

Myanmar, Japan to cooperate in communications sector

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—President U Thein Sein received Home Affairs and Communications Minister of Japan Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo and his delegation at the Presidential Palace here today to discuss the provision of technical and financial assistance to strengthen Myanmar's Police Force, postal service and telecommunications sector. It is planned that Japan will conduct technical courses in Myanmar.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Myat Hein among other officials. The Japanese Home Affairs and



Communications Minister was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr. Mikio NUMATA.

MNA edited By KW

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Home Affairs and

Communications Minister of Japan Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship League Chairman



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Japanese House of Representatives member and Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship League Mr. Ichiro Aisawa.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—President U Thein Sein and Japanese House of Representatives member and Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship League Mr. Ichiro Aisawa held talks on cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency-

JICA and Official Development Assistance loans from Japan.

During the meeting at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning, they also discussed matters related to opening Japanese bank branches in Myanmar.

JICA cooperates with

the government in building basic infrastructure projects and providing safe drinking water in Myanmar. ODA Loans and assistance from Japan are used for infrastructure projects, including railroads, airports and urban development.

MNA edited by KW

Myanmar Gems Emporium continues for fourth day Jade and uncut gem sales in Nay Pyi Taw a hit with foreign merchants

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—The fourth day of sales of uncut gemstones and jade lots in Nay Pyi Taw has seen an increase in bidders from other countries,

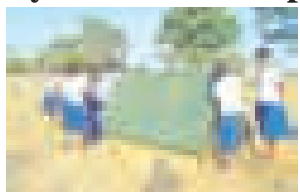
mainly China.

The Mani Yadana Jade Hall this morning was packed with merchants waiting for the winners of the open tenders for jade

lots No. 1 to 1,400 to be announced. According to officials, bidding for the jade lots 1,401 to 2,839 will start Friday.—MNA edited by Kerstin Winter

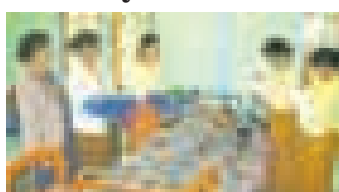
INSIDE

Scout training underway in Kyunhla Township



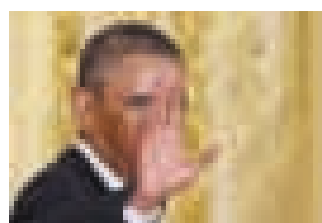
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Women giving birth on 66th Independence Day given gifts in Kyunhla Township



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Obama edges closer to decisions on intelligence reforms



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Abe leaves for Middle East, Africa to secure energy, exports



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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.*

**From Mr Borut Pahor
President of the Republic of Slovenia
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it is a pleasure to convey to you, on behalf of the Slovenian people and on my own behalf, heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for peace, continued progress and the prosperity of Myanmar.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere hope that our bilateral cooperation will be strengthened and diversified in all spheres of mutual interest.

May I also wish you a Happy New Year, hoping it will be a year of further development and democratic progress for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its peoples.

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

**From Dr Giorgio Napolitano
President of the Republic of Italy
Excellency,**

The Celebration of the National Day offers a wel-

come occasion to send You, on behalf of the Italian People and on my personal behalf, the most sincere wishes of peace and well-being to the People of Myanmar.

The relations between our Countries are going through a dynamic phase, especially after Your Official visit to Italy last March and thanks to the positive goals which Myanmar has been achieving on paving the way to Democracy.

The year that just started will offer new occasions for fruitful bilateral collaboration and other positive circumstances. I'm confident that during 2014 the relations between Myanmar and Italy will be further strengthened also in the framework of ASEM and thanks to our respective ASEAN and European Union Presidencies.

With this attitude, I express my best wishes of prosperity to You and to Your People.

**From Mr Rosen Plevneliev
President of the Republic of Bulgaria
Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the people of Bulgaria and myself, please accept heartiest congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and best wishes for Your personal good health, happiness and success.

I avail myself of the happy occasion to express the Republic of Bulgaria's support to the democratic development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under Your leadership. I would like to assure You of our readiness to

share our experience along the arduous path of change your country has embarked on for the sake of national reconciliation, social justice and economic progress. We welcome Your Government's efforts for the development of dialogue and cooperation with the international community, as well as for the building of a strong bilateral partnership with the European Union.

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

**From Mr Bronistaw Komorowski
President of the Republic of Poland**

Dear Mr. President

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Polish Nation and myself, I wish to convey to Your Excellency my heartfelt greetings.

We notice endeavors Myanmar of to build democratic and modern state. We would like to support this process, drawing from our own experience gained during the period of economic and political system transformation of Poland. I am also delighted that thanks to the opening of Myanmar to the outside world, our bilateral contacts can also flourish.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration together with best wishes of good health and prosperity for both Your Excellency and all citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Fifty-seven stimulant tablets seized in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLOWIN, 9 Jan—Acting on a tip-off, a combined team searched a suspect namely Zaw Zaw, son of U Win Myint, and found stimulant tablets at a restaurant, Zeythwe Street, Ward-2 of PyinOoLwin on 6 January.

The police seized 57

stimulant tablets, K 10,000 and a driver's licence from the suspect.

The suspect disclosed that he bought the tablets from Kyaw Naing Oo (a) Salin, of Bogyoke Street in Ward-3, PyinOoLwin Township. The team raided the house of Kyaw Naing

Oo(a) Salin and they did not find any drugs. But, he came clean in the presence of the witnesses that he sold the tablets on credit to Zaw Zaw. Myoma Police Force filed a lawsuit against the two suspects.

MMAL-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) edited by KW

Environmental Conservation

Lashio conducts drainage maintenance

LASHIO, 9 Jan—The Lashio Township Development Affairs Committee located in Northern Shan State have supervised dredg-

ing operations in Namlaung and Kholaung to ensure adequate water supply as of 31 December. The committee is also conducting maintenance

work on the bridge at the skate ground and AT bridge to ensure the drains are not clogged.—*MMAL-Han Htay (IPRD) edited by KW*



Officials inspect progress of dredging drain in Lashio, northern Shan State.

Myanmar prepares to host 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan — Myanmar is preparing to host the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry and other related meetings this year.

At the coordination meeting for the preparation of hosting the meetings

held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here today, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing expressed his hope that the upcoming ASEAN meetings in Myanmar will meet international standards.

Agricultural produce, forest products and livestock farming products from Myanmar will be exhibited at the meetings as part of efforts to find foreign markets for Myanmar exports.

MNA/edited by KW

**An official presents
322 sets of uniforms to
members of auxiliary fire
brigade from wards and
village-tracts in Kyauktan
Township, Yangon South
District, on 9 January.**

**KYEMON-NAN AYE
KHAING (IPRD)**



Interfaith friendship and cooperation discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay discussed interfaith friendship and other matter related to peaceful co-existence with an American delegation.

He welcomed the delegation led by Ms. Colette Rausch, Director of the Rule of Law Center of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) at his office here this afternoon.

They discussed coop-

eration in promoting interfaith friendship, peaceful co-existence and interfaith dialogues, prevention of religious-based conflicts and the creation of a peaceful society.

MNA/edited by KW

Methadone to replace opium treatment to help drug addicts in Katha

KATHA, 9 Jan—The people's hospital in Katha Township held a lecture yesterday to inform people about the replacement of opium with methadone to help drug addicts combat their addiction. Officials said that a methadone center would be opened, with Medical Superintendent

Dr Sein Aye explaining the purpose of the center and mental health specialist Dr U Kyi Soe Win elaborating on the side effects of the treatment.

Methadone has long been used in Western countries to treat opium drug addiction. The lecture was attended by Region Hluttaw

Representative U Sein Tun, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Soe Myint, Township Management Committee Chairman U Zaw Min Htaik, Secretary U Kyaw Swe, and members of township supportive committees and health staff.—*Nyein Nyein (Katha) edited by KW*

WORLD

Abe leaves for Middle East, Africa to secure energy, exports

TOKYO, 9 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday left for a week-long trip to the Middle East and Africa, where he will meet with the leaders of four countries to discuss economic cooperation aimed at helping Japan secure energy resources and increase exports.

Abe will arrive in Oman the same day on the first leg of the trip before visiting the three African nations of Ivory Coast, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

In Oman, Abe will hold a summit with Sultan Qaboos bin Said and is expected to call for the stable supply of oil and natural gas

from the Gulf state to Japan. They will also discuss bilateral cooperation on maritime security, including antipiracy measures, Japanese officials said.

With the trip, Abe will have visited all six oil producers making up the Gulf Cooperation Council since taking office in 2012. Japan has been in talks since 2006 with the GCC, also involving Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, on liberalizing trade in goods and services.

In Africa, Abe will announce Japan's continued support for development on the continent. He will



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) and his wife Akie (R) wave on 9 Jan, 2014, as they leave from Tokyo's Haneda Airport to embark on a weeklong trip to four countries of the Middle East and Africa — Oman, Ivory Coast, Mozambique and Ethiopia. KYODO NEWS

hold summits and deliver speeches, aiming to promote assistance in areas such as support for local infrastructure and personnel training for rapidly growing economies in the region.

China has also been increasing its presence in

development assistance for Africa with significant amounts of financial aid, apparently prompting Japan to accelerate its efforts not to fall behind its rival.

Abe will return to Tokyo on Wednesday.

Kyodo News

Iran, big power nuclear talks hit snag on centrifuge research

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Jan — Negotiations between Iran and six world powers on implementing a landmark November deal to freeze parts of Teheran's nuclear programme in exchange for easing some sanctions have run into problems over advanced centrifuge research, diplomats said. The dispute over centrifuges highlighted the huge challenges facing Iran and the six powers in negotiating the precise terms of the 24 November interim agreement. If they succeed, they plan to start talks on a

of a new model of advanced nuclear centrifuge that Iran says it has installed, diplomats said on condition of anonymity. Centrifuges are machines that purify uranium for use as fuel in atomic power plants or, if purified to a high level, weapons.

"This issue (centrifuges) was among the main factors in stopping the previous technical discussions on 19-21 December," a Western diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Other Western diplomats confirmed that centrifuges



(L-R) China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, US Secretary of State John Kerry, France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attend the Iran nuclear talks at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 14 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

long-term deal to resolve a more than decade-long dispute over Teheran's nuclear ambitions.

Among the issues to be resolved in political discussions due to begin in Geneva later this week is that of research and development

remained a "sticking point" in the talks with Iran but noted that last month's discussions were understandably adjourned ahead of the December holidays — not because of the centrifuge issue.

Reuters

Thai anti-government protesters march, consumer confidence slumps

BANGKOK, 9 Jan — Protesters trying to topple Thailand's prime minister marched in Bangkok again on Thursday,

testing support for a planned "shutdown" of the capital next week, and a survey showed consumer confidence slumped last month



Anti-government protesters gather in Bangkok's business district on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

because of the crisis. Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has called an election for February 2 but the protesters, aware she would probably win on the back of support in the rural north and northeast, want her to step down and be replaced by an appointed "people's council" to push through electoral reforms.

The protests took off in November when the government tried to force through a political amnesty bill that would have let former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck's brother, return from self-exile

without serving jail time for corruption.

On Thursday, the protesters marched from their camp at Democracy Monument in the historic quarter, drumming up support for Monday when they plan to blockade main roads and prevent government ministries from functioning.

The turmoil is the latest twist in a conflict pitting Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly rural supporters of Yingluck and Thaksin, who was ousted as prime minister in a military coup in 2006. — Reuters

Security alert in southern Russia after five bodies found

MOSCOW, 9 Jan — Russia has put security forces on combat alert in the southern Stavropol region after the discovery of five bodies with gunshot wounds and an explosive device, a regional security spokesman said.

Russia has already tightened security before next month's Winter Olympics in Sochi, on which President Vladimir Putin has staked a lot of political and personal prestige, and is on high alert after suicide bombers killed at least 34 people in separate attacks in the southern city of Volgograd last month.

The five corpses were discovered on Wednesday in four cars in two separate districts outside the re-

gional capital Stavropol, a gateway to the North Caucasus, where Russia faces an insurgency by Islamist militants who have threatened to try to prevent the Olympics going ahead.

An unidentified explosive device was also found near one of the vehicles, said a spokesman for Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) in Stavropol. No other details were immediately available.

Putin said after the Volgograd attacks that he would annihilate all "terrorists" in Russia.

The Winter Olympics open in Sochi on 7 February. The Black Sea resort is on the western edge of the Caucasus mountains where the insurgents want to carve out an Islamic

state.

The head of Russia's Olympic Committee has said no more can be done to safeguard the Games because every measure possible is already in place.

Russian forces went on combat alert in Sochi on Tuesday and about 37,000 personnel are now in place to provide security at the Games, Russian officials say. — Reuters

Photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a Mitsubishi Materials Corp. plant in Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture, central Japan, on 9 Jan, 2014. Five people died and 12 others were injured in an explosion at the plant the same day.—KYODO NEWS

Fuel meltdown experiment eyed to learn more about Fukushima crisis

TOKYO, 9 Jan —The Japan Atomic Energy Agency is planning to melt a small nuclear fuel rod in an experiment at its research facility in March to figure out how meltdowns occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in 2011, officials said Thursday. The experiment could offer clues about

the state of the fuel left inside the three crippled Fukushima Daiichi reactors, which remains uncertain. Removing the fuel from the reactors will be the biggest challenge in dismantling the plant.

"We hope to use the data obtained through the experiment to improve the accuracy of the analysis of

the Fukushima accident," a JAEA official said.

During the experiment, to be conducted at the Nuclear Safety Research Reactor in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, nuclear fission reactions will be triggered using a 30-centimetre long test fuel rod placed inside a stainless-steel capsule.—Kyodo News

Five dead, 12 injured in blast at Mitsubishi Materials plant

TSU (Japan), 9 Jan — Five people died and 12 others were injured in an explosion Thursday at a Mitsubishi Materials Corp. plant in Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture, local police said.

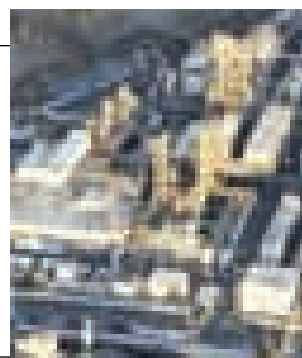
The explosion took place at around 2:10 p.m., apparently after hydrogen gas leaked during the demolition of a heat exchanger,

the Japanese material maker said.

The victims were involved in the operation, some as supervisors, it added.

The factory, located in an industrial district in Yokkaichi, produces silicone that is used in semiconductors for personal computers.

Kyodo News



Aunt of N Korean leader in coma

SEOUL, 9 Jan — Kim Kyong Hui, aunt of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and wife of the purged and executed official Jang Song Taek, is in a vegetative state after undergoing brain surgery, a Seoul daily reported on Thursday.

Citing an intelligence official in the United States, the *JoongAng Daily* said that Kim had surgery for a brain tumour in 2013 in Paris. After the surgery, she lost a lot of weight, dropping to 35 kilograms, the official said.

North Korea's state media announced Jang's execution last month, labeling him a "traitor for all ages." Her fate has been the focus of attention of North Korea watchers since Jang's execution.

The younger sister of Kim Jong Un's father, the late leader Kim Jong Il, she was seen last month in a Korean Central Television film purported to praise the current leader's achievements. She appeared in a scene believed to have been filmed when Kim Jong Un visited, in December 2012, the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where the leader's grandfather Kim Il Sung, the founder of North Korea, and others are laid to rest.

Kyodo News



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) meets with Japanese Emperor Akihito (R) at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 8 Jan, 2014, the last day of his three-day visit to Japan. —KYODO NEWS

Panama Canal refuses to pay \$1 billion more for expansion work

PANAMA CITY, 9 Jan —The Panama Canal on Wednesday rejected a proposal that it pay \$1 billion to continue work on expanding the waterway, and warned the building consortium behind the project that it could bring in others to finish the job.

For the past week, the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) has been fighting with the consortium led by Spanish builder Sacyr over cost overruns in the plan to install a third set of locks for one of the world's most important cargo routes.

On Tuesday, there were signs the two sides were narrowing their differences. But on Wednesday, Italian builder Salini Impregilo weighed into the debate with a separate

proposal that suggested a deal was still some distance away. Impregilo said it had put forward two alternative solutions that involved the authority paying \$1 billion to the consortium known as Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC) to complete the work. But that announcement from Italy prompted an immediate rebuff from the head of the PCA, Jorge Quijano. The \$1 billion payment "is impossible. It is outside the contract," Quijano told reporters in Panama City.

The consortium had threatened to suspend work on the massive infrastructure project by 20 January unless the PCA paid for \$1.6 billion in cost overruns. The authority has rejected that demand but has

said it is willing to consider detailed claims.

Quijano said the PCA had a plan ready to bring in a third party to finish the expansion if no deal is reached with the consortium to keep the project running in the weeks ahead. Bechtel, a US engineering company which lost out to Sacyr when the project was awarded in 2009, had been tipped by some analysts as a likely beneficiary of the dispute.

Quijano said the third party was not Bechtel, but did not elaborate on which other companies could step up. "We are not going to have another contract like we have with GUPC right now. We'll have another contractor that works directly for us to administer the rest of the contractors

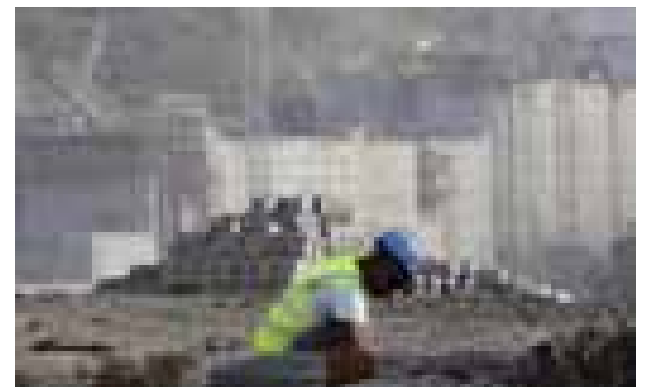
Norway hopes for resumption of peace talks between Philippine gov't, leftist rebels

MANILA, 9 Jan — Visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende expressed hope on Thursday that the Philippine government and leftist rebel group Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) will resume stalled peace talks in the coming months. Norway is the mediator in peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the leftist rebels.

"We're committed to continue as facilitator in (peace talks) as long as this is the interest of the government of the Philippines," Brende told reporters in an interview. He said he will be discussing "opportunities" to resume the stalled negotiations during his meeting with Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III in the afternoon.

"I think the presidency

of Aquino is here for several years and we are looking into the opportunity to resume talks in the future," said Brende. Talks between the Philippine government and the CPP's negotiating arm, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, has been suspended since 2011 over the leftist rebels' demand for the release of some of their detained commanders.—*Xinhua*



A worker is seen at the construction site of the Panama Canal Expansion project on the outskirts of Colon City on 7 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

and people," he said of the contingency plan.

The project was originally expected to cost about \$5.25 billion, but the overruns could raise it to near \$7 billion. Impregilo's proposal showed signs of a split in the consortium that has been expanding the canal. People familiar with the discussions said that Impregilo perceived Sacyr as too soft in negotiations and said the Italian

company could be trying to wrest control of the project.

There was no immediate word from Sacyr on Impregilo's move. Halting construction on the project would be a setback for companies eager to move larger ships through the century-old waterway such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) producers who want to ship exports from the US Gulf coast to Asian markets.

Reuters

Libya's PM warns may sink oil tankers nearing east ports

TRIPOLI, 9 Jan —Libya may sink tankers trying to load at eastern ports seized by armed protesters in an escalating confrontation over control of oil exports, Prime Minister Ali Zeidan said on Wednesday.

His warning came after Libya's navy fired shots at the weekend to ward off a tanker that the state-run National Oil Corp (NOC) said tried to load at one port that has been out of government control for six months.

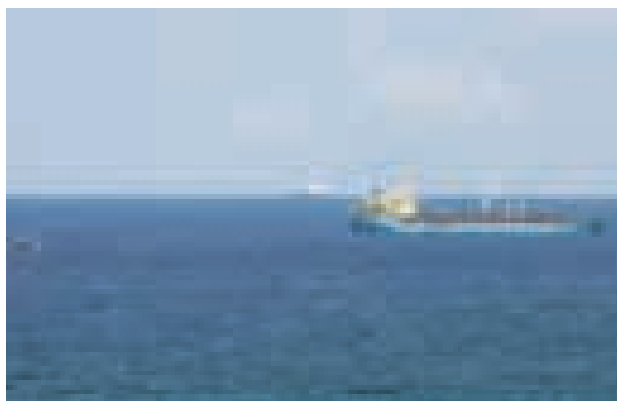
Brent crude rose above \$107 a barrel on Wednesday, supported by the new worries over Libyan supplies, which have been slashed since summer by the blockade of three key eastern ports.

Negotiations to end

the protests have failed as eastern federalists, whose self-styled Cyrenaica government seeks more autonomy from Tripoli, have threatened to ship oil independently to world markets in defiance of Zeidan.

Protesters on Tuesday said they would guarantee security for vessels docking at the three eastern ports, inviting foreign tankers to load crude and bypass government control.

"Any country, or company, or gang trying to send tankers to take oil from the seized ports without coordinating with the NOC, we will deal with them — even if we are forced to destroy or sink them," Zeidan said. "We warn all countries there will be no leniency."



An oil tanker is seen at the port and Zawiya Oil Refinery, 55 km (34 miles) west of the city of Tripoli in this 22 Aug, 2013 file photo. —REUTERS

The confrontation is a major challenge two years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, where former rebels, militias and tribesmen have all resorted to force to make demands on a state that is still mapping out the new democracy.

In the east, the Cyrenaica regional authority and its armed protesters have taken over Ras Lanuf,

Es Sider and Zueitina ports, which previously accounted for 600,000 barrels per day in crude exports.

On Monday, the Libyan navy said it fired warning shots at a Maltese-flagged tanker trying to reach Libya to load oil at Es-Sider, but the tanker's owners accused Libya forces of firing on them in international waters.

Reuters

BOJ policymaker calls for more easing if prices move below forecast

TOKYO, 9 Jan — A Bank of Japan policymaker said on Thursday the central bank should further ease its monetary policy "without hesitation" if the economy and prices are judged to move considerably below its projection.

"I believe additional monetary easing measures should be taken without hesitation so as not to jeopardize the BOJ's credibility, whenever downside risks to the BOJ's baseline scenario are judged to have materialized," Sayuri Shirai said in her speech in Singapore, according to the text released by the BOJ.

The central bank introduced large-scale monetary easing policy in April last year, aiming to achieve 2

percent inflation in about two years.

Japan's consumer prices excluding fresh foods rose 1.2 percent in November from a year before for the sixth straight month of increase.

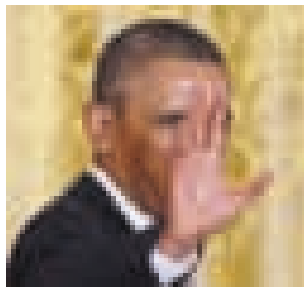
Despite the continued increase in consumer prices, Shirai said there may be "high uncertainty" about meeting the goal in about two years due to consumers' concern about a rapid decline in real disposable income as well as firms' cautiousness about raising sales prices.

"I personally consider that it may take some time" before the impact of monetary easing fully materializes, she said.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Obama edges closer to decisions on intelligence reforms



US President Barack Obama waves after he urges Congress to act and extend emergency unemployment insurance benefits while at an event in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 7 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — President Barack Obama consulted intelligence officials on Wednesday on ways to rein in US surveillance practices as he nears the end of a review likely to lead to changes as to how bulk telephone data is

handled as well as restrictions to spying on foreign leaders.

Obama, who could announce his intelligence reforms in a speech as early as next week, is acting in an attempt to restore Americans' confidence in US intelligence services after damaging disclosures from former spy contractor Edward Snowden about the sweep of surveillance practices.

Obama reviewed the progress of the administration's review in a meeting with James Clapper, the director of US intelligence, and Keith Alexander, the National Security Agency director, as well as Attorney General Eric Holder and Vice President Joe Biden.

"This was an important chance for the president to hear directly from his team as he begins to make final decisions about

how we move forward with key intelligence collection programs," said Caitlin Hayden, spokeswoman for the White House National Security Council.

Obama also met with members of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, a bipartisan independent panel that has been reviewing US surveillance practices, including the collection of telephone data and the operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The privacy oversight board said it would offer its findings to Obama in late January or early February, meaning its recommendations will not get to the president until after he has already announced his reform plans.

Obama is due to meet several US lawmakers on Thursday as he firms up his review.—Reuters



Two P3C Orion surveillance planes operated by Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force fly over the sea off the Kerama Islands in the Japanese southernmost prefecture of Okinawa for training on 8 Jan, 2014. The drill, the first of this year, was open to the media and three P3Cs took part.—KYODO NEWS

Japan marks record high 11.25 million foreign visitors in 2013

TOKYO, 9 Jan — Foreign visitors to Japan totaled a record high 11.25 million in 2013, up 2.08 million from a year earlier and topping the 10 million threshold for the first time, according to preliminary data released by the Justice Ministry's Immigration Bureau of Japan.

Immigration officials said the weak yen, which helped lower travelling costs in Japan, as well as

eased visa requirements for Southeast Asians was behind the increase.

The total included those who were staying in Japan for extended periods of time and made re-entries after leaving the country. Excluding those re-entrants, arrivals came to approximately 9.55 million, also a record high and up about 2 million from 2012.

South Koreans were the largest group of visitors

to Japan, totaling 2.3 million, followed by 2.16 million Taiwanese and 980,000 Chinese. The Chinese total excludes those from the Hong Kong special administrative region.

Chinese visitors gradually increased after plummeting in the wake of Tokyo's purchase in September 2012 of Japan-administered islets claimed by China from a private Japanese owner.—Kyodo News

Turkish police purge reaches top ranks amid graft scandal

ANKARA, 9 Jan — Turkey's deputy police chief has been sacked, the most senior commander yet targeted in a purge of a force heavily influenced by a cleric accused by Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan of plotting to seize the levers of state power.

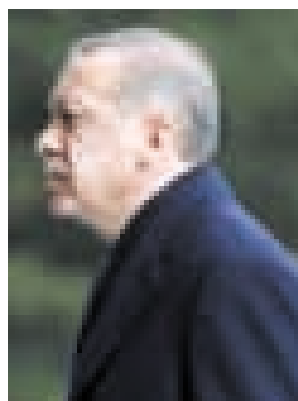
Erdogan's AK Party meanwhile submitted plans to parliament to allow government more say over the naming of prosecutors and judges. Erdogan argues that a judiciary and police

in the sway of the Hizmet (Service) movement of cleric Fethullah Gulen contrived a graft investigation now shaking his administration.

The police website said the deputy head of the national police, Muammer Bucak, and provincial chiefs, among them the commanders in the capital Ankara and the Aegean province of Izmir, were removed from their posts overnight.

The government has

ousted hundreds of police since the graft affair erupted on 17 December with the detention of dozens of people including businessmen close to the government and three cabinet ministers' sons. Among the dozens questioned, most have been released. A remaining 24, including two of the ministers' sons, remain in custody, according to local media. The scandal has shaken investor confidence in Turkey before elections this year and



Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan

heightened concern about the erosion of judicial independence, something which in the longer term could damage Ankara's bid for membership of the European Union.—Reuters

Iraqi prime minister says victory certain as Falluja assault looms



A tank is transported towards Anbar, to reinforce Iraqi troops in the province, west of Baghdad, on 6 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki vowed to eradicate al-Qaeda in Iraq and

predicted victory as his army prepared to launch a major assault against the Sunni Islamist militants

who have taken over parts of the city of Falluja.

Fighters from the al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is also active across the border in Syria, overran police stations in Falluja and another city in Iraq's western Anbar province last week.

The campaign by al-Qaeda gunmen to form a radical Islamic state in parts of Iraq and Syria has rung alarm bells in Western capitals and provided further evidence that the Syrian civil war is exporting instability throughout the region.

In a televised address on Wednesday, Maliki also thanked the international community for its support in the fight against al-Qaeda and urged the group's members and supporters to surrender, promising clemency.

The prime minister spoke for the second time this week with US Vice President Joe Biden, the White House said in a statement. Biden urged Maliki to keep working with local leaders and welcomed a decision to compensate tribal militiamen who may be wounded or killed in action against ISIL.—Reuters

Jordan on "alert" as tension rises on borders with Iraq, Syria

AMMAN, 9 Jan — Jordanian officials said this week that the country is closely following up the situation on borders with Iraq and Syria after radical groups took control of some of these areas.

In a Lower House session on Tuesday, Jordan's Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour said his country is concerned about terrorism and is closely following up the developments in Iraq's Anbar Province, where al-Qaeda-linked groups took control of some areas bordering Jordan.

Jordan's security is part of the region's security, he said during the session.

"Terrorism is an issue of concern to Jordan," said Ensour, referring to the emergence of radical groups inside Iraqi and Syrian territories bordering Jordan.

In an interview with state-owned Jordan Television, Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh said Jordan is "on alert" in the field

and at the political level," referring to the fighting in Iraq and al-Qaeda-linked group's control of some towns there and its impact on the kingdom.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), which is an al-Qaeda-linked faction, currently has control over Fallujah and parts of Ramadi in Iraq's western Anbar province, which borders Jordan.

On Tuesday, at least 10 al-Qaeda militants were killed in clashes between Sunni tribes and al-Qaeda fighters in two major cities of Iraq's western province of Anbar, security sources and official TV said. Anbar Province has been the scene of sporadic clashes between Iraqi security forces, tribesmen and al-Qaeda militants. The security situation deteriorated in the province last week, when Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi, Anbar's provincial capital city.

Xinhua

Food, beverage companies slash calories in obesity fight

NEW YORK, 9 Jan — A voluntary effort by the world's largest food and beverage companies to remove billions of calories from the products they sell in the United States to help combat the nation's obesity epidemic has far exceeded its five-year goal, according to an independent evaluation released on Thursday.

In May 2010, 16 of the nation's biggest food and beverage companies, from Coca-Cola Co to Kraft Foods Group, pledged to remove 1 trillion calories from the US marketplace by 2012 and 1.5 trillion by 2015, compared with a 2007 baseline. In fact, as of 2012 they sold 6.4 trillion fewer calories, found an analysis by researchers at the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC).

"Reports like this, and the fact that they exceeded their commitment by four-fold, really shows that you can make progress in giving American families more healthy options," said Larry Soler, president of the Partnership for a Healthier America, a non-profit chaired by first lady Michelle Obama. The group was formed in 2010 to work with the private sector on anti-obesity strategies.

At the time, critics said the Partnership relied too heavily on the good will of the industry and could not replace the role of tighter regulation on how food is manufactured and



People participate in an aerobics class at the gymnasium of a sports centre in Cartago, east of San Jose in this 10 July, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

marketed. Such voluntary efforts by industry "are not a magic bullet," said Jeff Levi, executive director of Trust for America's Health, a non-profit policy group. "Particularly with kids, there is a role for regulation" in reducing demand for unhealthy, high-calorie fare. It is not clear yet how the companies accomplished the dramatic

calorie reduction, said UNC public health researcher Barry Popkin, who led the analysis funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest public health philanthropy. Some of the decline may have come from the recession, as financially-strapped families cut back on junk food.

Reuters

Malaysian government to help people cope with rising cost of living

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Jan — The Malaysian government has prepared 10 types of aid packages to help people cope with the current and future rising costs of living, an government official said on Thursday.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan told reporters that the 10 aid packages include basic subsidies, assistance to farmers, fishermen, oil palm workers and rubber tappers, reduction of income tax cuts, health subsidies, educational assistance, affordable housing projects, assistance to the poor, funds for the development of entrepreneurs as well as salary increases and bonuses for civil servants.

He did not deny that rationalization of the budget made by the government in reducing the national deficit recently had caused prices of three types of items to rise, namely oil, sugar and electricity.

But he said the aid packages had been created to help people to achieve a high level of income so as not to be burdened with rising costs in the future.

Xinhua

Asian shares ease, dollar firms; Friday's US jobs in focus

TOKYO, 9 Jan — Asian shares wavered on Thursday after a lackluster performance on Wall Street overnight and ahead of a key US jobs report due out the following day, while the dollar hovered near a seven-week high against a basket of currencies.

Market reaction was muted to a slowdown in China's annual consumer inflation in December, which decelerated to 2.5

percent from the previous month's 3 percent, more than the market had expected.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ-0000PUS shed 0.4 percent after snapping a five-day losing streak on Wednesday. Despite the yen's weakness, Japan's Nikkei benchmark .N225 shed 1.5 percent, giving up some of its 1.9 percent bounce in

the previous session after losing nearly 3 percent in the first two trading days of 2014. Financial bookmakers expected UK, German and French shares .FTSE .GDAXI .FCHI to open steady on Thursday, ahead of the European Central Bank's policy meeting. Analysts doubt it will do more than flag its readiness to act when needed, despite another surprising fall in euro zone inflation.

Overnight, the US Standard & Poor's 500 .SPX finished nearly flat, while the Dow Jones industrial average .DJI slipped 0.4 percent. The dollar .DXY was little changed at 81.031 against a basket of major currencies, not far from a seven-week high of 81.166 set on Wednesday after payrolls processor ADP said US private employers added a bigger-than-expected 238,000 jobs in December, the strongest increase in 13 months.—Reuters



A pedestrian walks past electronic boards showing the picture of Japanese 10000 yen banknotes and 100 US dollar banknotes outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 9 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Bone marrow stem cells could defeat drug-resistant tuberculosis

LONDON, 9 Jan — Patients with potentially fatal "superbug" forms of tuberculosis (TB) could in future be treated using stem cells taken from their own bone marrow, according to the results of an early-stage trial of the technique.

The finding, made by British and Swedish scientists, could pave the way for the development of a new

treatment for the estimated 450,000 people worldwide who have multi drug-resistant (MDR) or extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB.

In a study in *The Lancet* medical journal on Thursday, researchers said more than half of 30 drug-resistant TB patients treated with a transfusion of their own bone marrow stem cells were cured of the

disease after six months.

"The results ... show that the current challenges and difficulties of treating MDR-TB are not insurmountable, and they bring a unique opportunity with a fresh solution to treat hundreds of thousands of people who die unnecessarily," said TB expert Alimuddin Zumla at University College London, who

China inflation hits 7-month low, eases tightening fears

BEIJING, 9 Jan — China's annual consumer inflation slowed more sharply than expected to a seven-month low of 2.5 percent in December, easing market fears of monetary policy tightening although the central bank is tapping the brakes on bank liquidity.

Rising money market rates and bond yields indicate the People's Bank of China (PBOC) is targeting bank liquidity conditions to reduce debt levels and contain credit growth, but there is little sign of a sharp

Food prices rose 4.1 percent in December from a year earlier, slowing from November's 5.9 percent rise, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Thursday.

Month-on-month, consumer prices rose 0.3 percent versus 0.4 percent expected by economists.

But analysts warn inflation may quicken in coming months as the government pushes market-oriented reforms to liberalize energy and utility prices.

"While CPI inflation came in lower than



A customer picks up a shoe at a shop where posters advertising price discounts are hung, outside a department store in Beijing, in this 23 Oct, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

turnaround in its policy stance.

The central bank has pledged to continue to maintain prudent monetary policy in 2014 and keep reasonable money and credit growth to support the real economy.

"Inflation pressures remain modest, which will allow policymakers to continue focusing on policies to support growth while implementing structural reform measures in 2014," said Xiaoping Ma, an economist at HSBC in Beijing.

The drop in inflation last month, from November's print of 3 percent, was sharper than a fall to the 2.7 percent rate expected by the market, slowed by volatile food costs.

expected, the January figure will likely exceed 3 percent again due to the Chinese New Year effect," said Zhou Hao, an economist at ANZ in Shanghai.

"Inflation could exceed 3.5 percent in the second half of 2014, as upcoming pricing reforms could push up commodity and public utility prices.

Therefore, we think that CPI inflation will be 3.2-3.4 percent on average this year." China's inflation was 2.6 percent over the whole of 2013, well within the government's target limit of 3.5 percent, the bureau said. Analysts believe the government will also stick with the 3.5 percent inflation target this year.

Reuters

co-led the study. TB, which infects the lungs and can spread from one person to another through coughing and sneezing, is often falsely thought of as a disease of the past.

In recent years, drug-resistant strains of the disease have spread around the world, battling off standard antibiotic drug treatments. The World Health

Organisation (WHO) estimates that in Eastern Europe, Asia and South Africa 450,000 people have MDR-TB, and around half of these will fail to respond to existing treatments. TB bacteria trigger an inflammatory response in immune cells and surrounding lung tissue that can cause immune dysfunction and tissue damage.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Obama agrees to 4-year extension for International Space Station

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — The Obama administration wants to keep the *International Space Station*, a \$100 billion orbital research outpost that is a project of 15 nations, flying until at least 2024, four years beyond a previous target, NASA said on Wednesday.

The extension will give the US space agency more time to develop the technologies needed for eventual human missions to

Mars, the long-term goal of NASA's human space programme.

Keeping the station in orbit beyond 2020 also opens a window for commercial companies and researchers to benefit from hefty US investment in the outpost. NASA's costs for operating the station, which flies about 250 miles above Earth, run about \$3 billion a year. About half that sum is spent on transporting crew

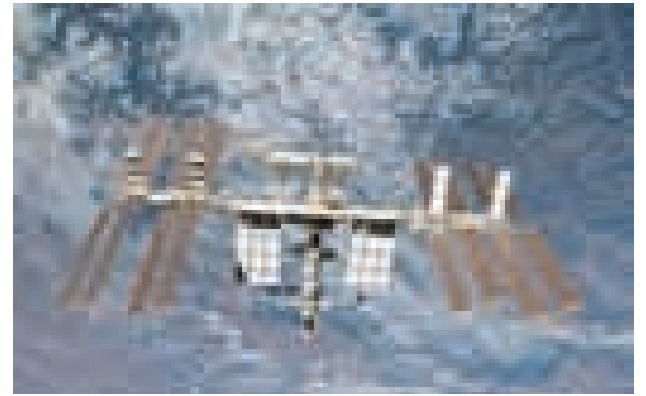
and cargo.

"Ten years from today is a pretty far-reaching, pretty strategic-looking vision," NASA Associate Administrator Bill Gerstenmaier told reporters on a conference call.

"This extension... opens up a large avenue of research onboard station. It also changes the perspective for the commercial (transportation) providers. Now they can see a

market that extends to at least 2024," he said.

In addition to commercial US cargo ships and planned passenger space taxis, companies and research organizations are beginning to make use of the station's unique microgravity environment to develop a range of new products and technologies, including medications and off-the-shelf, shoebox-sized satellites.—Reuters



Backdropped by Earth, the International Space Station is seen in this image photographed by an STS-130 crew member on space shuttle Endeavour after the station and shuttle began their post-undocking relative separation, in this undated NASA handout photo.

REUTERS

France fines Google over data privacy

PARIS, 9 Jan — France's data protection watchdog has fined Google 150,000 euros after the US search engine ignored a three-month ultimatum to bring its practices on tracking and storing user information in line with local law.

The privacy watchdog, known as CNIL, has also ordered Google to post the decision on its google.fr homepage for 48 hours within eight days of being officially notified of the ruling.

At issue was the new approach to user data that Google began in March 2012, in which it consolidated its 60 privacy policies into one and started combining data collected on individual users across its services, including YouTube, Gmail and social network Google+.

It gave users no means to opt out. "The company does not sufficiently inform its users of the conditions in which their personal data are processed, nor of the purposes of this processing," CNIL said in a statement.—Reuters



A Google logo is seen at the entrance to the company's offices in Toronto in this 6 Sept, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS



Photo taken on 6 Jan, 2014 shows Toyota's FCV hydrogen electric concept car at a media preview event of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the United States, Jan. 6, 2014. Toyota announced the car would be available to US consumers in 2015.

XINHUA

Apple, Samsung CEOs agree to mediation in US patent fight

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Jan — Apple Inc(AAPL.O) and Samsung Electronics have agreed to attend a mediation session to be held on or before 19 February, as they prepare to clash in court in March over smartphone patents.

Apple CEO Tim Cook and Samsung CEO Oh-Hyun Kwon will attend the session with in-house lawyers only, according to a Wednesday court filing. Their legal teams had met on 6 January to "discuss settlement opportunities," the filing read.

Neither company immediately return messages seeking comment.

Apple and Samsung are embroiled in a legal battle over smartphone patents across several countries that mirrors their global battle

for supremacy in the mobile device market.

The technology rivals are facing a March trial date in the United States over Apple's claims that Samsung infringed its patents.

In the last two years, Apple and Samsung have gone to trial twice in San Jose, California federal court, and juries have awarded Apple a total of roughly \$930 million.

Apple said in court documents filed in December that it has paid its leading outside law firm approximately \$60 million to wage patent litigation against Samsung.

The case is Apple Inc v Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, US District Court, Northern District of California, 11-1846.

Reuters

Wearable technology leads future trend in 2014 CES

LAS VEGAS, 9 Jan — Wearable devices make up this year's hottest technology in the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which kicked off Tuesday at the Las Vegas Convention Centre.

More than a dozen firms displayed new wearable products, most directed at health and fitness. These devices are equipped with computer chips that can monitor users' heart rate, steps taken, and even location.

People in the near future could choose their wearable devices from head to toe, use it to manage their life, and track their health condition.

Not only a record or output device, more wearable gadgets support inter-communication with wearers. Intel CEO Brian Krzanich unveiled a new "personal assistant"



A model presents the latest wearable camera equipment of Panasonic at the 2014 international CES in Las Vegas, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

earpiece named Jarvis, which is Intel's answer to the voice-activated Google Now and Apple's Siri.

Almost all wearable devices are as companions to smartphones. There is one exception that the Neptune Pine is a stand-alone

device. This Android-based smart watch is a social-media hub, video game console, media player and platform for two cameras, all in a 2.4-inch device that rides on a person's wrist without the need of a connection with a phone.

In addition to developing reference devices for wearable technology, Intel will offer a number of accessible, low-cost entry platforms from 2014 on.

During the trade show, Krzanich also unveiled Intel Edison, a Pentium-class PC the size and shape of an SD card with built-in wireless capabilities and support for multiple operating systems. These products are aimed at helping lower entry barriers for individuals and small companies to create innovative Internet-connected wearables or other small form factor devices.

Xinhua

Alibaba to set up mobile gaming platform in China



An employee walks past a logo of Alibaba Group at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, in this 17 May, 2010 file photo.

REUTERS

BEIJING, 9 Jan — E-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd said on Wednesday it would set up a mobile gaming platform in China, venturing into a fast growing sector dominated by tech rival Tencent Holdings Ltd.

Mobile gaming is hugely popular in China, home to the largest number of smartphone users in

the world. In 2013, mobile gaming revenue accounted for 11.24 billion yuan (\$1.86 billion), or 13.5 percent of the overall Chinese video gaming market, the world's third largest.

Liu Chunming, a former Tencent executive who now heads Alibaba's digital entertainment business, said in a statement the mobile gaming platform

would be offered free to developers for the first year.

He did not say, however, when it would be set up and the statement gave few other details.

Alibaba spokeswoman Florence Shih said the platform would be launched in the near future. "We're not making mobile games, we're the platform operator," she added.

A person familiar with the matter said the platform may have its own dedicated app or could be integrated into existing Alibaba apps such as e-commerce app Mobile Taobao or Laiwang, a social messaging app.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 January, 2014

Civic education needed in reform process

(Edited by KW)

Nowadays, our country is on the right track to democracy. A wealth of reforms is taking place in every administrative body of the country since the new government has taken office. But the people at the grassroots level still do not enjoy the fruits of these democratic reforms.

Every country in the world has to face challenges and difficulties in a transitional period. It is normal that every country that carries out transformation from one system to another has similar problems.

Myanmar has been dealing with the consequences of armed conflicts since the country regained independence in 1948. That is why the country has long been lacking democratic practices.

Democracy and civic education are intertwined. Civic responsibility is defined as the "responsibility of a citizen". It is comprised of actions and attitudes associated with democratic governance and social participation. The importance of civic responsibility is paramount to the success of democracy and philanthropy.

Schools should teach civic responsibility to students with the goal of producing responsible citizens and active players at a community and government level. Civic responsibility is tied to the philanthropic sector in many ways. Civic education is a method to teach civic responsibility. It is a way to promote and enlighten responsible citizens committed to democratic principles. Civic education is a means to actively engage people in the practice of democracy.

(We value your feedback. If you have any comments and suggestions or would like to submit your own articles and editorials, please email the chief editor at wallace.tun@gmail.com)

Acting Union Education Minister discusses contamination of ground water with U.S. expert

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint met with a Research Professor from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University yesterday to discuss arsenic contamination of ground-water and ways to deal with the issue.

Prof. Alexander Van Geen elaborated on cooperation possibilities and projects aimed at reducing arsenic contamination of groundwater with the support of the Geography and Geology Departments

from Yangon, Sittway and Patheingyi Universities in collaboration with Columbia University.

MNA edited by KW

Thirty toilets to be installed at Meiktila school

MEIKTILA, 9 Jan—Officials said that 30 toilets will be installed at No.2 Basic Education High School in Meiktila Township, located near the Yangon-Mandalay Road.

Ekari Cho Construction Co. is currently constructing two new school

buildings therewith which are expected to be completed on 7 March.

The Ministry of Education allocated K 64.8 million to construct the two buildings and install twenty toilets, while former students have donated money for ten more toilets, said a

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Tin Tun	Director-General Union Election Commission Office
(b) Dr Myo Thein Gyi	Director-General Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau Ministry of Education

(c) U Ko Ko Tin

(d) U Kyaw Swa Soe

(e) U Win Khaing Moe

Director-General
Educational Planning and
Training Department
Ministry of Education
Director-General
Advanced Science and
Technology Department
Ministry of Science and
Technology
Director-General
Myanmar Advanced
Science and
Technology Research
Department
Ministry of Science and
Technology

Cash donated to Myanmar athletes of ASEAN Para Games

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—A cash donation ceremony for Myanmar athletes of the 7th ASEAN Para Games was held at the sports training camp in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Patrons of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and the wives of several high-ranking officials, including Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President, donated around K 20.9 million to the athletes, with the President of the Myanmar Paralympics Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin accepting the cash donations.

MNA edited by KW



Patron of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Khin Khin Win and party cordially greet Myanmar athletes for 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

Myanmar, US discuss rule of law



Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin meets Associate Vice-President Colette L. Rausch of the Washington-based United States Institute of Peace.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin held a meeting with Associate Vice-President Colette L. Rausch of the Washington-based United States Institute of Peace this morning to discuss ways of implementing rule of law in Myanmar.

The Union attorney-general said that Myanmar has hosted workshops and seminars for legal experts, adding that Myanmar is striving for rule of law and dissemination of the concept of rule of law to the people across the country in coordination with UNDP, Allen & Overy and IJC.

MNA edited by KW

Victorious Myanmar hockey teams honoured

YANGON, 9 Jan—A ceremony to present K 20 million to Myanmar men's and women's hockey teams who grabbed bronze medals at the 27th SEA Games took place at Theinbyu artificial turf pitch in Yangon today.

President of Myanmar Hockey Federation Col Htin Zaw Win (Retd) awarded the cash to 46 people, including athletes,

the manager, coach and assistant coach at a ceremony in front of fans.

Before the SEA Games here, Myanmar had never won any medals in hockey event sat SEAP Game and SEA Games.

Than Swe (Pabedan) edited by KW

LOCAL NEWS

Deputy ministers meet locals in Myingyan District to discuss infrastructure

MYINGYAN, 9 Jan—A delegation of deputy ministers responsible for infrastructure projects met with locals from several townships in the Mandalay Region on 6 January to discuss future projects.

More than 380 representatives from Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha, Natogyi and

Ngazun townships held talks with the Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than and Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan.

Replying to queries

by local people, the deputy ministers said they will improve connecting roads by putting asphalt on them, improving internet access, building more internet networks, and build a train track to directly link Myingyan to Yangon and Myingyan to Nay Pyi Taw.

People from Ngazun Township said they needed road and bridge construction, telephone networks and construction of car parks.

Those from Ngazun Township submitted reports on the need of an asphalt road extension from Ngazun to Myotha, repair of culverts, construction of a Myotha creek crossing bridge, construction of new roads and electrification. Dwellers from Taungtha Township requested the construction of culverts

and the handling of inter-district roads to Public Works. Locals from Natogyi Township asked about an extension of the Myingyan-Natogyi-Yaywun road section and tarmacking of roads.

Deputy Minister U Soe Tint reassured the locals that the deputy ministers would return again to meet the requirements of the local people.—MMAL-Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan) edited by KW

60th MYANMAR MEDICAL CONFERENCE



11th to 17th January 2014

Yangon

Youth Activity

Scout training underway in Kyunhla Township



NATOGYI, 9 Jan—More than 100 young people at Letwe Myinni Basic Education High School in Kyunhla Township have participated in a several training on 7 January.

They practiced building makeshift shelters among other activities.

“They have also received training to be able to participate in the scout activities. They have had endurance training, including a 20-mile walk,” said school official Daw

Nyein Nyein Aye, who is in charge of the activity.

Among all the schools in Kyunhla Township, students of the Letwe Myinni Basic Education High School were the first to take the opportunity to join the scout organization. The school set up a scout squad with 100 middle school students.

It was the first time in 50 years, that Myanmar has organized scout activities.

MMAL-Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law) edited by KW

Women giving birth on 66th Independence Day given gifts in Kyunhla Township

KYUNHLA, 9 Jan—Women who gave birth on the 66th Anniversary of Independence Day on 4 January have received gifts by the Kyunhla Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Chairman Daw Htar Htar Aye presented the gifts on 7 January during a ceremony at the maternity ward of the People's Hospital in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region.

Township medical officer Dr Saw San Htay and his staff successfully performed several C-sections on 4 January. Daw Oo of Inma Village gave birth to twin girls weighing five pounds each, Daw Nyo Nyo

of Nyauggaing Village had a baby boy weighing six pounds and Daw Phyu Phyu of Kyar-in Village from Kawlin Township, gave birth to a boy weighing 7.5 pounds.—MMAL-Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla) edited by KW



PYAY, 9 Jan—To mark Myanmar Literary Day, a talk on literature was organized in Pyay, a city in western Bago Region, by the Pyay Township Writers Association and the Fortune Life Computer Centre on 6

January.

Many residents attended the talk given by writers Tharawun from Pyay, Mya Hnaung Nyo and Lin Thaik Nyunt from the Myanmar Land.

Part of the event was an award ceremony for the best essays and arts performance by residents, with Chairperson of the association Dr Yin Wai Lwin presenting prizes.

Following the talks, several donors handed over cash donations to the township library.—MMAL-U Shwe Win edited by KW

Officials present aid to a mother.

Fire

Fire causes loss of property worth K 5.7 million

PHAKANT, 9 Jan—A fire broke out at a house in Ward 3 of Lonkhin Village of Phakant Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State, in the north of the nation, at 9 a.m. on 2 January. The fire was triggered by a cheroot left in the bedroom of the house at No. 48/B in Ward 3. The fire caused loss of property worth K 5.7 million.

Commander of the

local military division Brig-Gen Thaik Soe supervised putting out the fire, which was handled by fire fighters and local people using four fire trucks. The fire was put out within one hour without engulfing other buildings.

Lonkhin Police Station filed a lawsuit over negligence.

MMAL-Soe Naing Oo (Phakant) Edited by KW

Kyunhla Tsp to establish bonds between religions groups

KYUNHLA, 9 Jan—An “interfaith friendship group” was set up in Kyunhla Township in Sagaing Region on 7 January with the aim of establishing a bond between religious groups and ensuring peaceful co-existence in the township.

Under the supervision of the Township Management Committee Chairman and the Township Development Supportive Committee Chairman, the interfaith friendship

group was formed by three prominent people from each religion.

A ceremony to mark the occasion was attended by the Commander of the Township, Police Major Aung Myint, Head of the Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Saw Naing Oo, ward authorities and people of different religious background.

MMAL-Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla) edited by KW



As part of preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever, workers of Yangon City Development Committee headed by Assistant Administrator of YCDC and health staff Daw Ohnma Lwin together with local authorities performed fumigation at streets and drains in Ward 94 of Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township of Yangon Region on 8 January.—MMAL-081

WORLD

China, Ghana to deepen traditional friendship, cooperation



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R Front), accompanied by his Ghanaian counterpart Hanna Tetteh (2nd L), visits the Ghanaian Foreign Ministry office building, whose construction was aided by China, in Accra, capital of Ghana, on 8 Jan, 2014.

XINHUA

ACCRA, 9 Jan — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his

Ghanaian counterpart Hannah Tetteh agreed here on Wednesday to enhance the

bilateral traditional friendship and discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation.

Wang said his visit to Ghana was aimed at encouraging the traditional friendship between the two countries, which was a valuable asset and an important advantage that the two sides must draw to further develop.

“We must do it as we can to cement the traditional friendship and pass it to future generations,” he told reporters after holding talks with Tetteh.

Wang said he also discussed with Tetteh the ways to deepen the practical cooperation between China and Ghana “so that we can

contribute even more to Ghana’s economic and social development, so as to let the people of Ghana to benefit more from cooperation with China.”

The Chinese foreign minister was in Ghana for a two-day visit at the invitation of Tetteh.

Wang said China, as a brother and partner of Ghana, has contributed within its realm of capability to Ghana’s development over the years.

Tetteh, for her part, said that Ghana was looking forward to having opportunities to exchange with China on important matters of mutual concern.

“And we not only focus on the relationship between Ghana and China, but also

acknowledge China’s support for Africa in a multiple areas — economy, defence, security, and science and technology, and in supporting our key objectives by helping accelerate our development within the shortest possible time,” said Tetteh.

She said her meeting with Wang focused on bringing about a greater commitment to deal with challenges. “We engage in a practical way so that we are able to enhance and build our relationship further,” she said.

Wang is expected to hold talks with President John Dramani Mahama at the Flagstaff House in Accra on Thursday.

Xinhua

White House defends Biden, Obama over former Pentagon chief’s memoir controversy

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — The White House on Wednesday continued to defend Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama amid an escalating controversy over former Defence Secretary Robert Gates’ new memoir.

Questions related to Gates’ criticism in his new memoir against Biden, Obama and top aides in the White House dominated the White House daily briefing on Wednesday.

White House spokes-

man Jay Carney stressed that Obama and the rest of the White House team “simply just disagree with that assessment” of Gates about Biden.

Gates unleashed severe criticism against Biden, according to excerpts of the book which were released by several leading US newspapers on Tuesday and Wednesday.

“I think he has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over

the past four decades,” Gates wrote.

In defending Biden, Carney said, “As a senator and as a vice president, Joe Biden has been one of the leading statesmen of his time and he has been an excellent counselor and adviser to the president for the past five years.”

In his memoir, Gates also doubted Obama’s leadership and commitment to his own Afghanistan strategy and accused the White House staff of being too

controlling over national security issues, who “took micromanagement and operational meddling to a new level.”

Gates described a pivotal meeting in March 2011 to discuss the US withdrawal timetable. “As I sat there, I thought: The president doesn’t trust his commander, can’t stand Karzai, doesn’t believe in his own strategy and doesn’t consider the war to be his,” he wrote. “For him, it’s all about getting out.”—Xinhua



A person passes by the burnt coaches of Mumbai-Dehradun Express which caught fire at Dahanu in Thane District of Maharashtra, India, on 8 Jan, 2014. Nine people, including one woman, were charred to death in a major fire which broke out on the express train in the western Indian state of Maharashtra in the early hours of Wednesday, a senior police officer said.—XINHUA

Poland to be in top 20 richest countries by 2022

WARSAW, 9 Jan — Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk claimed that Poland will join the 20 richest nations in the world by 2022, local press reported on Wednesday.

This would happen thanks to investments made possible by funds from the European Union (EU) allocated for Poland in the years 2014-2020, said Tusk, following the cabinet meeting which approved spending programmes within the current long-term EU budget.

“Poland’s GDP per capita should reach 80 percent of the EU average” by the year 2022 which would put Poland among the world’s 20 richest nations, he told a Press conference after the meeting.

“Currently Poland’s GDP is at 67 percent (of the EU average) and we had more or less 50 percent at the start” when Poland joined the EU in 2004, he added.

Tusk said that EU funds for Poland would reach almost 500 billion PLN (170 million US dollars) in the years 2014-2020.—Xinhua

US judge denies request for delay in Indian diplomat case

NEW YORK, 9 Jan — A federal judge has denied a request by a lawyer for Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade to delay proceedings in a visa fraud case that has strained relations between the United States and India.

In an order issued on Wednesday, US Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in Manhattan refused to extend the 13 January deadline by which a preliminary hearing must be held or an indictment filed in the case.

In asking Netburn on Monday to extend the deadline, Khobragade’s lawyer, Daniel Arshack, said it was



India’s Deputy Consul General in New York, Devyani Khobragade, attends a Rutgers University event at India’s Consulate General in New York, on 19 June, 2013.—REUTERS

negatively interfering with plea negotiations with the government. But Netburn ruled that Arshack had only sought a delay of the preliminary hearing and that such an extension would not alter the deadline for filing an indictment.

Arshack said he and his client are considering their

options. Preet Bharara, the US Attorney in Manhattan, whose office is handling the case, opposed the delay, arguing that plea discussions can continue following indictment in the case.

A spokeswoman for Bharara’s office did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Khobragade, who was deputy consul-general in New York, was arrested on 12 December and charged with one count of visa fraud and one count of making false statements about how much she paid her housekeeper.

Her arrest enraged India, which is demanding that all charges be dropped against her. On the day of her arrest, she was strip searched. The arresting authority, the US Marshals Service, said the strip search was a routine procedure imposed on any new arrestee at the federal courthouse.—Reuters

Fiji appoints Electoral Commission members

SUVA, 9 Jan — Fiji has appointed the members of the Electoral Commission that will supervise the 2014 general election, the government announced Thursday. The commission is made up of seven “prominent” citizens from various walks of life headed by its chair, leading legal practitioner Chen Bunn Young, former president of the Fiji Law Society, said the Ministry of Information.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji’s attorney general and minister responsible for elections, said each member of the commission brings a unique perspective and set of skills to the task of supervising the upcoming general election.

“I want to thank them all for accepting their roles on the commission, which is a vital component of the (Voreqe) Bainimarama government’s plan to hold a free and fair election to the very highest international standards,” said Sayed-

Khaiyum. Under the terms of the 2013 Constitution, which was endorsed by Fijian President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau on 6 Sept last year, the Electoral Commission is responsible for the registration of voters and the conduct of free and fair elections.

The commission is also responsible for voter education, the registration of candidates for election, the settlement of electoral disputes and monitoring and enforcing compliance with any written law governing elections and political parties.

Under the Constitution, the chair of the commission needs to either be a judge or a legal practitioner who is able to become a judge.

Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has said he will form a political party and run for the upcoming general election, which will be held by 30 September this year.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Ex-Prime Minister Hosokawa mulls running for Tokyo governor

TOKYO, 9 Jan — Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is considering running in the 9 February Tokyo gubernatorial election, sources close to him said on Thursday.

Hosokawa plans to propose an end to Japan's dependence on nuclear power generation and is looking to see if he can gain support from Junichiro Koizumi, another former prime minister known for his anti-nuclear stance. Hosokawa, 75, is expected to run as an independent, without running on any party's ticket. The Liberal Democratic Party and its ruling coalition partner, the New Komeito party, have moved toward

backing former health minister Yoichi Masuzoe, but LDP members might be divided over their stance if Koizumi decides to support Hosokawa.

Hosokawa joining the race would likely affect the power balance since he could also gain support from opposition parties such as the Democratic Party of Japan and the People's Life Party, which share the idea of phasing out nuclear power entirely. Also within the Japan Restoration Party, lawmakers who belonged to the former Hosokawa-led Japan New Party in the past have expressed their intention to lend personal support to his campaign.



Photo shows former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. He is considering running in the 9 Feb, 2014, Tokyo gubernatorial election, sources close to him said on 9 Jan. KYODO NEWS

Hosokawa, who served as prime minister between August 1993 and April 1994, has been away from politics since he resigned as a House of Representatives member in May 1998. He made his antinuclear stance clear following the tsunami-triggered Fukushima Daiichi nuclear crisis in March 2011. Among those running for the Tokyo governorship are Kenji Ut-

sunomiya, a former head of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and former Air Self-Defence Force chief Toshio Tamogami.

Official campaigning for the election to choose Naoki Inose's successor is scheduled to start 23 January. Inose resigned last month over his receipt of 50 million yen from scandal-tainted hospital chain Tokushukai.—Kyodo News

Pakistan's former President Zardari appears in court in corruption cases

ISLAMABAD, 9 Jan — Pakistan's former President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday appeared before an anti-graft court in corruption cases for the first time since he has stepped down in September.

Judge of the National Accountability Court did not frame charges against Zardari and adjourned the hearing until 18 January, his two defence lawyers said. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had ordered reopening of five corruption cases against the former president in October just few weeks after he stepped down on completion of his five-year term.

Zardari's defence lawyer, Farooq H Naek said his client appeared in a case related to the illegal construction of a Polo Ground in the Prime Minister's House from government money during the government of his spouse Benazir Bhutto.

Farooq Naek told reporters that he would file an application for exemption of Zardari from personal appearance if the court again ordered his appearance. "The former President appeared before the court as we believe in the rule of law. Asif Zardari is a brave man and if necessary he would again appear in the court," he said.

Former Interior Minister and a leader of Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party, Senator Rehman Malik, said that Zardari appeared in the court despite security threats. None of the case had been heard for five years due to Zardari's immunity as the president. The former president, the co-chairman of the main opposition Pakistan People's Party, now eyes a biggest political role.

Zardari faces five corruption cases that are related to favouritism,

misuse of power by Zardari during his party's previous government of his slain spouse Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and allegedly receiving kickbacks in awards of contracts.

Officials say the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had not approached the court for reopening of the cases as ministers say it does not want political polarization. However, the anti-graft bureau had reopened the five references cases.

Former President Pervez Musharraf had withdrawn all cases against Zardari under a controversial amnesty deal in 2007. The Supreme Court had later canceled the National Reconciliation Ordinance and reopened all corruption cases against Zardari and nearly 8,000 other people including political leaders and former government officials.—Xinhua

China boosts pensions for corporate retirees

BEIJING, 9 Jan — The State Council will increase enterprises' retirees' pensions by 10 percent.

The decision was made at the Cabinet's executive meeting led by Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday. The move will benefit more than 74 million people who have retired from domestic enterprises.

The State Council urged government departments to reform their endowment insurance and pension systems. The meeting also pledged to improve the social assistance system, which helps disadvantaged groups. The social assistance system, when revamped, will offer financial aid that will meet the disadvantaged groups' standards of living.

The central government has allocated more than 98 billion yuan (\$16 billion) to help disadvantaged groups, and the government has asked that local authorities make sure the money will be given to the needy in a timely manner. It also encouraged non-profit organizations to take part in the relief effort.

Wang Xiuling, 56, a retired worker in Beijing, said she welcomed the government's move to increase her pension and expected more favourable measures.

Xinhua

Singapore to set basic wages for cleaners, security guards

SINGAPORE, 9 Jan — Singapore's government is going to introduce a compulsory licensing scheme leading to mandatory basic wages for cleaners and workers in security sector, Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said on Wednesday.

Nevertheless, the minister said that the moves are targeted approaches to use the industry licensing schemes to raise wages in certain sectors and that it is not a national minimum wage.

The scheme will make it mandatory for specified sectors to adopt a progressive wage

model with basic wage levels set in accordance with the role of the employees, so as to raise wages progressively as workers' productivity improves through skills upgrading and training.

All cleaning companies will come under the scheme in September, with the entry-level pay for cleaners set at 1,000 Singapore dollars (800 US dollars) monthly. This is about 20 percent higher than the current median basic wage for cleaners.

Details for the security sector are still being worked out.

Xinhua

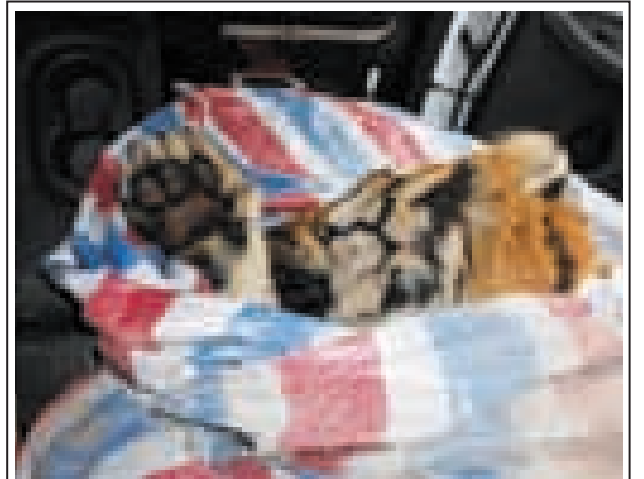


Photo taken on 8 Jan, 2014 shows a tiger in a woven bag in downtown Wenzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province. An alleged amur tiger was found dead in downtown Wenzhou, the owner of which was summoned by local police for further investigation. XINHUA

PH gov't assures safety of coming Black Nazarene feast

MANILA, 9 Jan — The Philippine government assured on Wednesday that security measures have been in place for the annual feast of the Black Nazarene in Manila city where hundreds of thousands of devotees are expected to flock to on Thursday.

Philippine Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that police and traffic personnel have been deployed to ensure the safety and smooth flow of the Black Nazarene's procession from Quirino Grandstand to Quiapo Church, both in Manila, a city of Philippine capital of Metro Manila.

He said there is no plan to jam phone signals in areas where the procession

will take place since there was no terrorist threat being monitored.

In 2012, the government had to jam phone signals following reports of terrorist attack during the annual feast of the Black Nazarene.

"There is no such plan this year (of jamming the phone signals)," Lacierda said, adding that the authorities will maintain health station at strategic points of the procession route.

On Thursday, devotees of the Black Nazarene are expected to flock to Manila to take part in the almost daylong procession, also known as the grand Traslacion, which highlights the yearly event.

Xinhua



Contestants make ice sculpture during the 28th China Harbin International Ice Sculpting Contest in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 8 Jan, 2014. XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HAI PHONG-05 VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAI PHONG-05 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.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
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Overseas Egyptians vote on draft constitution

TUNIS, 9 Jan — The Egyptian community in Tunisia, along with their compatriots all over the world, started casting ballots on their nation's new draft constitution on Wednesday, Egyptian Ambassador to Tunis Ayman Mousharafa said.

The vote, held at the Egyptian embassies in foreign countries, will go on until 12 January.

"About 171 Egyptians are registered as voters in Tunisia. They will have to vote on the new constitution at the embassy in Tunis between 8 and 12 January," Ayman Mousharafa said.

The number of the

overseas Egyptian in Tunisia is around 800, according to the press office of the Egyptian Embassy in Tunis.

Mousharafa said the new constitution will represent the interests of all Egyptians and thus will grant the needed balance to allow the nation to succeed in achieving what is left in its political transition.

The vote in Tunis took place in good logistic and security conditions amid additional security measures around the embassy.

The referendum on the new constitution will take place in Egypt on the 14-15 January.—Xinhua

Cuba to partially privatize taxi service

HAVANA, 9 Jan — Cuba plans to partially privatize its taxi service as part of the country's recent economic reforms to streamline a bloated public sector and make such service more efficient, the Government Gazette announced on Wednesday. Cuba's taxi drivers, who up to now have worked as employees of the state-run taxi service, will become self-employed workers who lease their cars from the state.

This plan was made after the success of a pilot project carried out in the capital Havana since 2010 and at the beach resort of Varadero since 2011, official daily *Granma* reported, adding the privatization plan would be implemented gradually around the country. Debora Canela Pina, an expert from Cuban Transportation Ministry, was sure that the change would lead to improvement in the

quality of taxi service in Cuba.

"More than just changing the appearance of taxis, the new scheme forms part of an operating model that changes the companies' structures, their administrative personnel and taxi drivers, with the fundamental aim of raising the quality of services being offered today," she said.

The new model "considerably decreases the amount of time clients wait after requesting the service and maintains the obligation of using a taximeter or official rate," she added.

In the future, drivers will be in charge of taxis' maintenance, fuel and repairs and can decide how many hours to work. Passengers will be able to pay in Cuban pesos or US dollars. The new model is set to be put into practice nationwide by the end of 2014.—Xinhua



Two foreign tourists participate in a carnival activity at Zhujiajiao Town of Qingpu District in east China's Shanghai, on 29 Sep, 2008. Rural tourism becomes more and more popular in China in recent years. According to China National Tourism Administration, rural tourism received 720 million visitors with an income of 216 billion yuan (35.68 US billion dollars) in 2012.—XINHUA

Delta authorities pledge to battle smog together

BERLIN, 9 Jan — After months of anticipation, authorities in Shanghai and Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui provinces, as well as eight ministry-level agencies, have launched a coordinated mechanism to fight and control air pollution in the region.

The new mechanism covering the Yangtze River Delta was announced in Shanghai on Tuesday during its first work conference.

At least 21 weather-related deaths since Sunday in US

BEIJING, 9 Jan — The deep freeze that has shattered century-old temperature records in US is slowly easing its grip.

Winds are calming and the mercury is rising slightly, and forecasters predict warmer weather across much of US in the coming days. Yet many places in the country's midwest and eastern states, which have borne the brunt of the Arctic blast, are still experiencing temperatures of over twenty degrees Celsius below zero. The so-called polar vortex has left at least 21 people dead since Sunday. Demand for natural gas has also hit an all-time high.

Xinhua

Under the framework, the four areas will work together to push forward the State Council's policies on air pollution control, study the challenges faced by the region, and report to each other on air quality and the progress they make in their own areas.

The four areas also vowed on Tuesday to unify their standards on energy saving efforts, emissions and the phasing out of outdated production capacity. They agreed to jointly enforce environmental laws and regulations, while strengthening scientific research in the sector.

The move came after Shanghai and some major cities in Zhejiang and Jiangsu were hit hard by

Obama wishes German chancellor "speedy recovery" from injury

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Wednesday wished German Chancellor Angela Merkel "a speedy recovery" from her injury sustained in a skiing accident in December, as Washington is trying to rebuild trust with Berlin and other allies damaged by extensive US spying.

In their conversation over the phone, Obama also congratulated the chancellor on her formation of a new cabinet, the White House said in a readout of the talks.

It said the two leaders discussed their agenda for 2014, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations and a NATO summit, and looked forward to "working closely together to advance our shared interests."

Obama invited Merkel for a revisit to Washington "at a mutually agreeable time" in the coming months, as the chancellor met with the president at the White House in June 2011.

Merkel cited "a serious breach of trust" when she spoke to Obama over the phone in October in an angry response to US spying on her mobile phone communications. She later said, "New trust must be built for the future."

Washington's mass domestic and global spying programme, as unveiled by Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency contractor, has sparked outcries in other European countries and other continents, as their leaders were targeted as well.

Xinhua

unprecedented levels of air pollution last month.

Leaders in the six provinces and provincial-level cities and regions of Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong, and the Inner Mongolia autonomous region met in October to seek solutions to the worsening air pollution in the region.

The Pearl River Delta region in the south is also considering the creation of such a working mechanism.

Yang Xin, professor at Fudan University's department of environmental science and engineering, said the mechanism in the Yangtze River Delta region is important because it spans different administrative authorities and will play a

major role in the region's efforts to fight and control air pollution.

"Unlike the Pearl River Delta region, which consists mainly of cities in Guangdong Province, the Yangtze River Delta region involves three provinces and a municipality, and a mechanism covering so many different areas is a real breakthrough," he added.

Scientific studies have demonstrated that pollutants generated in one area can be delivered to other areas in the same region, and regional authorities won't succeed in fighting pollution by making individual efforts alone, he said.

Xinhua



Photo shows PLA's 13th Group Army take real-combat exercise.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Bullock, Timberlake sweep 2014 People's Choice Awards



Actress Drew Barrymore presents the award for favorite comedic movie actor to Adam Sandler at the 2014 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 9 Jan — Actress Sandra Bullock swept the 40th People's Choice awards on Wednesday with four wins, cementing her status as a favourite among the fan-selected winners, while singer Justin Timberlake dominated the music categories with three wins.

Bullock, 49, picked up three awards for favourite movie actress, dramatic movie actress and comedy movie actress for her roles in existential space drama "Gravity" and in female buddy-comedy "The Heat." She also won favorite movie duo alongside her "Gravity" co-star George Clooney, while the film won favorite drama movie.

"An actor can't do what they do without hundreds of amazing people working for them and

alongside them. I learned so much this year. I got to work with Melissa McCarthy on 'The Heat.' ... And on 'Gravity,' the nicest people in the



Actress Juliana Margulies accepts the award for favorite network TV drama for her show "The Good Wife" at the 2014 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

world would string me up and leave me there, and I still had an amazing time," the Oscar-winning actress said.

Bullock later joined McCarthy on stage to pick up the favorite comedy movie award for "The Heat."

Singer Timberlake, 32, who returned to the musical spotlight in 2013 with the two-part release of "The 20/20 Experience" after more than five years away to focus on his acting, picked up three awards including favourite album.

"I'd like to thank my parents for continuing to instill in me that no dream is too big. I'd like to thank my team that puts up with my ridiculous neuroses all the time — sorry, but not really, because look at this," the singer said on stage, referring to his award.

Timberlake also won favorite male artist and favorite R&B artist, but was beaten in the favorite pop artist category by Britney Spears, who won her first People's Choice award in her career spanning 15 years.

Actor Robert Downey Jr was named favourite action movie star for his leading role in Disney-Marvel's "Iron Man 3," which also won favorite movie and action movie.

"I am Iron Man and this is for the people," the actor said dramatically after asking for a spotlight and triumphant music on

stage during his acceptance speech.

Adam Sandler won favourite comedic actor for the fourth consecutive time, this year for "Grown Ups 2." While his films have failed to gain much favor with critics in recent years, Sandler is a favourite at the People's Choice awards.

"This means a lot to me. I appreciate this, I really do, I really do. I think about the fans out there and how nice you've been to me all these years," the comedian said.



Britney Spears accepts the award for favorite pop artist at the 2014 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

The People's Choice winners are chosen by fans, who can vote online across 58 categories spanning film, TV and music. This year, more than 700 million votes were cast, organizers said. The ceremony, aired live on the CBS network,



Actress Kaley Cuoco poses with the favorite comedic TV actress award in the "Big Bang Theory" at the 2014 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

kicks off Hollywood's annual awards season that culminates with the Academy Awards on 2 March.

Kaley Cuoco won her first People's Choice award for favourite comedy TV actress for her role as the ditzy Penny in CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory." Chris Colfer won favorite comedic TV actor for a second year running, for his role as Kurt Hummel in Fox's "Glee."

"The Big Bang Theory" won favourite network TV comedy for a third time, while fellow CBS show "The Good Wife" was named favorite network TV drama.

Ellen DeGeneres won favorite daytime TV host for "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," picking up a record 14th People's Choice award. Satirist Stephen Colbert picked up favorite late night talk show host for Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."

Oscar-winning actress and singer Jennifer Hudson was awarded favorite humanitarian for her charity

work with her Julian D. King Gift Foundation, in memory of her late nephew.

"It's one thing to be a celebrity and have power ... but it means nothing if we're not helping someone else. It also feels good to see positivity acknowledged," Hudson said emotionally.

The 40th People's Choice awards opened with a skit featuring many of the night's nominees sitting in "2 Broke Girls" diner set, being served by the show's stars and awards hosts Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs. Dennings and Behrs then kicked off the show by having a bevy of waitresses serve burgers to the audience.

Singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles, country star Brad Paisley and pop-rock group OneRepublic provided the musical entertainment, while Drew Barrymore, Matt LeBlanc and Zac Efron were among the night's many presenters.

Reuters

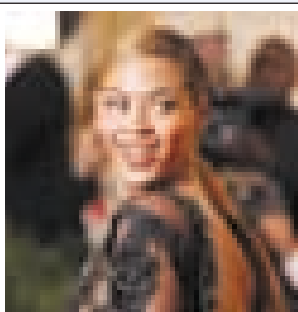
Beyonce 'Frozen' out of top spot on Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES, 9 Jan — Disney princesses ousted Queen Bey from her three-week reign atop the weekly Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, as the soundtrack to Disney's latest film "Frozen" knocked Beyonce's self-titled album from the top spot.

The "Frozen" soundtrack sold 165,000 copies in the week ending 5 January, and follows on the film's continued box office success since its November release, taking in more than \$600 million worldwide. The soundtrack has sold more than 500,000 copies since its release in December.

"Frozen" follows the story of two princess sisters, one of whom later becomes queen of her Nordic kingdom but has special freezing powers, accidentally casting an eternal winter over their realm, which her sister tries to overturn.

R&B star Beyonce's self-titled album, released as a surprise without any fanfare last month, slipped to No 2 this week with sales of 130,000. The album, which was released exclusively through Apple Inc's iTunes digital store on 13 December and was not available to other retailers until 21 December, topped the chart for three consecu-



Singer Beyonce

tive weeks over the US Christmas and New Year's holiday period.

No new albums cracked the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week, following a quiet release week in the first week of the year. Overall album sales totaled 5.4 million over the past week, down 43 percent from the comparable sales week in 2013, Billboard said.

Reuters

Angelina Jolie likely to play celebrity chef Nigella Lawson in biopic

LOS ANGELES, 9 Jan — A film on the life of international celebrity chef Nigella Lawson is being planned and actress Angelina Jolie, who is said to be completely gripped by the former's life, might play the lead in

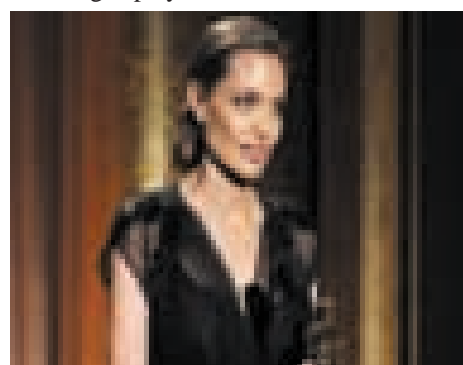
it.

Lawson has had a turbulent year. She was recently accused of taking cocaine.

Jolie is said to think of Lawson as a remarkable woman and is reportedly to-

tally gripped by the drama surrounding the latter's life, reports contactmusic.com.

"Angie had planned to take a lot of time off next year but this role is very tempting. She has been gripped like everyone else by all the drama surrounding Nigella's life for past few months and thinks she is a remarkable woman. The story has got it all and she's as intrigued as anyone else by it", *The Sun* newspaper quoted a source as saying. The 38-year-old has been seen in films like *Mr & Mrs Smith*, *Wanted* and *Salt*.—PTI



The chef had a tough time for past few months, Angelina Jolie finds it gripping.

Moyes banks on better luck in Swansea sequel

LONDON, 9 Jan — The threat of a fourth consecutive defeat is looming large for Manchester United and their manager David Moyes, yet the beleaguered Scot feels things are on the verge of turning for his struggling side.

Swansea City return to Old Trafford for the second time in a week on Saturday, buoyed by their victory at the same ground in the FA Cup third round and no doubt encouraged for another assault by their opponents' ongoing problems.

Sunderland became the latest club to upset Moyes's team in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final on

Tuesday, the first time since 1932 that United had lost their first three games of the year.

The two cup defeats followed a stinging home reverse in the league against Tottenham Hotspur that left United seventh in the table and 11 points adrift of leaders Arsenal.

Yet Moyes, hand-picked by predecessor Alex Ferguson and given the security of a six-year contract, is not panicking.

"I've been here before and done it before," Moyes said on the club website (www.manutd.com).

"I just sense that it's on the verge of turning,

we're about to get a bit better. You need a little bit of good fortune to go for you, and it looks as if we're not getting enough of that at the moment.

"I can sense in the dressing-room that there's an urge to fight our current position."

United's fans booed them off the pitch following their cup defeat by Swansea, but it was a different story at the Stadium of Light where they made an effort to rally behind Moyes's cause, singing his name despite their team's limp performance.

Moyes described their support as "exceptional",



Manchester United manager David Moyes

but is well aware that it is a results business and those in the boardroom as well as on the terraces will soon start demanding an upturn in fortunes.

Reuters

Defoe to leave Tottenham for Toronto

LONDON, 9 Jan — Tottenham Hotspur striker Jermain Defoe is poised to sign for Major League Soccer side Toronto FC, British and Canadian media reported on Wednesday.

The MLS club posted messages on their website and Twitter warning fans to expect "a bloody big deal" on Monday.

British newspaper the Guardian and Canada's Toronto Star said the 31-year-old Defoe would be loaned back to Tottenham until 1 March before the start of the MLS season

on 15 March. Defoe, whose former Tottenham team mate Ryan Nelsen is head coach at Toronto, has made few Premier League starts this season, despite the north London club's goal-scoring problems.

All Defoe's nine goals have come in cup competitions, seven in the Europa League.

Defoe, who has played 55 times for England and scored 19 international goals, is in his second spell at Spurs after rejoining the club from Portsmouth in 2009.—Reuters



Jermain Defoe

Jimenez sees 50 as the chance to break more records

DURBAN, 9 Jan — Miguel Angel Jimenez is embracing the transition to 50 and has set himself the goal of breaking an 87-year-old Ryder Cup record this year.

The pony-tailed Spaniard has already defied Father Time by extending his record as the oldest winner of a European Tour event and now, just days past his 50th birthday, says he wants to be the oldest competitor at the Ryder Cup too.

"If I play well, I believe I will be on the team," he told reporters on Wednesday ahead of Thursday's start of the Volvo Golf Champions tournament at the Durban Country Club, which marks the first event

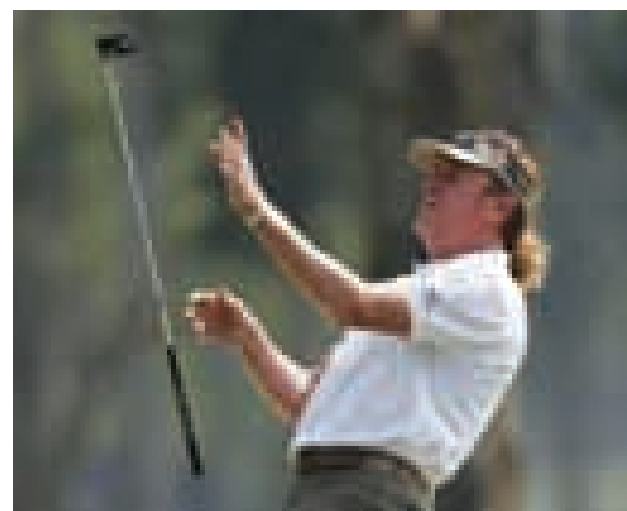
of the new year on the European Tour.

It is an event for which Jimenez qualified by successfully defending his Hong Kong Open title in December, extending his own record as the oldest winner in Tour history.

"It would mean a lot, a lot to me. I'm still breaking records. It would be nice. I broke my own record of being the oldest winner, so it would be nice to get another record," he added.

The oldest Ryder Cup competitor for Europe was Ted Ray, who was 50 years, two months and five days old at the inaugural contest in 1927.

Reuters



Miguel Angel Jimenez

Federer rallies with Laver in rare Australian Open warm-up

MELBOURNE, 9 Jan — Roger Federer traded shots with his hero Rod Laver on Wednesday in the stadium that bears the Australian great's name before promising that his hunger for grand slam titles remains as strong as ever.

The 17-times grand slam champion beamed with pride after enjoying a few rallies with the 75-year-old, who was dressed in traditional whites and impressed a packed crowd with his movement ahead of Federer's exhibition match with French world number 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

"Hitting with Rod Laver for me clearly is an absolute dream come true," Federer told reporters after a crowd-pleasing 6-7(5), 6-3, 7-5 win over Tsonga in the fund-raising event for his charity, the Roger Federer Foundation.

"It's in his arena as well, it's named after him and he deserves it so much.

"He told me that his wrist was hurting less on the forehand so he asked me to play there a bit more often.

"While I was playing my racket was feeling extremely heavy, that means I was very nervous which I really was because you don't want to miss a shot.

"I was happy we had some rallies. What an honor it was for me and I hope that the crowd enjoyed it and I'm very thankful that

he was willing to do something like this because it's not normal in any way and that's why I really appreciate it."

The 32-year-old Federer has won four of his 17 major titles in Rod Laver Arena and famously burst into tears when receiving the second of his winner's trophies in 2006 from the Australian, the only man to complete two grand slams in calendar years.—Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer (R) talks with Australian tennis legend Rod Laver at Rod Laver Arena during a charity event in Melbourne on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Almagro pulls out of Australian Open with shoulder injury

MELBOURNE, 9 Jan — Spaniard Nicolas Almagro, seeded 13th in the men's draw, has pulled out of the

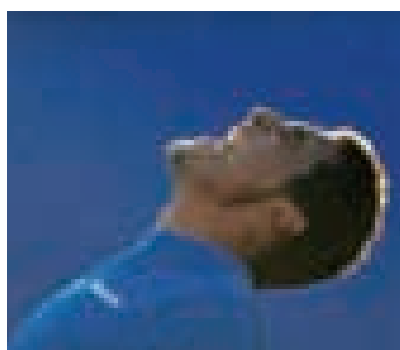
Australian Open due to a shoulder injury, organizers said on Thursday. "Disappointed to confirm that

Nicolas Almagro has withdrawn from the #ausopen due to an ongoing shoulder injury. We wish him a fast recovery!" a post on the tournament's Twitter feed said.

Spain's number three player behind world number one Rafa Nadal and third-ranked David Ferrer, 28-year-old Almagro reached the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park last year.

Reuters

Spain's Nicolas Almagro celebrates after winning against Alejandro Falla of Colombia at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne in this 23 Jan, 2010 file photo.—REUTERS



Real's Alonso agrees contract extension



Xabi Alonso

MADRID, 9 Jan — Spain midfielder Xabi Alonso has agreed a two-year contract extension with Real Madrid which will keep the 32-year-old at the club until 2016, he announced on his Twitter account on Wednesday. In his fifth season at Real after joining from Liverpool in 2009, Alonso posted a photo of the inside of the club's Bernabeu stadium with the caption: "This will continue to be my home for two more years. A pleasure to let you know. Very, very happy."

Alonso's current deal expires at the end of the season and the lack of an announcement of a new contract until now had prompted speculation he might accept a lucrative offer from an English Premier League club. He has agreed a two-year extension with an option for another year and will be paid a net salary of 6 million euros (\$8.2 million) a season, Spanish media reported.—Reuters

GENERAL

Brain-dead California teen gets surgery at new facility after court fight

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Jan — A California girl who was declared brain-dead after a tonsillectomy last month and later moved to a new care facility after a legal battle has undergone surgery to insert feeding and breathing tubes, a family attorney said on Wednesday. Jahi McMath, 13, was transferred from Children's Hospital and Research Center in Oakland, outside of San Francisco, where she had remained without brain activity for nearly four weeks, to an undisclosed Catholic care centre on Sunday night.

Doctors at the new care center performed tracheostomy and gastrostomy surgeries, Christopher Dolan, attorney for the girl's family, said in a Twitter message on Wednesday.

"She is doing very well, and now getting the treatment she should have gotten 28 days ago," Dolan said. "Doctors are optimistic that her condition has stabilized."

The case has drawn international attention and the



A photograph of 13-year-old Jahi McMath is seen on a necklace in Oakland, California on 24 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

support of pro-life groups, including one founded by the family of Terri Schiavo, a Florida woman who died in 2005 after a 15-year battle over whether to keep her body alive in a persistent vegetative state.

It was not clear when the procedures took place. On Monday, Dolan told a Press conference that Jahi had "wasted away at Children's Hospital (and) that she might not make it."

McMath was admitted to Children's Hospital on 9 December to have her tonsils removed and for other procedures to address sleep apnea. After the surgery,

she went into cardiac arrest and suffered brain swelling.

The hospital declared her brain-dead on December 12 and made plans to remove her from the ventilator, but her family has fought in state and federal court to keep her on life support.

A restraining order barring the hospital from removing that life support had been set to expire on Tuesday. An online fundraiser launched by Jahi's mother, Nailah Winkfield, seeking to raise \$20,000 to pay for her daughter's transfer exceeded \$55,000 on Wednesday.—Reuters

Man arrested after taking worker hostage in China

KUNMING, 9 Jan—A man taken hostage by a knife-wielding suspect was rescued unharmed by police in southwest China's Yunnan Province, local police said Thursday.

Patrolling police caught the suspect sur-

named Zheng stealing a mountain bike near a shop door in Kunming City, the provincial capital, at 11 a.m..

Zheng ran away and took a construction worker hostage with a knife at a hotel. He forced the work-

er into an electric vehicle shop.

After failing to persuade the suspect to surrender, police acted and rescued the hostage and captured Zheng.

The case is still being investigated.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(10-1-2014, Friday)

6:00 am	2:40 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	19. Hyper Sports
6:30 am	3:15 pm
2. Physical Exercise	20. India Drama Series
6:40 am	4:00 pm
3. Dance of National Races	21. News
6:50 am	4:15 pm
4. Documentary	22. India Drama Series
7:00 am	4:35 pm
5. News/Weather Report	23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Mathematics)
7:20 am	
6. Hyper Sports	
7:35 am	5:00 pm
7. Documentary	24. News
8:00 am	5:20 pm
8. News/ International News	25. India Drama Series
8:30 am	6:00 pm
9. India Drama Series	26. News/Weather Report
9:00 am	6:20 pm
10. News/ International News	27. Amazing World
9:30 am	6:40 pm
11. Teleplay (Health)	28. Teleplay
10:00 am	7:00 pm
12. News	29. News
10:15 am	7:15 pm
13. Teleplay (Agri)	30. Teleplay
11:00 am	8:00 pm
14. Clever	31. News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:20 am	8:35 pm
15. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions	32. People Talk
11:30 am	8:45 pm
16. Myanmar Series	33. Hit Song of Stars
12:00 am	9:00 pm
17. News/ International News/ Weather Report	34. News
12:25 pm	35. Traditional Boxing
18. Myanmar Movies	36. India Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

10-1-14 07:00 am ~ 11-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Glance At A Naga Family Life
- * World News
- * News Extra "FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour"
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Sculpture-work of Art
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
- * Local News
- * A Day Tour On A Cart (Bagan Trip)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "The White Castle of Romance"
- * Local News
- * The Treasures in a Small Village (Part-2)
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Na Di Htike"
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Mandalay
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)
- * World News
- * The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- * Local News
- * The Untouched Footprint Of Buddha
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist

Messi strikes twice in Cup on injury return

MADRID, 9 Jan — Lionel Messi came off the bench and scored twice on his return from injury and Cesc Fabregas also netted a double as Barcelona strolled to a 4-0 win at home to Getafe in their King's Cup last 16, first leg on Wednesday.

Messi was given a rousing ovation by the home fans when he replaced Andres Iniesta in the 64th minute at the Nou Camp, the World Player of the Year's first appearance since straining a thigh muscle in November.

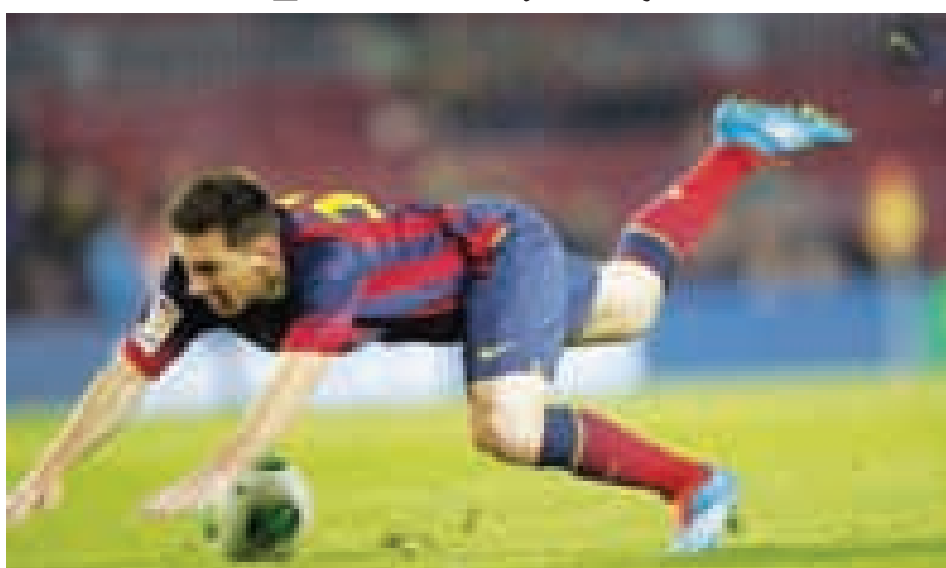
Dominant Barca, who rested a number of regulars, were already two goals ahead by the time the Argentina forward entered the fray after Fabregas headed

them in front in the eighth minute and added a penalty in the 63rd.

Messi looked fit and sharp during his half-hour on the pitch and his successful return to action is good news for Barca coach Gerardo Martino with Saturday's La Liga clash at title rivals Atletico Madrid looming.

His first goal came in the 89th minute when he collected a loose ball in the penalty area and slotted into the corner from close range.

His second in added time was a trademark dash in from the right wing and he left the Getafe defenders floundering before lifting the ball high into the net and bringing the adoring home faithful to their feet.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi falls after being fouled by Getafe during their Spanish King's Cup match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 8 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

There was a festive atmosphere despite the giant stadium being less than half full and former Barca coach

Tito Vilanova, who is battling the cancer that forced him to step down at the end of last season, was watch-

ing from the stands. If they successfully negotiate next week's second leg in Madrid, Barca

will meet Rayo Vallecano or Levante, who play their first leg on Thursday, in the quarter-finals.

"It's clear that he (Messi) hasn't forgotten how to play football," Barca captain Carles Puyol said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Antenna 3.

"He has been training very well and as you could see those are the kind of goals the best players can produce," the Spain defender added. "There is a very long way to go in the league but it's a very important game (on Saturday) against what I think is one of the best teams in the world."

"Let's see what we can do and the important thing now is to recover well from tonight's efforts."

Reuters

President U Thein Sein, Danish Minister discuss investment, aid



NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—President U Thein Sein and the Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen held talks on a range of development issues, including investment, Danish humanitarian aid for the rehabilitation in Rakhine State and technical assistance in the agriculture and livestock farming sector.

During the meeting at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here

Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen.

this afternoon, they also discussed the launch of a strategic cooperation plan between Myanmar and Denmark next year. The Danish Minister said that his visit also represents his country's support and encouragement for a democratic reform process in Myanmar, adding that his Government has ordered debts relief as reforms in Myanmar were gaining momentum. The delegation was accompanied by Danish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikael H. Winther.

MNA edited by (Kerstin Winter)



President U Thein Sein.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker calls for thoughtful review of Constitution

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, has said that a review of the constitution should not harm the current stability, peace making process and democratic transition.

Speaking at three separate meetings with local people from Myaungmya, Labutta and Patheingyi districts in Ayeyawady Region today, the speaker suggested several objectives – to improve the situation with-

out harming the country's current stability, to encourage peace, national unity and national reconciliation and to achieve progress without harming the democratic transition. He said it was necessary to take these things into account when amending the constitution.

The Joint Committee for Reviewing the Constitution has been formed and the committee has received advice from political parties and experts, the speaker said.

He stressed the importance of long-term objectives when reviewing the constitution, saying that it would be a mistake if things that should be changed are not changed and if things that should not be changed are changed hurriedly.

Practicing democracy should be based on the history of a country and it is impossible to copy the democratic system of other countries, he added. The MPs and members of the supporting

committees are working together to build and establish basic infrastructures for the development of the townships, he added. He also urged the people to cooperate with them as part of efforts to conduct the poverty alleviation programmes laid down by the president.

The speaker also pledged, on behalf of MPs, that they will work in the best interest of the people in terms of introducing laws.

MNA Edited by KW

Myanmar, UN discuss to cooperate in UN development programme



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin accepts Credentials of UNDP Resident Representative to Myanmar Ms. Rinata Lok Dassalien.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ms. Rinata Lok Dassalien presented her Credentials to the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung

Lwin at the Ministry here this morning.

After presenting the Credentials, they discussed matters relating to the current activities of the development programmes of the United Nations and future cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 1/2014
9th Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME
(9th January, 2014)

Four representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute four representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following four Pyithu Hluttaw representatives under the Notification No. 1/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 and the Notification No. 46/2012 of the commission dated 6-11-2012.

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (1) BC 27291
Major Tun Tun Win | BC 25504
Lt-Col
Daw Soe Soe Myint |
| (2) BC 33144
Major Kyaw Kyaw Thet | BC 26070
Lt-Col Daw San Thida Khin |
| (3) BC 22031
Major Lay Naing | BC 31585
Major Swe Lin Myint |
| (4) BC 26145
Major Kyaw Min Zaw | BC 32402
Major Tint Lwin |

By Order,

(Myint Naing)
Member

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 2/2014
9th Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME
(9th January, 2014)

Three representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute three representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following three Amyotha Hluttaw representatives under the Notification No.2/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011.

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) BC 18977
Col Maung Maung Htoo | BC 27191
Lt-Col Min Thu |
| (2) BC 27331
Major Kyaw Thu | BC 32475
Major Zaw Lin Aung |
| (3) BC 30858
Major Naing Naing Win | BC 33518
Major Myo Maung Thein |

By Order,

(Myint Naing)
Member

Union Election Commission

Media accreditation for ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting closes 10 January

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Jan—The News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information is accepting applications for media accreditations for the ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting in Bagan until 10 January. Local and foreign journalists and correspondents from the Foreign Correspondent's

Club are asked to send their applications to the NPE by late afternoon.

Journalists can receive their accreditation cards at Shwe Nan Daw Hotel in Bagan, NyaungU District, during office hours on 14 January after submitting recommendation letters from respective media agencies.

MNA edited by KW