largest retail chain and the largest private employer in the United States, with about 1.3 million employees. "We believe Walmart is already the largest private employer of veterans in the country, and we want to hire more," Simon said.—*Reuters*

A Coca-Cola logo on a truck at a distribution centre in Alexandria, Virginia on 16 Oct, 2012.—*Reuters*

## Coca-Cola to air US commercials addressing obesity

NEW YORK, 16 Jan—Coca-Cola Co will air a two-minute commercial

on US cable television on Monday that highlights its efforts in fighting obesity, as the soft drink industry faces increasing pressure from local governments and critics.

The commercial mentions how Coca-Cola sells about 180 low- and no-calorie drinks, works to produce better-tasting low-calorie sweeteners and has introduced smaller can sizes.

It also reminds viewers

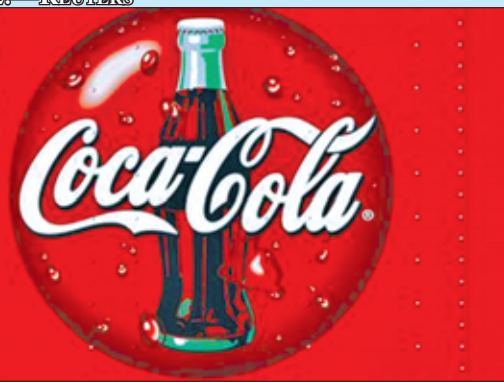
that "all calories count no matter where they come from" and that "if you eat and drink more calories than you burn off, you'll gain weight."

This is not the first time Coca-Cola has used advertising to address this issue, but it is a first for television. The move comes as New York City prepares for an upcoming ban on the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces (0.5 liter) in places

like restaurants, movie theaters and stadiums. In November, voters in two California cities rejected ballot measures for soda taxes.

The commercial will air on Monday on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer," FOX News' "The O'Reilly Factor," and MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show." It will air on Tuesday during other shows as well.

*Reuters*





## NATIONAL

## Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/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 Dr Ram Baran Yadav  
President of Nepal  
His Excellency,**

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to Your Excellency cordial felicitations and best wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

**From Mr François Hollande  
President of France  
Excellency,**

"On the occasion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day Anniversary celebration, I would like to address you warmest congratulations to the people of Myanmar.

I followed with great attention the important evolutions which took place in Myanmar last year. I would like to congratulate your personal commitment in the current reform process and I would like to assure you of my full support for its consideration.

I sincerely hope that democratization will continue, and allow to achieve National Reconciliation.

Eager to see the relationship between our two nations deepen further, please accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration."

**From Mr Ueli Maurer  
President of the Swiss Confederation  
His Excellency,**

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar it is a most welcome opportunity for me to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council and in my own name, my sincere congratulations and my best wishes for your personal health as well as for the wellbeing and the prosperity of your country.

May the ties of confidence and friendship which so happily exist between our two countries, and which have been strengthened by the recent opening of a Swiss Embassy in your country, continue to flourish in the coming year.

**From Mr Kim Yong Nam  
President, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
His Excellency,**

I warmly congratulate you and your government and people on the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and your people greater successes to achieve the independent development and prosperity of the country.

**From Mr Abdullah Gül  
President of the Republic of Turkey  
Mr. President**

On the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency and all Myanmar people on behalf of the Turkish people and on my behalf.

I firmly believe that the cooperation between Myanmar and Turkey will further develop with our joint endeavours and on the basis of the mutual interest of the two people in the forthcoming period.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness as well as

the well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

**From Dr Baburam Bhattarai  
Prime Minister of Nepal  
His Excellency,**

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the government and people of Nepal, and on my own, I extend to Your Excellency, and through you to the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations.

I wish Your Excellency's good health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I am confident that the friendly relations existing between our two countries will grow further in the years ahead.

**From Mr Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey  
Mr President,**

I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on behalf of my People, my Government and on my behalf on the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I believe that the relations between Turkey and Myanmar which have intensified recently will further progress with our mutual efforts and on the basis of the mutual interests of our two people.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness as well as the well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

**From Dr H Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono  
President of the Republic of Indonesia  
Your Excellency,**

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to convey my sincere felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency, and through Your Excellency, to the Government and people of Myanmar on the happy occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar and Indonesia enjoy a long-standing cooperation, both on bilateral basis and within the framework of ASEAN, I have every confidence that the relationship between our two countries will continue to grow, and I look forward to working closely with you towards that direction.

Please kindly accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration and my best wishes for your continued good health and well-being.

**From Mr. Tomislav Nikolić  
President of the Republic of Serbia  
Excellency,**

On the occasion of Independence Day, I extend, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Serbia and on my own behalf, the most cordial felicitations and best wishes for the overall progress of your country and the well-being of the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am firmly convinced that the cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has a very good perspective. We are strongly committed to further developing an intensive political dialogue and upgrading the level of overall cooperation with your country, our important partner in the region or Southeast Asia, to which Serbia is tied by decades-long close friendship.

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

**From Mr. İlham Aliyev  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
Dear Mr. President,**

I sincerely congratulate you and all people of your country on the occasion of the National Holiday.

I believe that friendship between Azerbaijan and Myanmar

will increase the opportunities to develop our cooperation.

Taking this opportunity I wish you good health and success in all your endeavors, peace and prosperity to your friendly people.

**From Mr János Áder  
President of the Republic of Hungary  
Your Excellency,**

May I convey the best wishes and heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the people of Hungary and those of my own on the solemn occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Hungary welcomes the continuous development and democratic reforms in Myanmar and is pleased to observe that in many areas considerable progress has been made.

I am convinced that there is a great potential for building meaningful co-operation between Hungary and Myanmar. Hungary is ready to further support the efforts of the Government of Myanmar and of Your Excellency in facilitating the democratic transition of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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

**From Mr. Jean-Claude JUNCKER  
Prime Minister of Luxembourg  
Excellency,**

In the name of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and in my very personal name, let me congratulate you wholeheartedly on the occasion of Myanmar's National Day. The people of Luxembourg join the people of Myanmar in the celebrations of this important date in the history of your country.

The bilateral relations between Luxembourg and Myanmar have been considerably strengthened over the past year, 2012 was marked by the visit to Myanmar of Luxembourg's Foreign Minister, H.E. Jean Asselborn, in February, followed by the formal establishment of diplomatic relations on 31 July. I furthermore remember with great pleasure our meeting that took place in Vientiane in November.

I am therefore confident that we will be able to keep up the pace to further intensify our bilateral relations in 2013, to the benefit of both our Nations. In that spirit, let me reiterate my invitation to you to pay a visit to Luxembourg in the near future.

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

**From Mr Tony Tan Keng Yam  
President of the Republic of Singapore  
Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I extend my warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of Myanmar.

Under Your Excellency's leadership, Myanmar has undergone a remarkable democratic transition over the past year that has captured the world's attention. I congratulate Your Excellency on your efforts to achieve peaceful national reconciliation and improve the lives of the Myanmar people. As a long-standing friend and neighbour, Singapore supports Myanmar's further integration with the international community. Singapore will continue to cooperate closely with Myanmar to deepen our ties and promote our shared interests, including our common goal of achieving a prosperous ASEAN Community by 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency continued good health, peace and success in the years ahead.

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

## Refresher course, basic course conducted for bus workers

YANGON, 16 Jan—Yangon Region All Private Bus-line Control Committee conducts the basic training course for bus workers.

The refresher course for bus workers who have discharged two years duties

at bus lines was conducted once two weeks as of 22 January 2012. So far, from the course No 1/2012 to the course No 12 have been opened to provide training to 1232 bus workers.

Basic courses have been conducted to bus

workers from the course No 1/2011 to 14/2011.

So far, a total of 1359 bus workers have attended the courses.

In 2013, the basic course No 15/2013 was opened on 13 January.

Myanma Alinn

## Employees learn from ICDP, CDRT projects to improve skills

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Workshop on Sharing Experience and Lessons Learned of Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) & Community Development for Remote Townships (CDRT) projects was opened at the Ministry of Border Affairs here on 14

January.

The workshop was conducted with the assistance of UNDP to improve the capacity of employees of the departments of the Ministry of Border Affairs. A total of 60 employees from Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of National Planning and

Economic Development are participating in the three-day workshop which is led by nine experts from UNDP as resource persons. The Ministry of Border Affairs and UNDP have been jointly operating the ICDP project (2003-2012) and CDRT (1994-2012) to improve the education, health, water supply, roads and bridges and livelihood of the people.—MNA



LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar poised to join top ten countries of highest tourist arrival



NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—As the global countries are interested in affairs of Myanmar, the visits of globetrotters are rising high day by day. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism expected that the arrival of tourists in Myanmar would be increasing gradually.

“As the visits of tourists are on the increase year after year, we expected this year’s number of tourist would be higher than that of previous year. At present, globetrotters who arrived at Yangon International Airport hit over 2300 daily,” said an

official of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Over one million of tourists visited Myanmar at the end of December 2012. Such amount was higher than that of previous years. Over 790,000 tourists visited here in 2010 and over 800,000 in 2011.

As such, the visits of tourists in 2011 were higher than that of 2010, accounting for 1.27 per cent. In comparison with such per cent, the visitors in 2010 increased 37.5 per cent than that of 2011.

“Thanks to reform

process, warm and transparent relations with international community, the international community is interested in Myanmar issue and globetrotters chose Myanmar as their tourist destinations. They are eager to enjoy natural scenic beauties and ancient fine arts and artefacts in Myanmar. That is why we have taken care of preparing the development of tourism industry,” he continued.

For the tourists with the social and business purposes, accommodation is ready to serve them with 19014 suites

Service for peace held in Shwegu

SHWEGU, 16 Jan—The ceremony to mark X’mas was observed in Shwegu of Kachin State on 25 January. Those present at the

ceremony attended the service for peace. Rev U Zin Wah Taungla gave bless at first. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Pa Kywe, Township

Administrator U Nyi Nyi, members of political parties, departmental personnel and local people attended the service.—Myanma Alinn



Respects paid to older musicians

YANGON, 16 Jan—The respect paying ceremony to older musicians of Myanmar Music Organization (Central) was held at Maha Santi Sukha Monastery in Natchaung Ward of Tamway Township on 10 January.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe, Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw San San Nwe, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint, directors, chairmen and

secretaries of associations, members of Township Music Organization and wellwishers.

Chairman of the organization (Central) U Tin Oo Lay gave a speech and accepted cash donation.

Those present presented cash assistance and gifts to the older musicians. On

behalf of the older persons, Pianist U Sein Thaug gave words of advice.

The donation at the ceremony amounted to K 13,518,100 and 100 US dollars.

At the ceremony, K 200,000 each and medicines were donated to 57 older musicians.—Myanma Alinn

Cetana night school opens at Seikpyu BEHS

PYAWBWE, 16 Jan—A Cetana night school was opened at Basic Education High School in Seikpyu of Magway Region for

students who will sit for the matriculation examination in 2012-2013 academic year.

The school is aimed at raising pass rate of the



Public book corner set up in Salingyi

SALINGYI, 16 Jan—A public book corner was set up at No. 12 apartment, north of Myoma Market in Salingyi of Monywa District for rising reading habits of the local people.

from 448 hotels in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bagan, Taunggyi and Inlay regions.

Even though the suites of hotels have been prepared for the visitors, there need more rooms for them at hotels, motels and Inns. Moreover, a plan is underway to implement improvement of hotel suites and development of tourist destinations.

It is expected that new record may be set for arrival of tourists in 2013 in Myanmar. If the dream comes true, Myanmar will include in the top ten of highest tourist arrival countries across the world.

Myanma Alinn

On 9 January, the book corner was opened under the supervision of Township Information and Public Relations Department Head Daw Khin Win Kyi.

Those wishing to donate books and publications to the public book corner may contact No. 12 apartment of the market in Salingyi.

Myanma Alinn

Village BEHS (Branch) upgraded in Natogyi Township



NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—A ceremony to put the upgraded Basic Education High School (Branch) into service was held in Londaw Village of Natogyi Township in Sagaing Region on 7 January morning.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun

Aung, Mandalay Region Education Officer U Soe Myint Tun and Natogyi Township Administrator U Nyan Myo cut the ribbon to unveil the signboard of the school.

On the occasion, the Union minister delivered an address.—MNA

Computer set donated to BEMS (Aungtha) of Pyawbwe

PYAWBWE, 16 Jan—A ceremony to donate one set of computer to Basic Education Middle School (Aungtha) of Pyawbwe was held its hall on 9 January morning with the aim of improving education standard of the students.

On behalf of the donor, U Thaug Htein explained January.

the purpose of donation and handed over one set of DELL computer worth K 700,000 donated by U Nyein Chan-Daw Tin Tin Aye and family to Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Aung Naing Oo who returned a certificate of honour.

Myanma Alinn

The teaching process of the school will be put under supervision of Headmaster U Zaw Win.

The teaching of Cetana night school will last up to 8 February.—Myanma Alinn

Take Fire Preventive Measures



**PERSPECTIVES**

Thursday, 17 January, 2013

**Corporate Social Responsibility**

As Myanmar has kept its door wide open to foreign investors, a number of multinational corporations have entered, perhaps returned after decades of absence, the country. Myanmar has become the latest battleground of so-called 'Cola World' between US soft drink giants CocaCola and Pepsi. General Electric, Visa, MasterCard, Standard Chartered and Western Union represent the big names' return to Myanmar.

Isolated by sanctions, the country had no choice but to deal with a handful of foreign companies and suppliers which might have unconvincing records of business ethics. With a wide range of choice being open to us, now is time to talk about the 'Corporate Social Responsibility' which we gave less priority in the past.

As the global strategic advisory group International Standardization Organization (ISO) suggests, CSR is "a balanced approach for organizations to address economic, social and environmental issues in a way that aims to benefit people, communities and society."

It covers various issues ranging from human rights to working environment, from environmental aspects to consumer issues and social development.

In Myanmar, Foreign Investment Commission chaired by the Union Minister at the President Office oversees incorporation of foreign companies and foreign investments which are said to be assessed by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development ahead of the approval of the investment by the commission. Decisive actions against unethical businesses, transparent manners of assessment and consumer awareness measures are required.

As for local businesses to which CSR is mostly unknown, they need to start developing self-regulating mechanism, guaranteeing that their products and services are environmental- and social-friendly and creating better working condition for their employees.

The government also needs to do its part to devise necessary pieces of legislation, develop monitoring mechanism and initiate prosecutions against the breach of social responsibilities by local or foreign corporations.



**DAMAGED BRIDGE REPAIRED: Two mines went off simultaneously on the bridge No. 436 at Milepost No. 589 between Naba and Indaw Railway Stations on Myitkyina-Man-dalay railroad section and the bridge No. 1 BK on Naba-Katha railroad section on 14-1-2013. The damaged parts were already repaired on 15-1-2013.—MNA**

**NATIONAL**

**Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets outgoing UNFPA Resident Representative**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received outgoing UNFPA Resident Representative to Myanmar Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at his office, here, yesterday. They exchanged views on UNFPA's assistance programme in Myanmar for 2013-2015. *MNA*

**Traditional New Year Festival of Naga held**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Annual new year festival of Naga ethnic people took place in Lahe in Naga Self-Administered Zone shoulders of Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, the chief minister, the commander of North-West Command, representatives generators, fuel, plywood, foodstuff, cement, sports gears, medicines, exercise books, computers and cash assistance to the local people and officials awarded sports teams who won prizes at the sports games to mark the annual New Year festival. In the evening,



*Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun attends Naga New Year Festival 2013.—MNA*

yesterday morning. Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye delivered an opening speech at the new year festival and tribal chieftains of Naga put shawls over the of Pyithu Hluttaw During the opening ceremony of the festival, the Union Minister and party handed over fire engines, tractors, water pipes, agricultural tools, Sky Net receivers, TVs, for regional development. Afterwards, they enjoyed the traditional cultural dances of Naga ethnic people and visited booths. The Union Minister they participated in the traditional bonfire of Naga and enjoyed dances of the ethnic peoples and presented cash awards to dance troupes. *MNA*

**ITAB holds first meeting for country-wide census taking**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—First meeting of International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB) for country-wide census taking process (2014), was held at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of Central Census Commission Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi. In his speech, the Union Minister said that nationa-wide census taking process is aimed at getting the exact number of population that is crucial for country development and drawing the plans. With the assistance of UN, close cooperation is being made with UNFPA so as to meet international standards in taking census nationwide. He urged ITAB members to share their experiences. Officials from UNFPA, Population Department and ITAB discussed preparations for census taking, financial affairs and use of technology and machines. *MNA*

**Notebooks, publications donated for villages in Kanma Township**

YANGON, 16 Jan—Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe visited Kanma People's Hospital in Kanma Township of Magway Region on 13 January and donated K 1 million for provision of tap water. He then met local people at Kyauksaung Village and presented publications contributed by the Information Ministry to schoolchildren from Kyauksaung and Tawmagon villages. He visited Kyauksaung Village Basic Education Middle School, Yenantha Village Station Hospital and village library. He met locals from surrounding villages and contributed notebooks for students and publications for village libraries. Shwe Than Lwin Co donated a set of Sky Net receiver for Shwenantha Station Hospital. The Deputy Minister met local people at Pazinnein Village and donated publications for Pazinnein Village Basic Education Post Primary School, Kyaukme Village BEMS, Taughti Village Library and Kyaukme Village Library. Well-wishers presented publications and two sets of Sky Net receiver for village libraries.—MNA



NATIONAL

# Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits CNB, holds talks with Singaporean Defence Minister



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Changi Naval Base in Singapore.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Changi Naval Base in Singapore yesterday morning. They were welcomed by Rear Admiral Tan Wee Beng, Chief of Staff-Naval Staff of Singapore Navy, and party.

At the meeting hall, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services heard presentations on the Singaporean Navy presented by officials. Next, the Vice-Senior General and party observed Multinational Operations an Exercise Centre and Information Fusion Centre and greeted naval officers from world nations.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation together with the Singapore Naval Chief visited RSN Supreme Frigate where the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services viewed around inside the warship.

The Vice-Senior General then held talks with Singapore Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen at Shangri-La Hotel in the afternoon. They discussed ASEAN's measures for regional security, bilateral cooperation between the two armed forces, hardware development, challenges Myanmar may encounter in taking ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, 2013 SEA Games and ASEAN shooting contest and training programmes and ASEAN defence ministers' meetings.

The Singapore Defence Minister hosted a dinner to Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation and the two sides exchanged gifts.

MNA

## MTV EXIT-like shows to come, says Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan— Public awareness activities against human trafficking such as MTV EXIT would continue to be organized, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said at the meeting of the central anti-human trafficking committee.

The committee chairman also called US recognition of Myanmar's anti-human trafficking actions, putting the Southeast Asian nation in one-step lower Tier 2 Watch List, as "a landmark success".

He also called for rooting out the sources of

human trafficking and more committed fight against any form of modern day slavery.

US pop singer Jason Mraz's MTV EXIT concert in Public Square in Yangon on 16 December, 2012, became a success that attracted a massive attendance.

MNA

## Yangon Region Chief Minister undertakes development tasks

YANGON, 16 Jan— Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, together with Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and Region Finance and Revenue Minister Daw San San Nwe, attended the opening ceremony of Lanekone concrete bridge at

No.21 Ward of Shwepyitha Township, here, yesterday.

After that, the Chief minister inspected completion of road that links from No.4 Road to Yangon-Pyay Road. He also attended a ceremony to donate cash and kind by Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child

Welfare Supervisory Committee to Mental Hospital in Dagon Myothit (East).

The Chief Minister and officials accepted the donations and presented the certificates of honours to wellwishers. The donation amounted to over K 26 million.

MNA

## KIA group abducts villagers, extorts money from vehicles on Waingmaw-Kanpeiktee motorway

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — A 25-member KIA group abducted 45 villagers— nine students, 15 farmers and 31 others— of Ubyit village of Ahlam village-tract in Myitkyina Township at about 1 pm today. It is learnt that young men with the age between 13 and 40 were among the abductees.

government, a 25-member KIA group stopped vehicles at a place between mile post Nos (17) and (18) on Waingmaw-Kanpeiktee motorway in Waingmaw Township and extorted K 100,000 per truck, K 50,000 per small vehicle and K 10,000 per motorbike from about five trucks, eight small vehicles and five motorbikes at about 9 am

yesterday.

MNA

## Centre of Excellence for Business Skills Development Project launched

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan— The Centre of Excellence for Business Skills Development was launched at Yangon Institute of Economics (Kamayut) today with an address by Deputy Minister

## Regional development tasks looked into in Pakokku, Yesagyo



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung meets local people from villages in Yesagyo Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan— Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and wife Daw Nan Phyu Phyu Aye attended the inauguration of Aung Tharaphu Hotel on Lanmadaw Street in Ward No. 11 in Pakokku, Magway Region, on 13 January morning.

The Union Minister met locals from Nyaungzauk, Shwechaung, Pauktaw, Kyawmakyar and Ywarthit Villages near Yesagyo Township, and gave instructions on systematic conversion of conventional farming into mechanized one. He called for growing high yield paddy strains.

The price of Myanmar rice was low due to low quality in the past.

Socio-economic status will be high if agricultural sector in the region is promoted. Therefore rural people are to join hands with related organizations in region in transforming into mechanized farming. After the meeting, the Union Minister presented sports gear to the locals.

Next, he inspected bean plantation in the irrigation area of Wahyathasi river water pumping station (2386 acre), and looked round storage of water and maintenance of Sinchaung Reservoir.—MNA

MNA



## Obama meets new Saudi Interior Minister at White House

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan— President Barack Obama met Saudi Arabia's new Interior Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, on Monday to discuss security and regional issues, the White House said.

Prince Mohammed, appointed in November after the death of his father, veteran Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, is best known as Saudi Arabia's long-time security chief and has garnered the praise of Western governments for his role in the campaign against

al-Qaeda.

"They affirmed the strong partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and discussed security and regional issues of mutual interest," the White House said in a brief of the Oval Office talks between Obama and Prince Mohammed.

Seen as an ally of the West, Saudi Arabia — the world's top oil exporter — has provided critical intelligence to foil al-Qaeda plots, bankrolled pro-Western

Arab governments and has supported Washington's attempts to isolate Iran over its nuclear programme.

Prince Mohammed's appointment as interior minister lifted him into a critical role for the ruling al-Saud family and one that had only been held by the current ruling generation. Analysts say he is in tune with King Abdullah's cautious social and economic reforms partly aimed at making Saudi society more open to outside influence.—Reuters



International Atomic Energy Agency Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts answers reporters' questions at Vienna Airport on 15 Jan, 2013, before leaving for Teheran for talks on nuclear issues with Iranian officials. KYODO NEWS

## Former Austrian Minister jailed for corruption

VIENNA, 16 Jan—Former Austrian Interior Minister Ernst Strasser on Monday was convicted by a court here on charges of corruption and was sentenced to four years in jail.

Strasser, a 56-year-old politician, served as interior minister from 2000 to 2004. He was also a member of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2011. The ex-minister faced legal proceedings last year after undercover journalists disguised as "lobbyists" exposed a bribery scandal involving him. During the trial, Strasser argued that he had played along with the "lobbyists" whom he believed to be US Secret Service agents and wanted to find out what they were after. His argument was rejected by the judge.

Xinhua



A worker decorates a lantern in a lantern factory in Zhoucun District of Zibo, east China's Shandong Province, on 14 Jan, 2013. As traditional Chinese Spring Festival is coming, lantern factories here have come to a busy production season. XINHUA

## Cuba's Castros meet with Venezuela's top officials

HAVANA, 16 Jan— Cuban leader Raul Castro and his brother and predecessor Fidel Castro met here on Sunday with top Venezuelan officials visiting the Caribbean island country, the Cuban Communist Party's newspaper *Granma* said on Monday.

The leaders, including Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro, discussed "the successful outcome" and "promising perspectives" of a recent gathering in Venezuela's capital Caracas of envoys from member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) and its energy bloc Petrocaribe.

The "warm" and "fraternal" meeting also served to assess "other aspects of the strategic alliance between" Cuba and Venezuela, *Granma* stressed.

The meeting took place as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez continues to recover in Havana from cancer surgery.

Maduro said Venezuelans were "deeply" grateful for the care and attention Chavez has received from his medical team of Cuban doctors.

The Venezuelan delegation also expressed its gratitude to the Cuban government for declaring recently that "any attack against Venezuela will be considered an attack against our homeland."

The statement was made by Cuban Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel, when he attended a mass rally last on Thursday in Caracas in support of Chavez's presidency, which has come under fire from political opponents who claim his absence and inability to take office on 10 January throws his administration into question. Accompanying Maduro at the meeting were Venezuelan National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello, Oil and Mining Minister Rafael Ramirez, and Attorney General Cilia Flores.

The latest official report on Chavez's condition, announced on Sunday, said his recovery was evolving "favorably," though he continues to have difficulty breathing following a lung infection contracted after the 11 December operation, his fourth surgery since first being diagnosed with cancer in 2011.—Xinhua

## Two injured after blast hits police station in Libya's Benghazi

TRIPOLI, 16 Jan—An explosion hit a patrol car of the national security in Libya's eastern City of Benghazi on Monday night, leaving at least two people injured, sources told *Xinhua*.

According to an officer on the patrol team, their driver

and another security staff was injured when a roadside bomb was thrown under their car when they passed through a crossing.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses told *Xinhua* that unidentified armed militants in a car passed very quickly

and dropped the bomb, which exploded directly.

The blast caused serious damage to the patrol car, and intensified security forces were deployed in the surrounding area after the attack.

Xinhua



Pregnant mares run in the snow on 15 Jan, 2013, at Tokachi station in Otofuke, Hokkaido. To maintain the health of the horses, the facility, a unit of the National Livestock Breeding Centre, is working to remedy the lack of winter exercise for the horses, including the mares to ease giving birth.—KYODO NEWS

## George HW Bush released from hospital

HOUSTON, 16 Jan — Former US President George HW Bush was released from a Houston hospital on Monday morning after a nearly two months' hospitalization with a bronchitis-related cough and other health issues, doctors said on Monday.

"Mr Bush has improved to the point that he will not need any special medication when he goes home, but he will continue physical therapy," Amy Mynderse, the internal medicine physician in charge of Bush's care, said in a Press release.

Bush's spokesman Jim McGrath also said the 88-year-old ex-president was released on Monday

from Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Bush, in a statement, expressed deep gratitude to "the wonderful doctors and nurses at Methodist who took such good care of me."

Bush has been hospitalized since 23 November last year with bronchitis. He was once put under intensive care with a liquids-only diet served, due to a worsening fever.

Since being transferred back to a regular hospital room on December. His condition has continued to improve and he has been undergoing physical therapy to rebuild his strength.

Xinhua

## Turkish jets strike multiple targets in northern Iraq

ANKARA, 16 Jan —The Turkish Armed Forces launched a cross-border air operation earlier Monday in northern Iraq after an infiltration attempt by a large group of outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) members from Zap camp across the Turkish border, private *Dogan* news agency reported.

After the information was received, the 2nd Air Forces Command sent two observation planes to the region.

Six F-16 jets took off from the 8th Main Jet Base

in Diyarbakir province in southeastern Turkey, passed over the southeastern province of Hakkari, and bombarded 18 different targets in the Zap, Haftanin and Metina regions in northern Iraq.

This is the first cross-border operation by the Turkish Armed Forces in 12 days, according to officials.

The Zap area, a mountainous snow-bound region near the Turkish border in northern Iraq, hosts a major PKK base and training camp.—Xinhua



Yemeni defendants who are accused of plotting a suicide attack, attend the first hearing of their trial at the state security court in Sanaa, Yemen, on 14 Jan, 2013. A total of 10 suspected al-Qaeda militants were formally accused of plotting a suicide attack that targeted a parade rehearsal in Sanaa on 21 May, 2012, killing at least 105 soldiers and injuring more than 200 others.—XINHUA



REGIONAL & ADVERTISEMENT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Dated: 17th January, 2013

INVITATION FOR BIDS TO CONDUCT PETROLEUM OPERATIONS  
IN MYANMAR ONSHORE AREAS (2013)

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces Invitation of Sealed Bids for Petroleum Operations to be conducted in Myanmar Onshore Areas on production sharing basis.

2. The following Onshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:-

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	PSC B2	(Zebyutaung-Nandaw)	PSC
(2)	PSC C1	(Indaw-Yenan)	PSC
(3)	PSC H	(Taungoo-Pyinmana)	PSC
(4)	PSC J	(Mawlamyine)	PSC
(5)	PSC K	(Yamethin)	PSC
(6)	PSC M	(Kyaukpyu)	PSC
(7)	PSC O	(Pathein)	PSC
(8)	EP 1	(Kyaukkyi-Mindon)	PSC
(9)	EP 3	(Thegon-Shwegu)	PSC
(10)	EP 4	(Mayaman)	PSC
(11)	RSF 5	(Ondwe)	PSC
(12)	IOR 3	(Tetma)	PSC
(13)	IOR 4	(Pyay)	IPR
(14)	IOR 5	(Htantabin)	PSC
(15)	IOR 6	(Myanaung)	IPR
(16)	IOR 7	(Shwepyitha)	IPR
(17)	MOGE 3	(Padaukpin-Natmi)	PSC
(18)	MOGE 4	(Myintha)	PSC

3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest", together with Company's Article of Association (AOA), Memorandum of Association (MOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report and Detail Track Record, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company's registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted "Confidential" "Myanmar Onshore Blocks Second Bidding Round-2013", to the following address not later than two (2) Months after the date of announcing of this invitation (17th January 2013):-

Director General  
Energy Planning Department  
Ministry of Energy  
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and/or improved petroleum recovery basis and the party(s), who desire to enter into the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and/or Improved Petroleum Recovery Contract (IPR) with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) shall have

technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise and technical know how to conduct petroleum exploration and development works and must have good track record.

5. The potential bidders will be pre-qualified and selected. Then the potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be presented with General Overview of each Block consisting of representative data and information free of charge by Geological/Geophysical Team of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

6. The potential bidders will be explained and provided with Standard Terms and Conditions by Energy Planning Department in order to submit proposal(s).

7. The potential bidders will be allowed to submit up to three (3) proposals for three (3) onshore blocks together with proposed Terms and Conditions. The proposal submitted shall be on a block by block basis.

8. The potential bidders' proposed Terms and Conditions will be assessed and the best offered Terms and Conditions will be selected for awarding.

9. The potential bidders must cooperate with a minimum of (1) one Myanmar national owned company registered at Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy, of their own choosing.

10. Energy Planning Department will provide the list of Myanmar national owned companies registered at Energy Planning Department to interested foreign companies.

Director General  
Energy Planning Department  
Ministry of Energy  
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Note: For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the followings:-

- (1) Director General  
Energy Planning Department  
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Tel: 95-67 411 099/ 411 057  
Fax: 95-67 411 113  
Email: [myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm](mailto:myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm)
- (2) Managing Director  
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Tel: 95-67 411 055/ 411 056  
Fax: 95-67 411 125  
Email: [mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm](mailto:mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm)
- (3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries

Ministry of Information  
Myanmar Radio and  
Television

Invitation for Open Tender

1. Open Tenders are invited to purchase motor vehicle for 2012-13 fiscal year at Myanmar Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

2. The application forms for the open tender are available at the Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) in office hours (9.30 to 16.30) daily from 17-1-2013 to 18-1-2013.

3. The forms are to be submitted in the presence of the tender board at the Myanmar Radio and Television Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) between 9.30 and 16.30 on 19-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.

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

Motor Vehicle Purchasing Committee  
Myanmar Radio and Television  
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)  
Ph: 067-79079, 79135

Japan's PM makes first  
overseas visit to three Asian  
countries



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.  
REUTERS

TOKYO, 16 Jan—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday left for three Southeast Asian countries as his first overseas trip after he was elected as Japan's Prime Minister last month.

The four-day trip will bring Abe to Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, said Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adding the

three countries are "part of the 'growth centre' of 21st century to lead global economic growth."

Abe will hold talks with leaders of the three countries, focusing on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment and infrastructure. The ministry emphasized that Japan will enhance partnership in politics and security with Vietnam and Indonesia through Abe's visit.

Abe's visit follows the separated trips by Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso to Myanmar and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida to the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei earlier this month.

The high-level overseas visits have covered major countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), indicating Abe's new government put great importance on the region.

Xinhua

China, Mongolia to deepen cooperation in mining,  
energy sectors

ULAN BATOR, 16 Jan—China and Mongolia have broad prospects to deepen cooperation in mineral resources and energy, a senior Chinese official said on Tuesday. Zhang Xiaoqiang, Deputy Director of China's National Development and Reform Commission, said the two countries should enhance cooperation in mining and energy areas through joint development of

big mining projects and construction of transportation infrastructure. Zhang made the remarks at the third meeting of the China-Mongolia cooperation commission on mineral resources and energy.

Boosting cooperation in mineral resources and energy, which account for the bulk of China-Mongolia economic and trade relations, is in the interests of

both countries and can help Mongolia turn its advantages in resources into economic development, Zhang said. Mongolian Mining Minister D Gankhuyag highlighted the rapid development of Mongolia-China economic and trade cooperation, saying that Mongolia has seen Chinese investment rapidly increasing in the country in the last few years. —Xinhua



Zhang Xiaoqiang (L), Deputy Director of China's National Development and Reform Commission, speaks during a Press conference in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia. —XINHUA



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**CHANGING THE NAME**

Attention to change the name of SU YEE AYE AUNG of Primary (1), ILBC (Nay Pyi Taw), (Father) U THIHA AUNG MYINT, To AYE SU YEE AUNG.

AYE SU YEE AUNG.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV MAJESTY VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAJESTY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 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: RENE SHIPPING CO.

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV CEC FANTASY VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CEC FANTASY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) 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: CLIPPER PROJECT SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (871)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (871) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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until tomorrow.**

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Any unauthorised use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

**Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers**

Ph:0973150632

Email: [law\\_chambers@seasiren.com.mm](mailto:law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm)

(For: Patrick Mirandah Co., (S) Pte Ltd., Singapore)

Dated 17 January, 2013.

**China's Internet users reach 564 mln**

BEIJING, 16 Jan—China added 50.9 million Internet users in 2012, bringing the total to 564 million at the end of last year, official data showed on Tuesday.

The mobile Internet surfing population increased 18.1 percent to 420 million, with mobile phones becoming the pri-

mary channel for Web surfing, the China Internet Network Information Centre reported.

The number of people using a mobile phone to shop online increased 1.36-fold in 2012 from a year ago.

By the end of 2012, the number of online shoppers had reached 242 million,

an increase of 24.8 percent year on year.

Meanwhile, the risks of phishing websites and online fraud can not be underestimated, according to the report.

Micro-blogging surged, with the number of users rising 58.73 million to 309 million, the report said.

Xinhua

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

sanofi-aventis, a Company incorporated in France, of 174 avenue de France, 75013 Paris, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

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Reg. No. 3428/1996

in respect of "Pharmaceutical products".

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Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for sanofi-aventis

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 17 January 2013

## Singapore's new private home sales hit record high in 2012

SINGAPORE, 16 Jan—A record total of 22,684 new homes were sold in 2012 in Singapore, according to the statistics released on Tuesday by the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

This is higher than the previous record of 16,292 units sold in 2010. A total of 16,027 new units were sold in 2011.

The latest statistics also confirmed a rebound in the demand for new private residential property in Singapore in December, which had prompted harsh cooling measures on 11 January.

The statistics released on Tuesday by the Urban Redevelopment Authority showed that 1,410 units of new private homes were sold in December, up by about 30 percent from November's 1,087 units.

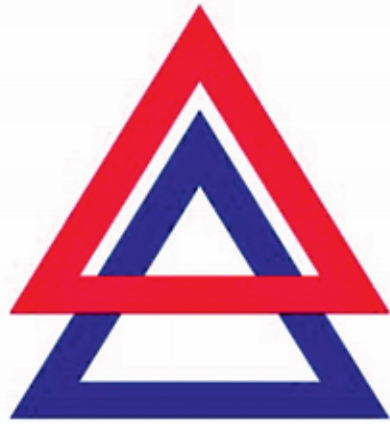
With the executive condominiums included, the sale of new homes came in at 2,259 units in December.

Market analysts are expecting the market to remain subdued for a period of time to come, following the comprehensive set of measures announced over the weekend, including higher extra buyers stamp duties and further restrictions in the down payment and loan-to-value requirements for certain groups of buyers. Despite that, officials said they expected the demand to remain strong given the low interest rate environment internationally.

Xinhua



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**Phone: (02) 80155, 82145/46/47**

**Fax: (02) 82143, 82144**

**[www.kbzbank.com](http://www.kbzbank.com)**



## SPORTS

## Harrison says he could surprise Djokovic

MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—Novak Djokovic was well aware of up and coming American Ryan Harrison, even stating that he knew how to beat the 20-year-old, but his second round Australian Open opponent is sure he may be able to give the world number one a surprise on Wednesday.

Two-time defending champion Djokovic will meet Harrison, for the third time in their careers, on Rod Laver Arena, and said after his first round victory over Paul-Henri Mathieu that he felt he knew the American's game and how to beat him.

Harrison, however, underwent intensive training, physical conditioning and scientific physiological testing during the off-season in order to help take his game

to the next level. He was told to lose weight in order to ensure he was more effective right to the end of long matches and how to manage his nutrition better and his first round win over Santiago Giraldo had given him confidence to press on against the Serb, he said. "It's an opportunity. I have

confidence in myself after all the work I have done during the off season," Harrison told reporters ahead of the Djokovic clash.

"I feel different this year, mentally and physically I have put myself into a position where I feel that I'm going to go forward. "I know that I've got myself into a better condition where I will be stronger and faster than the last time we played (in the second round at Wimbledon last year).

"On top of that I'm going to try and play my game... try to control my side of the net... and not get caught up in the hype of the situation and how good he is."

Reuters



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

REUTERS

## Man United agrees deal with two Chinese companies

LONDON, 16 Jan—English Premier League side Manchester United on Tuesday agreed two three-year sponsorships with Chinese companies, China Construction Bank (CCB) and soft drinks manufacturer Wahaha.

As part of the agreement, United's first with a Chinese bank, CCB will hold the rights exclusively to produce the official Manchester United branded credit card in mainland China.

United's commercial director Richard Arnold said, "Manchester United has a huge following in China of 108 million.

We know from our visits there, including the one to Shanghai last summer, that our Chinese followers have always been among the most supportive.

"Through our relationship with CCB we hope not only to give fans an excellent product, but also bring them closer to the club they



so passionately support." The new three-year deal will see Wahaha become the club's first official soft drinks partner in China.

Founded in 1987, Wahaha has been the largest beverage producer in China for the past 11 years.

Xinhua

## Chargers hire Denver's Mike McCoy as head coach

NEW YORK, 16 Jan—The San Diego Chargers have hired Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Mike McCoy as their new head coach, the National Football League team said on Tuesday.

McCoy replaces Norv Turner, who was fired in December after six seasons with the team, including a 7-9 record in 2012 that left the team out of the playoffs for a third straight campaign.

A Broncos assistant for four seasons, McCoy was credited with turning Tim Tebow into the Denver starter in 2011 en route to the playoffs, and orchestrating a Peyton Manning-led offense in 2012 that went 13-3 in the regular season.

The Chargers snapped up McCoy before his second scheduled visit with the Arizona Cardinals about their coaching vacancy.

Reuters



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (C) is congratulated by head coach John Fox (L) and offensive coordinator Mike McCoy after Manning threw a long touchdown pass against the Pittsburgh Steelers in their NFL football game in Denver on 9 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

## Sacramento mayor says working to keep basketball's Kings in town

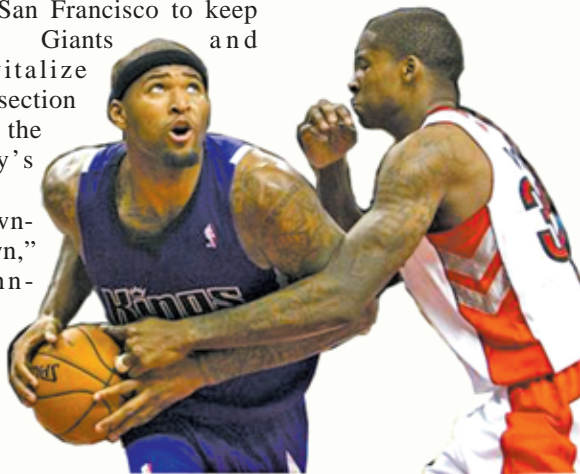
TORONTO, 16 Jan—Sacramento's mayor has won consent from the NBA to submit a proposal that would keep the Sacramento Kings from leaving town, a spokesman said on Tuesday, amid reports that an investor group was looking to buy the team and move it to Seattle.

Kevin Johnson, speaking at his annual State of Downtown Breakfast on Tuesday, said National Basketball Association Commissioner David Stern had approved his request to present a counteroffer to the league from a group of investors who would keep the Kings in the California state capital, spokesman Daniel Conway said.

"This morning I unveiled our 'Playing to Win' plan which is modeled on the successful strategy used by the City of San Francisco to keep the Giants and revitalize a section of the city's

downtown," Johnson

said, a former star for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and Phoenix Suns, said in a written statement released later in the day.



Sacramento Kings' DeMarcus Cousins drives to the basket past Toronto Raptors' Ed Davis (R) in the second half of their NBA basketball game in Toronto on 4 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

## Organizers: Nadal to make comeback at Brazil Open

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Jan—Former world No 1 Rafael Nadal will make his long-awaited return from injury at next month's Brazil Open, tournament organizers confirmed on Tuesday.

The 11-time Grand Slam winner has not played since suffering a knee injury during his second-round loss to Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon in June last year. The event will be Nadal's first in Brazil since he won the same tournament—his second career title—as an 18-year-old in 2005.

"I am very happy to be going back to play in Brazil," Nadal told Spain's TV3 on Tuesday. "I am especially happy to come back two weeks earlier than I had planned.



Former world No 1 Rafael Nadal

That means that things are going well." Nadal had planned to make his comeback at the Australian Open in Melbourne but was forced to withdraw due to a stomach virus.—Reuters

"Over the next six weeks, we will put together a competitive ownership group, which will include local partners, that is committed to keeping the Kings in Sacramento and building a world-class entertainment and sports complex," he said.

Johnson said the effort would culminate with Sacramento once again going before the NBA board of governors to "demonstrate the strength of our city as an NBA market and the unique opportunity the Kings have to thrive in our community."—Reuters

## Scolari rules out Brazil revolution

SAO PAULO, 16 Jan—Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Tuesday he would not make major changes to the team he inherited from predecessor Mano Menezes.

The Selecao's friendly against England at London's Wembley Stadium on 6th February will be Scolari's first game in charge since being appointed as the national coach for the second time in November.

The 64-year-old will announce a 23-man squad for the match at a Press Conference in Rio de Janeiro on 22 January.

"You are not going to see a new national team," Scolari said during a pro-



Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari

motional event on Tuesday. "There will not be many changes made in relation to what everybody has already

seen. "It won't be very different because it's the first chance to have a good look at the players." Brazil will be without captain Thiago Silva for the Wembley fixture after the 28-year-old injured his left thigh while playing for Paris Saint-Germain on last Friday. Menezes was sacked by Brazil's Football Confederation (CBF) last November following a poor run of results which included the team's 2-1 loss to Mexico in the London Olympics final.

Scolari guided Brazil to the 2002 World Cup during his first spell in charge before quitting to coach Portugal the following year.—Reuters



GENERAL

## Kayin New Year celebrated in Thaton

THATON, 16 Jan—Kayin New Year Day was observed in Taungsun village of Thaton Township on 12 January. At the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Ba Thein read the message sent by the Mon State Chief Minister and explained emergence of Kayin New Year Day in Sakaw and Po Kayin languages. Those presented donated offertories to older persons. Chairman of



Township Kayin Literature and Culture Committee U Saw San Tin presented prizes to outstanding students. Later, the dances were entertained to the guests.

Kyemon

## Former champions Dalian Shide in acquisition turmoil

YONGCHUAN, (Chongqing), 16 Jan—Eight-time champions Dalian Shide club have to register for next season in order to keep their name in Chinese Super League despite financial problems following a failed acquisition.

Shide, once the most accomplished club in China's top soccer league, had not been able to find enough financial support and asked for an acquisition by city rivals Aerbin late last year.

But the acquisition application was negated by the Chinese Football Association (CFA) for breaching

requirements of CSL.

Sources, who declined to be named, told *Xinhua* that Shide may meet the requirements but it's most likely that the club can not hold it to the end of next season due to insufficient money.

Shide's swaying attitude also caused some trouble to clubs from lower leagues, such as Shanghai Shenxin and Beijing Baxy. If Shide quit the 2013 season as they had planned, Shenxin and Baxy may keep their positions in CSL and China's League (sec-

Winners' Cup finals.

The club were also famous for its withdrawal from football. In 2000 at the height of their success, then boss of the club Wang Jianlin decided to pull out from football after publically criticizing Chinese referees for match fixing.—*Xinhua*



Eight-time champions Dalian Shide club

relative regulations which state that a Chinese Super League club (CSL) is not allowed to hold another team in the same league.

Although Shide already prepared to give up their qualification in next season's CSL, the club would not be written off, losing their name that was once the pride of the city.

Following the failed acquisition, Shide on Tuesday were forced to apply for registration for next season which they may not be able to finish due to lack of fund if their application could be approved by the CFA at all.

CFA authorities told *Xinhua* that Shide's decision should be respected but whether they can compete in the CSL depends on

ond tier of China's men's soccer leagues) respectively. If Shide stays, Shenxin and Baxy will be relegated to second and third-tier leagues respectively.

Dalian Shide were founded in 1982 as Dalian Football Club. In 1993, the club was reorganized to become a professional club and went on to win the first fully professionalized Chinese Jia-A League in 1994.

Achieving a total of eight league titles from both the Jia A and the rebranded CSL, Dalian have become to date the most successful club in Chinese football, while in the tournaments organized by Asian Football Confederation, the club reached the 1997-98 Asian Club Championship and 2000-01 Asian Cup

### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-1-13 09:30 am ~ 18-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* World War II Spitfire Planes Excavation Project
- \* A Study Tour Around Nay Pyi Taw Model Farms
- \* Housing, Living & Automobile 2013
- \* Myanmar Tigers
- \* News
- \* Miss People Style Competition 2012
- \* News
- \* Youths & Addiction
- \* News
- \* Award for Production of Sultan Fish
- \* News
- \* Culture Stage
- \* Women's Education & Career Development (Gender Based Violence)
- \* News
- \* The Home of Colourful Sweaters
- \* News
- \* Memorable Visit to Inlay & Unforgettable Stay at Hupin Hotel
- \* Myanmar Movies "Great Goodwill"

### MYANMAR TV

(17-1-2013, Thursday)

- |                |  |                 |   |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>7:00 am</b> | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw      | <b>5:00 pm</b>  | 12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| <b>7:25 am</b> | 2. To Be Healthy Exercise                          | <b>5:30 pm</b>  | 13. India Drama Series                  |
| <b>7:40 am</b> | 3. Dhamma Puja Song                                | <b>6:00 pm</b>  | 14. Evening News                        |
| <b>7:50 am</b> | 4. Nice & Aweet Song                               | <b>6:15 pm</b>  | 15. Weather Report                      |
| <b>8:00 am</b> | 5. Health Programme                                | <b>6:20 pm</b>  | 16. Approaching Science Discovery World |
| <b>8:15 am</b> | 6. Dance Varity                                    | <b>6:50 pm</b>  | 17. TV Drama Series                     |
| <b>8:25 am</b> | 7. Documentary                                     | <b>7:00 pm</b>  | 18. News                                |
| <b>8:30 am</b> | 8. Song of National Races                          | <b>7:10 pm</b>  | 19. TV Drama Series                     |
| <b>4:00 pm</b> | 9. Martial Song                                    | <b>8:00 pm</b>  | 20. News                                |
| <b>4:20 pm</b> | 10. Cute Little Dances                             | <b>10:00 pm</b> | 21. International News                  |
| <b>4:45 pm</b> | 11. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar) |                 | 22. Weather Report                      |
|                |  |                 | 23. CLEVER                              |
|                |  |                 | 24. TV Drama Series                     |
|                |  |                 | 25. News                                |
|                |  |                 | 26. Teleplay                            |

### News in Brief (16 January 2013)

#### 2nd administration would be as diverse as 1st term

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—Dismissing that 2nd term admin is looking as all male club with little diversity, Prez Obama, urged critics to wait till entire team in place before arriving any conclusion. "I'm very proud that in first 4 yrs we had as diverse, if not more diverse, White House & Cabinet than any in history," Obama said.

#### UD Min to issue advisory on enhancing safety

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—In the wake of the Delhi gang-rape incident, the Urban Development Ministry is set to issue an advisory to states for installation of cameras, GPS in buses.

#### Man gets ten-year RI for circulating fake currency

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—A court has handed ten years of rigorous imprisonment to a man for possessing and circulating fake Indian currency notes, a CBI spokesperson said on 15 January.

#### Mumbai Police order probe into 'hate' poem

MUMBAI, 16 Jan—Mumbai Police have ordered an enquiry into a controversial poem published in the force's in-house magazine about last year's Azad Maidan protesters.

#### Employee commits suicide at Planning Comm office

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan—A 50-year-old Class IV employee allegedly committed suicide in Planning Commission office here this morning apparently depressed over his daughter's illness, police said.

#### Security stepped up at Lalbagh for flower show

BANGALORE, 16 Jan—Concerned over women protection, the Karnataka Government has deployed police and installed CCTVs at Lalbagh Botanical Gardens that attracts large number of women during the flower show beginning from 18 January.

## Wu Di makes tennis history for Chinese men



MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—History was made when Wu Di became the first Chinese man to have played a Grand Slam match here on Tuesday.

History was also made by Japan's 42-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm, who shocked 12th seed Nadia Petrova to become the oldest winner of a women's singles match in Australian Open history.

Though ousted by Ivan Dodig of Croatia by 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 and 6-3 in three hours 14 minutes, the 21-year-old Wu, who was qualified via a wildcard tournament in Nanjing, turned a new page for Chinese tennis and is keen to lead Chinese men out of the shadows of their more successful women's counterparts.

While Li Na, who comes from Wu's home city, won the French Open final in 2011, Wu and Zhang Ze, ranked 158, are the only Chinese players in the men's top 350 for now.

"I see hopes through today's match," said Wu. "And I will keep working in the future to reach the top 100." The loss also let Wu see his differences from world-class players.

"Dodig is quite a better player than me. The experience is more important than techniques," said Wu. "He showed how to deal with key points and that's the reason he won." "But I really enjoy today's match. Every game, every set, except the result," added Wu.

Earlier in the day, Japan's 42-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm knocked out women's 12th seed Nadia Petrova out of Australian Open to reach the second round.

The last time for Date-Krumm to go past the first round at the Australian Open was in 1996. Date-Krumm showed age was no barrier, powering past the Russian 6-2, 6-0 in one hour and four minutes.—*Reuters*



# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues discussion of National Plan

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Fifth five-year National Plan (2011-2012 FY-2015-2016 FY) (draft) was put on table at



**U Nyunt Hlaing of Pyu Constituency.**—MNA

today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session.

U Nyunt Hlaing of Pyu Constituency recommended the increased cultivation of soya bean in addition to paddy as the crop's high-protein residue in producing oil is the vital feed for the breeding industry. He also said cultivation of soya bean bears more profits for farmers than other beans.

Dr Mya Oo of Bago

Region Constituency No (9) said the facts that the final year of the national plan coincides with the year that UN would assess whether the country achieves Millennium Development



**Dr Mya Oo of Bago Region Constituency No (6).**—MNA

Goals and the poverty rate in rural areas is 29 percent and in urban areas is 13-18 percent should be put into consideration. He also said there are three years left to achieve the goals.

U Than Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency No (10) discussed

forest replacement schemes must cover both extraction and damage caused by the production for environmental conservation and sustainable development. He said oil palm cultivation made the area plain.

Rakhine State Constituency No (6) U Khin



**U Than Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency No (10).**

MNA

Maung Latt called for granting loans to local prawn businesses and providing vocational aid packages to locals to engage

in onshore fishing business.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) said, "Policy should be laid to provide assistance when the paddy fields are subject to natural disasters." He also demanded the prevention against inundation of paddy fields and the wider role of the University of Agriculture. He also stressed the need to issue estimated GDP and trade, export, import and tax ratios in transparent manners.



**U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State Constituency No (6).**

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President Office  
Order No. 2/2013  
5th Waxing of Pyatho 1374 ME  
(16 January, 2013)

## Union ministers allowed to resign

In accord with the Sub-section (b) of the Section 235 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Sub-section (a) of the Section 68 of the Union Government Law, the following Union ministers have been allowed to resign of their own volition.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| (1) U Thein Tun         | Ministry of Communications and Information Technology |
| (2) Thura U Myint Maung | Ministry of Religious Affairs                         |

Sd/Thein Sein  
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (4) discussed, "In addition to GDP growth of the country, the promotion of education and healthcare standards is needed." He also said more investments should also be made in less profitable sectors such as education and health sectors

while calling for balanced growth.

He said, "Frankly speaking, there are still many requirements in education and health sectors."

A total of 18 MPs discussed the National Plan (draft). The session continues on 17 January.

MNA

# SEA Games stadiums nearing completion

As XXVII SEA Games is warming up, the host Myanmar is accelerating construction of Indoor Sports Stadiums and other facilities. Some

stadium has been completed and finishing touches are being put to some. We, Myanma Alinn news crew, visited construction sites of Zeyathiri Stadium,

swimming pool and other sports facilities in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw. Here are excerpts of interviews with Zeyathiri Stadium construction project

manager U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, executive engineer of swimming pool construction Daw Khin May Win, Indoor Sports Stadium construction project engineer U Khin

**Interview: Maung Maung Myint Swe;**  
**Photos: Kyaw Thu Win**

Maung Kyi and Indoor Sports Stadium construction project manager U Myin Naing.

**Q:** When did the construction

start and how far does it reach?

**U Kyaw Kyaw Oo:** The earthworks at the Indoor Sports Stadium started on 23 December, 2009. Foundation works started on 13 January, 2010. The construction has been completed by 98 percent. It will be handed over to department concerned soon.

**Q:** What is the capacity of the stadium and who designed it?

**KKO:** China designed the stadium and provided technical assistance for some parts. Myanmar engineers, staff and workers have undertaken the construction. The capacity is more than 30,000 and has a VIP room.

**Q:** Which rooms constitute the stadium?

**KKO:** The world-class stadium has recreation room of athletes, dressing room, VIP room, control room, audio control room for 142 sound boxes, media briefing room, gym, and CCTV room. It is almost completed.

(See page 2)



*Zeyathiri Stadium.*