

President U Thein Sein inspects No.18 Heavy Industry (Inn gon), Yeywa Hydropower Plant



President U Thein Sein views structures at Yeywa Hydropower Plant near Yeyaman Village of Kyaukse Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—President U Thein Sein inspected No.18 Heavy Industry (Inn gon) in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region this morning.

First, the President heard reports presented by Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint at the meeting hall of the factory. The factory was implemented by Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in 2001 and it was put into service on 20 December 2003. The factory was handed over to No.1 Heavy

Industries under the Ministry of Industry on 10 June 2011.

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Myint Hlaing made supplementary reports on more production of agricultural equipments, market penetration and widely use them by the farmers.

President U Thein Sein called for transition from traditional farming to mechanized farming to achieve food security to be able to cope with the country's increasing popu-

lation.

The factory needs to seek advices from farmers and to improve its products to be able to fulfil the needs of the farmers, he added.

He also asked the ministry to work together with Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Cooperatives and to reach out to farmers and to distribute the farming machinery to them.

The President then looked round engine installation, final stage installation for power-tiller and trial running and pro-

duction process of combine harvesters in the factory.

The factory manufactures 22 HP diesel engine, 16 HP diesel engine, gearbox (Ayeyar-1), power tillers (Ayeyar-2) and (Leyar-16/22) and combine harvesters.

In the evening, the President went to Yeywa Hydropower Plant near Yeyaman Village in Kyaukse Township where he viewed Yeywa Dam and generation of power.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said that Yey-

wa Hydropower Plant which can produce 790 megawatt has been completed, and on completion of the Upper Yeywa Hydropower Plant on the Myitnge River, the two power plants are expected to produce about 1500 megawatt in total.

Hydropower plant had to supply Yangon through the grid to meet the city's demand of 1000 megawatt as natural gas-fired power plants in Yangon could produce only 280 megawatts in the last summer. The combined production capacity (See page 9)

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Marble Hill Range of Sagyin

Maha Suddhamma
Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr Khin Maung
Nyunt
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Juice, jam making course conducted



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Health infrastructures improved for locals



Yangon East General Hospital in Yangon.

In coming years, it is expected to provide better health care services to the people as the government gives priority to the health sector with more allotment of funds.

At present, it is necessary to renovate and repair some health infrastructures in Yangon Region.

"We will renovate station hospitals, rural health centres and branches, staff quarters and Yangon East General Hospital. Yangon Region Health Department has invited tenders in

BYLINE: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT SWE;
PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

transparency manner and submitted the plan to Yangon Region government," said Dr U Zaw Lin, Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department.

Construction will be carried out at Dabein Station Hospital (16-bed) in Hlegu Township, Phayagon rural health centre in Thanlyin Township, a new station hospital of Meepya Village in Kyauktan Township, Thamein station hospital and staff quarters in Htantabin Township, Setsan sta-

tion hospital and staff quarter in Kyimyindine Township. Moreover, rural health centres and branches will be repaired in Htantabin Township. Major renovation will be undertaken at Yangon East General Hospital in the plan of 2013-14 fiscal year.

Thanks to renovation, the rural health centres and station hospitals will be able to focus on health care services to locals.

Myanma Alinn: 11-1-2014
Trs: TTA

Students, people enjoy School Family Day at Hopong BEHS



HOPONG, 11 Jan—Hopong Basic Education High School No 2 held the School Family Day for 2013-14 academic year at its lawns on 9 January, attended by the Chairman of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body.

After viewing round the works at domestic science booth, science lab and library, the chairman presented K 100,000 to the band of the school that performed entertainment at the ceremony.

On the occasion,

officials presented prizes to outstanding students in sports and learning.

The ceremony was attended by the commandant of Defence Services Computer Science and Technological Institute of Hopong and military officers, departmental officials, the chairman and party of School Board of Trustees and local people.

Hopong Township is located in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of southern part of Shan State.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

Fund allotted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw handed over to local authorities

LOILEM, 11 Jan—A ceremony to hand over the fund allotted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for development of Loilem Township was held at the hall of Loilem Township General Administration Department on 9 January.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Khin Maung Thi explained that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted 25 per cent of the fund K 100 million for the first installment. Loilem Township has to carry out 23 development tasks including roads and bridges, education, health and water supply tasks.

Shan State Hluttaw MP U Khun Degull also stressed the need to spend the fund on the respective sector systematically as it is the fund of the people.

Loilem Township Development Implementation Committee Pyithu Hluttaw MPU Khin Maung Thi and State Hluttaw MP U Khun Degull handed over the fund to local authorities.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han handed over solar power lamps provided by Shan State government to authorities of villages located in the far-



32nd Myanmar-Thai Township Border Committee holds meeting

KAWTHOUNG, 11 Jan—The 32nd Myanmar-Thai Township Border Committee meeting between Myanmar and Thailand was held at Heritage Grand Convention in Ronong of Thailand on 9 January.

The Chairman of Township Border Committee (Thailand) and Chairman of Township Border Committee of Myanmar Lt-Col Yan Naing Soe gave introductory speeches.

Officials from both sides discussed their respective sectors and sought approval.

The meeting focused



on social affairs, health, border crossing, human trafficking, narcotic drug

and rule of law that occurred in Kawthoung District of Myanmar and Ranong

District of Thailand.—*Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)*

Disaster Risk Reduction lectured in Hinthada

HINTHADA, 11 Jan—SEED Asia which is one of NGOs from Japan and Myanmar Engineering Society jointly conducted the training course on disaster risk reduction by New Life Mobile Vehicle at Hinthada District Relief and Resettlement Department on 7 and 8 January.

The team gave talks on disaster risk reduction for the people.

It was attended by five members of Hinthada Township Natural Disaster Management Committee, five from Township Education Officer and 25 from Basic Education High Schools of Hinthada

Township, totalling 35.

The course was opened under instructions of the Relief and Resettlement Department of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. With the assistance of Daw Lay Shwe Sin Oo and staff of District RRD, the teachers who attended the course

will give lectures to 50 students from their schools as multiplier courses from 9 to 12 January.

Thanks to the training course, teachers and students will participate in natural disaster risk reduction tasks based on community.

Kyemon-Win Kyaw Kyaw

Manaw Thukha paddy farm produces 98 baskets per acre

SINGU, 11 Jan—A 50 acres farmland of monsoon paddy Manaw Thukha paddy strain was harvested in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District of Mandalay Region on 9 Jan.

The harvesting work supervised by township level departmental officials was carried out with the use of combine harvester so as to transform manual to mechanized farming in the township. At the ceremony, the paddy farm produced 98 baskets of paddy per acre.

Kyemon-Zaw Htaik (PyinOoLwin)

flung areas of the township and the populous villages.

Later, the township administrator and departmental officials heard the requirements of the local people.

Kyemon-Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)



Combine harvester being used at paddy plantation in Singu Township of PyinOoLwin District.

INDAW, 11 Jan—Workers of Myanma Railways carried out maintenance of the railroad section between Indaw and Hseywa stations in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region.

A team of workers filled the gravels along the railroad section and maintained the rail tracks.

The department paid them K 3000 per day.

The maintenance of rail tracks may help prevention of train derailment.

Kyemon-Maung Chit Lin

Rail tracks under maintenance in Indaw Township



WORLD

Abe unveils aid of \$83.4 mil to help refugees from Africa's Sahel

ABIDJAN, (Ivory Coast), 11 Jan — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday announced aid of \$83.4 million (8.7 billion yen) to support refugees from the Sahel region in Africa, Japanese officials said. Abe unveiled the assistance in a meeting with Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara. Abe and Ouattara agreed in their talks that peace and stability in the region will help promote economic

development, the officials said.

Terrorism and trafficking in arms, drugs and people threaten security in the sub-Saharan Sahel region, a belt that spans 5,400 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. Abe, who flew to the West African country from Oman as part of his week-long trip to the Middle East and Africa, also offered aid of \$7.7 million (800 million yen) to help secure stability

in Ivory Coast, the officials said. Ouattara told Abe that Japan's investment in his country will help promote economic growth, according to the officials.

In a joint press conference after the meeting, Abe said that it is desirable for Japanese companies to make investments in a way that contribute to regional development. The prime minister also said Japan will send a survey mission for a project to build an

elevated bridge in the African country as well as advisers for human resources development and investment promotion.

Following the talks with Ouattara, Abe held a meeting with 11 leaders from the Economic Community of West African States. The African leaders called for Japan's assistance for natural resource development projects, the officials said. Abe responded that Japan will promote



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

cooperation in infrastructure and human resources development, they said. Following the trip to Ivory Coast, Abe will visit Mozambique and Ethiopia. He will return to Tokyo on Wednesday.—Kyodo News

Seven injured in Thai protest shooting, military chief fears escalating violence



General Prayuth Chan-ocha (C), chief of the Royal Thai Army, answers questions from the media while attending national Children's Day at The Army base in central of Bangkok on 11 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

BANGKOK, 11 Jan — Seven people were wounded, one seriously, after gunmen opened fire on anti-government protesters in Bangkok early on Saturday, heightening fears of more violence when protesters try to "shutdown" the capital next week in their

long-running bid to overthrow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

"Two shootouts occurred in the early hours of this morning at an intersection near the Khao San Road tourist area. Altogether seven people were injured, most of them

anti-government protesters. We are still investigating who the gunmen were," said national police chief Adul Saengsingkaew. One of the injured protesters remains in a critical condition, according to the Erawan Medical Center which monitors Bangkok hospitals.

The incident follows clashes between government supporters and protesters on Friday outside Bangkok that left at least six people injured. At a celebration to mark national Children's Day on Saturday Thailand's army chief, Prayuth Chan-ocha, said he feared an escalation in violence next week. "I am concerned about security because there will be many people. The violence is increasing..." said Prayuth. "We can think differently but we cannot kill each

other. Please don't use violence."

The turmoil is the latest episode in an eight-year conflict that pits Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly poorer, rural supporters of Yingluck and her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was overthrown in a military coup in 2006. The protesters accuse the Shinawatra family of corruption and nepotism. Yingluck called a snap election for 2 February, but this failed to placate protesters, who want her government to resign to make way for an unelected people's council to oversee political reform.—Reuters

Japan, US eyeing Osprey drill in Kochi Prefecture in February

KOCHI, 11 Jan — Japanese and US defence forces are planning to hold a joint exercise involving MV-22 Osprey aircraft in western Japan's Kochi Prefecture in February, following the cancellation of a similar drill last October, a source close to the matter said on Saturday. The exercise would be based on the scenario of a massive earthquake and tsunami originating in the Nankai Trough fault off central and western Japan, with two Ospreys ferrying rescuers and distributing relief aid to areas potentially isolated by the tsunami.

The Ministry of Defence told authorities in Kochi about the drill, planned for mid-February, on Friday afternoon, the

source said. In the October exercise, Ospreys were scheduled to land at Japanese Self-Defence Forces bases in Kochi and on a Maritime Self-Defense Force ship moored off the prefecture, but this was called off due to a typhoon.

The Ospreys were scheduled to fly to Kochi, which spans the south of Shikoku Island, from the Marine Corps' Iwakuni Air Station in Yamaguchi Prefecture, which lies to the north of Shikoku across an inland sea. A series of accidents overseas have raised concerns in Japan about the safety of the tilt-rotor aircraft, which can take off and land like a helicopter and cruise like an airplane.

Kyodo News

Fierce clashes persist between Iraqi army and al-Qaeda militants

RAMADI, (Iraq), 11 Jan — Fierce clashes continued between Iraqi security forces backed by Sunni tribes and al-Qaeda militants in and near major cities in the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq, a provincial police source said on Friday.

Gunmen attacked the Iraqi army positions on a highway just east of the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, erupting fierce clashes, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. There was no reports on casualties as the battles are still underway, the source said.

Near Fallujah, at least one civilian was killed and

five others were wounded in a mortar barrage in the afternoon on al-Ru'od district in the town of Garma, some 10 km east of Fallujah, the source said. Meanwhile, gunmen, believed to be al-Qaeda militants, blew up two bridges leading to Fallujah, one linking Garma with Fallujah and another in northwest of Fallujah, the source said.

In Fallujah, life went normal as many of its mosques opened their doors for the weekly Friday prayer after a year of closure due to the anti-government protests staged by members of the Sunni Arab community who accused the Shiite-led government of marginal-

izing them and its Shiite-dominated security forces of indiscriminately arresting, torturing and killing their sons.

Also in the province, fierce clashes broke out in the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, since late Thursday when tribesmen backed by army troops and tanks attacked al-Qaeda militants who were positioned in abandoned houses, the source said.

The Friday's battles in eastern Ramadi resulted in the killing of at least two civilians and wounding seven others, the source added without giving further details.

Xinhua

Three killed, 40 arrested in pro-Morsi protests in Egypt

CAIRO, 11 Jan — At least three people were killed and ten others injured on Friday during clashes across Egypt between supporters and opponents of ousted president Mohamed Morsi, official Al-Ahram news website said. At least one person was shot dead and another injured in the clashes in the northern city of Alexandria. "Muslim

Brotherhood members fired at residents who attempted to confront a march in Alexandria," Al-Ahram quoted General Nasser al-Abd, head of Alexandria's investigation department, as saying.

The police dispersed the protests in Alexandria and arrested 40 protesters, the security official added. In Suez, two people were

killed and seven others injured in clashes between Morsi's loyalists and security forces. Morsi was ousted in early July, 2013 by the military after mass protests against his one-year rule and his Brotherhood group. In mid-August 2013, the security dispersed two major pro-Morsi sit-ins in Cairo and Giza that left about 1,000 people dead. The police also arrested thousands of Morsi's supporters, including Brotherhood leaders.

Ever since, Morsi's supporters have been holding recurrent protests against the ongoing leadership, calling for Morsi's reinstatement. Friday's protests came after the Egyptian interim government declared the Brotherhood as "a terrorist group" on 25 Dec, 2013.—Xinhua



Anti-military protesters shout slogans during a march in Nasr City, Cairo, on 10 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

WORLD

US appeals court affirms BP settlement in 2010 Gulf oil spill

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — A panel of the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday affirmed a federal judge's approval of a multi-billion dollar settlement between

BP Plc and businesses and individuals who lost money and property in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

BP had supported the settlement agreement lead-

ing up to the December 2012 ruling by US District Court Judge Carl Barbier approving it. But the company has since argued the administration of the settlement is faulty because it allows claimants without actual damages to join in.

In the 2-1 decision, the appeals court panel rejected the arguments by BP. It noted that the company had failed to explain "how this court or the district court should identify or even discern the existence of 'claimants that have suffered no cognizable injury.'" BP had originally projected that its

settlement in the case would cost \$7.8 billion. As of late October it had boosted this estimate to \$9.2 billion, and said this sum could grow "significantly higher."

The case stems from the 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and rupture of BP's Macondo oil well, which killed 11 people and triggered the largest-ever US offshore oil spill. The torrent fouled shorelines from Texas to Alabama. Plaintiffs ranged from hotel owners to oyster gatherers. Billions of dollars have already been paid out to claimants.—Reuters



A hard hat from an oil worker lies in oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on East Grand Terre Island, Louisiana on 8 June, 2010.
REUTERS

UN Security Council condemns terrorist attacks in western Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Jan — The UN Security Council on Friday strongly condemned recent attacks committed by al-Qaeda terrorists in Iraq's western province of Anbar, reaffirming the need to combat terrorism by all means.

"The Security Council deplores in the strongest terms the recent events in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah in Anbar Province in Iraq," said a presidential statement read by Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zedi Al-Husseini, the permanent representative of

Jordan to the UN who holds the rotating presidency of the 15-nation body for January, at an emergent public meeting on the situation in Iraq.

"The Security Council condemns the attacks that are being perpetrated by al-Qaeda affiliate, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), against the people of Iraq in an attempt to destabilize the country and region," said the statement.

In the statement, the Council said that Iraqi security forces and local police, "whose members are being

targeted and killed in ongoing attacks by terrorists," are showing "great courage" as they fight to defeat ISIL in their cities.

The Security Council called on the people of Iraq to continue, expand and strengthen their cooperation in fighting against violence and terror, and expressed its strong support for the continued efforts of the Iraqi government to help meet the security needs in Iraq.

According to earlier reports, fierce clashes continued between Iraqi secu-

rity forces backed by Sunni tribes and al-Qaeda militants around major cities in the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq.

Friday's battles in eastern Ramadi led to killings of at least two civilians and wounding seven others.

The Security Council also reaffirmed "the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice," and urged all states to cooperate actively with Iraqi authorities in this regard.—Xinhua

The Metropolitan Police Department conducts a New Year march in front of the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward on 10 Jan, 2014. Some 2,800 police officers took part in the annual event.

KYODO NEWS



S Korean troops in S Sudan receive additional ammunition

SEOUL, 11 Jan — South Korean peacekeepers in South Sudan on Friday returned to the United Nations ammunition that been borrowed from Japan via the world body, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staffs in Seoul.

The peacekeepers, in a move that had sparked controversy at home due to political sensitivities, had last month borrowed 10,000 rounds of ammunition from Japan's Self-Defence Forces contingent, based in South Sudan's capital Juba, via a

UN mission to deal with possible contingencies.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the Japanese ammunition was returned after ammunition sent from South Korea, which arrived in Juba by transport planes on 27 December, was delivered earlier

Friday to the 280-member South Korean contingent in the town of Bor, some 170 kilometers south of the capital, by UN helicopters.

South Korea's move to borrow the ammunition from Japan, which ruled Korea as a colony in 1910-1945,

BREATHTAKING HIDEOUT

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Hkakaborazi National Park, Kachin State

Another ASEAN Heritage Site, is the 3,812 square kilometres (1,472 square mile) Hkakaborazi National Park, in the eastern foothills of the Himalayas. It is dominated by snow-capped Mt Hkaaborazi, at 5,881 metres (19,296 feet), the highest peak in Southeast Asia. The park offers trekking and mountain climbing and is also the habitat of rare fauna, including musk deer, red panda and red goral, as well as hundreds of species of birds.

Natma Mountain and National Park, Chin State

One of the Myanmar's most beautiful mountains, the 3,108 metre (10,200 feet) high Natma Taung, once known as Mt Victoria, is fairly easy to climb. It dominates the Natma Taung National Park, which covers nearly 115 square kilometres (300 square miles). There are many rare species of birds in the park and giant rhododendrons grow on the mountain's slopes.

Elephant Rides Ngwehsuang Elephant Camp, Ayeyawady Region

The camp is only 30 minutes' drive from beautiful Ngwehsung beach. The elephants are kept in the camp during the morning and allowed to forage in the surrounding jungle during the afternoon. Visitors who stay overnight may accompany the mahouts as they head into the jungle to find their elephants and bring them back to the camp.

Pho Kyar Elephant Camp, Bago Region

Pho Kyar Elephant Camp has demonstrations showing how these animals are captured and domesticated. Visitors can enjoy an elephant ride and see working elephants in action.

Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp, Yangon Region

Apart from elephant rides, visitors can also see elephants being captured and domesticated. Visitors also have the option of observing a variety of wildlife, including deer, wild cats, bears, peafowl and lizards.

had raised concerns at home that it could be interpreted as Seoul's tacit consent to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's move to expand the role of the SDF and pursue what he calls "proactive pacifism."

Abe has expressed his eagerness to revise Japan's Constitution, which limits overseas activities of the SDF, and upgrade it to full-fledged military that can act more freely outside Japan alongside its allies such as the United States.

Japan claims it received a direct urgent request to provide the ammunition from both the United Nations and the South Korean government, while Seoul insists it made a formal request for additional ammunition through the world body and that it only "borrowed" the bullets to secure supplies.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Obama to unveil proposals to reform NSA surveillance programmes next week

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — US President Barack Obama will unveil his proposals to reform the National Security Agency's surveillance programmes next week, the White House announced on Friday. The White House said the president will make the announcement in a speech on 17 January.

"He will be making remarks to discuss the outcomes of the work that has been done in the review process," White House spokesman Jay Carney said at the daily briefing. "The president has been clear throughout this review process that we will not harm our national security or our ability to face global threats," said Carney.

He said the measures

are to create more transparency and give American people more confidence. The president has met with lawmakers, intelligence officials, executives of technology companies in recent weeks. He has also been reviewing the 46 recommendations submitted by a presidential advisory panel last month.

The panel called for "a series of significant reforms" to enhance transparency and privacy to the controversial NSA surveillance programmes, including tighter limits of the domestic telephone surveillance programmes, according to the panel's report released by the White House.

However, it is not clear whether those sweeping recommendations will be



US President Barack Obama

enacted. The controversial surveillance programmes have made headlines and triggered outrage home and abroad since they were first disclosed in June by former defence contractor Edward Snowden.

The Obama administration has vowed to make

some changes to the controversial surveillance programs in an effort to rebuild public trust. But the president, supporters in Capitol Hill and intelligence leaders, have defended the NSA's work in the past months.

Xinhua

Malaysia, Turkey aim to seal FTA pact by April

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Jan — Malaysian and Turkish leaders expressed hope on Friday of concluding a bilateral free trade agreement by April as they aim to boost annual trade between the two countries to \$5 billion in five years from the current \$1.5 billion.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said in a joint Press conference with visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan that the two sides will conclude negotiations on the FTA in the Turkish capital Ankara next week. "Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan suggested that we sign the FTA in April. He kindly invited me to visit Turkey once again so that the agreement can be signed during that visit," Najib said.

Erdogan arrived here on Thursday after visiting Singapore where he and its Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced that Turkey and Singapore will begin negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement. His visit to Malaysia coincides with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1964.

Kyodo News



Kumamon (C), a popular black bear mascot for Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture, joins coming-of-age celebrations for sightseeing tour guides of Hato Bus Co. dressed in kimono, in Tokyo's Minato Ward on 10 Jan, 2014. The company, which offers sightseeing bus services in and around the capital, annually holds its own celebration event for guides who are or will turn 20 years old as of April 1 ahead of the actual Coming of Age Day holiday, when the guides will be at work in Tokyo instead of celebrating in their own hometowns.—KYODO NEWS

Pakistan PM approves award for student stopping suicide attack

ISLAMABAD, 11 Jan — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday approved the country's highest civil award for a student who sacrificed his life but stopped a suicide bomber from attacking a school. Aitizaz Hussain, a student of class 9, stopped a suicide bomber from entering his school in Hangu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province this week. The bomber exploded his bomb at the gate of the school, killing Aitizaz and himself at the scene. No other student was hurt.

People from all walks of life, lawmakers, political leaders and members of the civil society had paid homage to Aitizaz for his bravery and had demanded the national award for him. Thousands on social media also praised the student. The banned extremist group "Lashkar-e-Jhangvi," which is blamed for

killing of Shiite Muslims, had claimed responsibility for the planned attack.

The school was located in the Shiite-majority area, police say. The prime minister recognized the boldness of the slain student and announced award for him. "Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has advised the President of Pakistan to approve the conferment of Sitara-e-Shujjat to Aitizaz Hussain, a student of class 9 from District Hangu," the PM office said.

"Shaheed (martyr) Aitizaz's brave act saved the lives of hundreds of students and established a sterling example of gallantry and patriotism," a statement from the PM office said. Teachers and students of Aitizaz school also paid tributes to him and said he saved the lives of many students who were in the school at the time of the frustrated attack.—Xinhua

Lawmaker seeks to halt bond sales for California high-speed rail

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Jan — A Republican California lawmaker proposed on Friday to put a measure before voters to stop bond sales for the state's planned high-speed rail system, in the latest bid by critics to derail the ambitious project.

The rail system, a priority of Governor Jerry Brown, would send passengers hurtling through the state's fertile San Joaquin Valley as they travel from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Lines would eventually extend to San Diego and Sacramento.

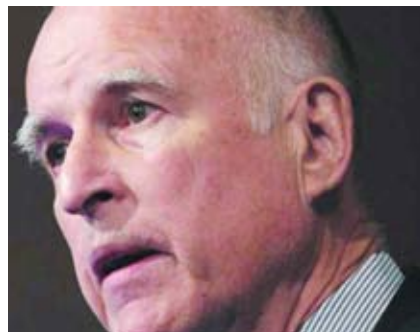
The project, now estimated to cost \$68 billion, has been dogged by controversy with questions over its planned routes, ridership estimates and projected costs.

While it is uncertain if

Governor Jerry Brown of California speaks at the Centre for American Progress 10th Anniversary policy forum in Washington, on 24 Oct, 2013.

REUTERS

the proposed measure by Assemblyman Jeff Gorell will eventually qualify for a statewide ballot, it seizes on potential voter discontent over the project. "California cannot afford to pay for a high-speed train system that will cost more than \$100 billion at a time when prisoners are being released from prisons and taxpayers are being asked to dig deeper into their own pockets to pay for basic services," the measure says.



The state's efforts to sell bonds for the rail project had already suffered a blow when a judge in November ruled against plans to issue more than \$8 billion in bonds for financing.

Brown, a Democrat, and other project supporters say the rail network will prove to be a jobs boon for California and transform the state's transportation infrastructure by linking far-flung metropolitan areas.

Reuters

Iran, EU make progress in nuclear implementation talks

GENEVA, 11 Jan — Iran and the European Union appeared to make progress in resolving outstanding differences on how to implement a landmark nuclear deal in talks in Geneva on Friday but the United States said discussions were not yet finalized.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi met a senior EU official in Geneva to iron out remaining practical details of the 24 November accord under which Iran agreed to curb its most sensitive nuclear work in return for some sanctions

relief. After the meeting, he told Reuters that the sides had found "solutions for every difference" but more consultations were needed before an agreement could be announced.

"Now we are taking the solutions ... home, all of us. Hopefully tomorrow we can either confirm or not, but hopefully confirm," he said.

The European Union liaises with Iran on behalf of six world powers — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — in diplomatic



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani speaks to journalists during a news conference in New York on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

efforts related to Tehran's nuclear work.

A spokesman for the EU, Michael Mann, said

"very good" progress was made "on all the pertinent issues", but added that results of the talks still had to be validated by more senior officials.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a news briefing that the technical talks were making good progress but reports that a deal had been finalized were inaccurate. "There have been a few outstanding issues, but at this point, the reports that everything has been finalized are incorrect," she said.

Reuters

Docomo once again Japan's top cellphone seller

TOKYO, 11 Jan — NTT Docomo Inc logged a net increase of 279,100 cellphone contracts in December to become the top-selling carrier in Japan for the first time in two years on the back of solid smartphone sales, data released by the company showed on Friday.

NTT Docomo said it was able to secure a suffi-

cient supply of Apple Inc's popular iPhones to meet customers' demand after early supply issues when it began selling the phone in September. Sales of smartphones with Android operating systems were also strong, it said.

Softbank Corp, the top seller for the previous 23 consecutive months, came second with 224,300 con-

tracts, followed by KDDI Corp with 222,600 contracts, according to the data released by each company.

By year, Softbank remained in the top seat for the sixth consecutive year with a net increase of 3,437,700, followed by KDDI with 2,799,700 and NTT Docomo with 1,193,500.

Kyodo News



Target breach worse than thought, states launch joint probe

NEW YORK/BOSTON, 11 Jan — The data breach at Target Corp over the holiday shopping season was far bigger than initially thought, the US company said on Friday, as state prosecutors announced a nationwide probe into the second-biggest retail cyber

attack on record. Target said an investigation has found that the hackers stole the personal information of at least 70 million customers, including names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. Previously, the No 3 US retailer said the hackers

stole data from 40 million credit and debit cards.

The two sets of numbers likely contained some overlap, but the extent was not clear, according to Target spokeswoman Molly Snyder. She also noted that some of the victims did not shop at Target stores during the period of the breach between 27 November and 15 December, and their personal information was stolen from a database.

"I know that it is frustrating for our guests to learn that this information was taken and we are truly sorry they are having to endure this," Target Chief Executive Gregg Steinhafel said in the statement on Friday. Attorneys general from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Minnesota said they were

joining a nationwide probe into the security breach. A source familiar with the joint probe said more than 30 states were involved.

"A breach of this magnitude is extremely disconcerting and we are participating in a multi-state investigation to discover the circumstances that led to this breach," said Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley. Security experts said the stolen payment card data could be used to fabricate false magnetic strip credit cards. And the personal information could be sold on underground exchanges for use in email "phishing" campaigns, aimed at persuading victims to hand over even more sensitive information, such as bank account numbers.—Reuters



People shop at a Target store during Black Friday sales in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on 29 Nov, 2013. REUTERS

Foreign investments "priority" for Italy: FM

ROME, 11 Jan — Italy's Foreign Minister Emma Bonino on Friday said attracting foreign investment was a "priority" of the Italian coalition government.

Addressing heads of multinationals and investment funds gathered for the International Business Advisory Council (IBAC) 2014, Bonino said Italy needed financial, industrial and human capital to be part of the global value chain.

Foreign investment is "in the national interests," she said, because of the correlation between that and Italy's ability to compete on the international scene.

The meeting brought together representatives of the world's major economic players including emerging economies such as China, Turkey and the United Arab

Emirates.

The Italian Foreign Ministry in a statement said three major upcoming events, namely the 2015 Milan Expo, the development of the digital agenda and Italy's possible candidacy to host the 2024 Olympic Games, offered important investment potential.

IBAC, set up in Shanghai 26 years ago for the purpose of recommending international best practices, includes major worldwide actors such as Coca Cola, Google, Volkswagen Group, IBM, General Electric, P&G, Carrefour and Goldman Sachs. Among the Italian brands there are Eni, Finmeccanica, Unicredit, Intesa, Telecom, Exor, Prada and Zegna Group.—Xinhua

Self-medicating moms more likely to give kids pain meds

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Mothers who frequently use over-the-counter (OTC) pain relievers are more likely to give them to their children too, according to a new Danish study. More parents are giving OTC medications, such as acetaminophen, to their young children, often without the advice of health care professionals, the study team says.

"Half of all the medications used worldwide are non-prescription — it is a huge and growing industry under limited control from the health care system," Dr. Janne Fangel Jensen, who led the research, told Reuters Health by email.

Jensen is a researcher with the Department of Public Health at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, in Denmark.

Acetaminophen — sold as paracetamol outside of the US — is the most widely used drug in many developed countries. It's a safe treatment for many forms of mild pain and has few known side effects, Jensen said. But overdosing with acetaminophen can be dangerous, she cautioned. "In my opinion it is important to limit the use of paracetamol to when it is indicated and to prevent an increasing 'over-medication' especially in children."

To gauge whether a mother's use of painkillers influences how often children take the drugs, the researchers surveyed mothers of 131 Danish children ages 6 to 11. Jensen and his colleagues asked how often the children were given non-prescription pain relievers during the previous three months and during the

past year. They also asked how often the children had felt pain. In addition, there were questions about the mothers' use of medication and general health. The researchers found that 45 percent of the children had been given OTC pain relievers, mostly acetaminophen, during the previous three months. And 22 percent were given acetaminophen at least every other month for the previous year.

One-third of the mothers said they had chronic pain and 39 percent reported taking OTC pain relievers at least once per month, Jensen's team reports in Pediatrics. The researchers discovered that mothers who believed their children had recurrent pain tended to give them acetaminophen at least every other month.—Reuters

Tesla upgrades car charging software, adapter to prevent fires

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Jan — Tesla Motors Inc is taking steps to prevent overheating of its charging systems, including giving customers upgraded wall adapters and providing charging-software upgrades, the electric-car company said on Friday.

The moves come after a November garage fire involving a Model S in Irvine, California, which the Orange County Fire Authority said may have been caused by a Tesla charging system or by a connection at the electricity panel on the wall of the garage.

At the time, Tesla disagreed with the fire officials' findings, denying that the charging electronics were related to the fire.

A Tesla spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a question on Friday about whether the upgrades were related to the Irvine fire.

In a Friday press release, Tesla said that its goal was to prevent excessive heating of the adapters used to charge its cars. A variety of factors ranging from corrosion to inappropriate wiring of electrical outlets can cause overheating, the company said.

A December tweak to its charging software tackles the issue through reducing charging by 25 percent if the charging system detects fluctuations in power entering the vehicle, Tesla said.—Reuters



A Tesla model S car with an electric vehicle charging station is displayed during a media preview day at the Frankfurt Motor Show (IAA) on 10 Sept, 2013. The world's biggest auto show is open to the public on 14 -22 September . — REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Two Chinese scientists win 5-million-yuan award for innovation

BEIJING, 11 Jan — Physical chemist Zhang Cunhao and nuclear weapons expert Cheng Kaijia have won China's top science award for their outstanding contribution to scientific and technological innovation in the country.

Both winners are from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. At the annual science awards ceremony on Friday, the two researchers were presented with certificates by President Xi Jinping.

They also each took home award equal to about 800-thousand US dollars. Awards were also handed out to a number of other scientists and research programs from across China.

In an address to the ceremony, Premier Li Keqiang said, "China has entered a new stage in which the country must rely more on science and technology innovation to guide and support its economic development and social progress."

He also called on the



Two Chinese scientists, physical chemist Zhang Cunhao(left) and nuclear weapon expert Cheng Kaijia(right), won China's top science award on Friday for their outstanding contribution to scientific and technological innovation.

XINHUA

government to free innovative scientific activities from bureaucratic intervention and "let the mar-

ket speak" in terms of research programming, resource allocation and use of funds. — Xinhua

Virgin Galactic spaceship makes third powered test flight



Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo flies over the Mojave Desert in California in this file photo taken on 29 April, 2013 shortly before successfully completing a test flight that broke the sound barrier.— REUTERS

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, a six-passenger, two-pilot spacecraft aiming to make the world's first commercial suborbital spaceflights later this year, conducted its third rocket-powered test flight on Friday.

With Virgin Galactic

chief pilot David Mackay and co-pilot Mark Stucky at the controls, SpaceShipTwo soared to an altitude 71,000 feet above ground —about twice as high as commercial jetliners, Virgin Galactic said on Twitter.

The 20-second rocket burn, over California's

Mojave desert, propelled the ship to 1.4 times faster than the speed of sound, the company said. It was the third powered test flight for SpaceShipTwo, which was designed and built by Mojave, Calif.-based Scaled Composites, a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corp.

"She flew brilliantly," Mackay said in a statement from Virgin Galactic after landing. "To be behind the controls and fly it as the rocket ignited is something I will never forget," Mackay added. The spacecraft, which is hauled into the air by a carrier jet and released, also has made 28 glide flights. It is modeled after the prize-winning SpaceShipOne prototype, which made a trio of sub-orbital spaceflights in 2004

to clinch the \$10 million Ansari X Prize for the first privately funded human spaceflights.

With SpaceShipTwo tucked between its twin hulls, Virgin Galactic's White Knight Two carrier jet took off from the Mojave Air and Space Port just after dawn. An hour later, Mackay landed the spaceship safely back on the runway, Virgin Galactic said on Twitter. Virgin Galactic, a US offshoot of billionaire Richard Branson's London-based.—Reuters

Apple did not violate Google patent, says US appeals court

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — Apple Inc does not use patented technology owned by Google unit Motorola Mobility in making its iPhones, an appeals court said on Friday. The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheld a decision by the International Trade Commission in April that Apple did not violate a Google patent to make the popular iPhone.

The smartphone industry has seen dozens of lawsuits on several continents as Apple vies for market share with companies that make smartphones using Google's Android software. "We're disappointed in this decision and are evaluating

our options," Google unit Motorola said in a statement. Apple had no comment on the decision.

Motorola Mobility accused Apple in 2010 of infringing on six of its patents covering technology such as reducing signal noise and programming the device's touch screen so a user's head does not accidentally activate it while talking on the

phone.

The ITC ruled in April 2013 that Apple did not violate any of the six. The appeals court addressed just one of the six patents. Google acquired the patents in the case — and the lawsuit — when it purchased Motorola Mobility for \$12.5 billion in 2012, partly for its library of telecommunications patents.

Reuters



A worker cleans glass in front of an iPhone 5C advertisement at an apple store in Kunming, Yunnan Province, in this 27 Oct, 2013 file picture.

REUTERS

Neiman Marcus says hackers may have stolen payment card data

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Jan — Luxury department store chain Neiman Marcus said on Friday that hackers may have stolen customers' credit and debit card information, the second cyber attack on a retailer in recent weeks.

The data breach comes after Target Corp on Friday

customers affected by the intrusion, company spokesperson Ginger Reeder said.

Neiman Marcus said its credit card processor alerted the retailer in December about potential unauthorized payment card activities and the US Secret Service is investigating.

A third-party forensics



A man sleeps on a couch outside of a Neiman Marcus store at South Park mall in Charlotte, North Carolina on 25 Nov, 2011.— REUTERS

said an investigation found a cyber attack compromised the information of at least 70 million customers, in the second-biggest retail cyber attack on record.

Neiman Marcus does not know the number of

firm confirmed the cybersecurity intrusion on January 1, the company said.

Reeder declined to comment if the breach was related to the Target cyber attack.

Reuters

Swatch sees smartwatches as opportunity, not threat



Swatch watches are displayed in front of a shop at the central station in Zurich on 4 Feb, 2013.— REUTERS

ZURICH, 11 Jan — The emergence of smartwatches, gadgets allowing the wearer to check text messages or capture video, is an opportunity rather than a threat for traditional watchmakers, the head of Swatch Group (UHR.VX) told Reuters on Friday.

Tech companies Sony (6758.T), Samsung (005930.KS) and Qualcomm (QCOM.O) have all launched wearable devices

able to make calls, access the web or run apps, raising questions over whether this new trend could impact traditional watch sales. "The smartwatch is an opportunity for us, whatever happens. If people who never used to wear anything on their wrist start wearing a so-called smartwatch, then we certainly can convince them quickly to try wearing a beautiful watch instead," Chief Executive Nick

Hayek said in a telephone interview.

He said Swatch Group had all the know-how necessary to make smartwatches and already had some "smart" products on the market, but didn't intend to become a big player in this field. "We have all the know-how but we do not want to build up stock of technology bombs people won't want to buy."

Ten years ago, Swatch Group teamed up with Microsoft (MSFT.O) to launch a smartwatch called Paparazzi that offered users direct access to news, horoscopes, stock quotes and other real-time information via radio waves, but the product did not meet with the hoped-for success. Clumsy designs, high prices and technological constraints of the new-generation smartwatches are likely to put off consumers, industry executives and analysts said at an electronics show in the United States this week.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 12 January, 2014

Urgent conservation efforts needed to save salmon

Myanmar salmon in Ayeyawady Region are near threatened because of overfishing and poor management of nets.

Due to use of banned nets that drag along riverbed by local fishermen, freshwater salmon are caught faster than they can reproduce and at unsustainable scales.

According to local fishermen, caviar-producing salmon are also caught when they come back from sea water to rivers to lay eggs though catching female fish with caviar is banned.

It is the result of growing demand for the salmon at home and foreign market and salmon has become the food that cannot be afforded by grass-roots people at home market.

Fishermen need to understand that the meaning of sustainable and need to manage their fishery resource, with the food security of the present and future generation as a top priority.

It is not too late to change their mind-set of “if I don’t catch them, other will catch them.” The freshwater salmon is at risk of extinction if fishing at unsustainable scales trends continue.

Urgent conservation efforts are needed to tackle overexploitation and improve the management of fishing.

Spouse of Crown Prince of Denmark visits Shwedagon Pagoda

Princess Her Royal Highness Ms. Mary Donalson, Spouse of the Crown Prince of Denmark, and Minister of Development Cooperation of Denmark Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen visit Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Jan— Princess Her Royal Highness Ms. Mary Donalson, Spouse of the Crown Prince of Denmark, and Minister of Development Cooperation of Denmark Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen, and party visited Shwedagon Pagoda, here, this morning.

The Danish Princess and party donated flowers, water and light to the pa-

goda. They also observed Myanmar handicrafts on the platform of the pagoda and beat King Singu’s Bell.

They will proceed to Rakhine State by special aircraft to present humanitarian aid provided by Denmark for rehabilitation of Rakhine State today and will leave for Denmark tomorrow.

MNA

Blessed by mother Nature, Myanmar is a fortunate land with bountiful resources – flora, fauna, fossil and minerals which Myanmar indigenous ethnic peoples have been using for their daily utilities, aesthetic creations body ornaments and spiritual adorations, since time immemorial. Theravada Buddhism arrived in the country at the beginning of its historic period. Religious objects such as statues and images and monuments such as pagodas, temples, and monasteries were made, and are being made or built of stone, brick, wood, metals alloy and plaster. In upper Myanmar lime stone, sand stone, dolomite or Anthaku Kyauk and many precious and semi-precious stones and Sagyin marble, in lower Myanmar, laterite or gawun kyauk and volcanic stone or mitaung kyauk are used for religious purposes. Among stones that are sculpted for images, Sagyin marble is rated best in hardness, texture and beauty, almost equal to jade stone.

About 21 miles to the north of Mandalay in Madaya township lies a series of Sagyin marble hill ranges, outcropping from the vast plain of paddy fields. Running from north to south, these ranges are located in the neighbourhood of Sagyin village. Thus these marble stones acquired the commercial name of Sagyin marble or Sagyin Kyauk. There are seven major hills and eight minor hills in these ranges. Among seven major hills, four hills are to the north and three hills to the south of the village. The hill to the extreme south is the highest, 808 feet high. Standing on the right bank of the Chaungmagyi tributary of the Ayeyawady River, the ranges are not far from the confluence where the Chaungmagyi flows into the Ayeyawady.

These hill ranges are geographically continuations of the hill ranges of Mogok Ruby mines area to the north. So, these hills produce not only snow white marble but also rubies and sapphires. In Myanmar chronicle Kongbaung Set Maha Yazawun tawgyi, it was recorded that in the reign of King Mindon

[1853-1878 A.D.] rubies, worth the then money K 30,000 in one month were obtained from royal ruby mines which were located in the northern portion of the hill ranges. Ruby mines in these hills are still under operation. They produce rubies of light colour.

In earlier reports and literatures, Sagyin stones were termed “alabaster”.

Maha Sadhhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

But later geologists say firmly that it is a kind of marble, hard with good quality, texture and colour. It varies “from pure white saccharoid marble to an aggregate of coarse crystals 3 to 4 inches across. The colour varies from white to a pronounced bluish grey colour. Rubies and Spinel are found imbedded in the cracks and hollows of the stone”. Chibber, the author of the book The Mineral Resources of Burma speaks of Sagyin stone as follows:-

“The beautiful white marble of the Sagyin Hills, 20 miles north of Mandalay finds much favour with the Burmese and is used to a certain extent in ornamental screen work. But it is mainly used for carving images of the Buddha, many of which are of colossal size. The stone is brought down to Sagyin and Mandalay, etc where it is worked into shape.”

British envoys, who arrived at the court of Mandalay gained royal audience with King Mindon. They were favoured with special permission to visit Sagyin Hills, which they recounted in their reports. One British entrepreneur made attempt to get royal permit to work Sagyin quarries to extract marble for European market but he failed.

There is a general assumption that Sagyin marble was quarried and used only in the Konbaung period of Myanmar history, i.e. 18th and 19th centuries. But archaeology has proved that Buddha images, inscription pillars, boundary pillar of ordination hall, and many votive objects made of Sagyin marble of pre-Konbaung periods are found across upper Myanmar. Therefore we may safely say that the use of

Sagyin marble was already begun long before the 18th century, and that it became the favourite material for sculpting sacred objects in the Konbaung period.

The craft and art of stone sculpture are hereditary. They were handed down from generation to generation. Sculptors who received royal permit to quarry Sagyin

marble for sculpting religious objects formed a separate community, passing the royal permit as hereditary right onto their next generations. They are called kyauksitthamar [stone sculptors] and then separate living quarters are known as kyauksit tan [living quarters of stone sculptors.]. They followed the royalty when kings changed their capitals – from Inwa to Amarapura, from Amarapura to Inwa again, then back to Amarapura, finally a new capital Mandalay. So at these capitals we find stone sculptors communities and their living quarters. Today there is a large stone sculptors quarter close to the world renowned gold Image Maha Muni Temple in Mandalay.

Four colossal Buddha Images of Sagyin marble, donated and dedicated by Myanmar kings are worthy of historic, religious and artistic values. Each has historic background of wonder and marvel. They are (1) Lay Kyun Man Aung (2) Maha Loka Tharaphu (3) Maha Thet Kya Yan Thi and (4) Maha Thet Kya Marazein.

(1) Lay Kyun Man Aung was donated by King Taninganwe [1714-1733 A.D.] of Nyaung Yan dynasty. The literal meaning of its name is “The victor over Mara the evil opponent in all four islands.” It is a beautifully sculpted monolithic piece of Sagyin marble, measuring 20 feet high, 13 feet in diameter between the two knees and 7 feet thick. Its pedestal throne was built of brick, 4 feet three inches high. It is housed in a large shrine located in

Thotapan quarter near Thayet pin seik jetty in Sagaing Town, Sagaing region, upper Myanmar.

(2) Maha Loka Tharaphu Image is sheltered in Loka Tharaphu Temple, located near the site of old capital Pinya near Inwa, upper Myanmar. The donor king was Taninganwe. But it was his son and successor King Mahadhammayazadipati who completed it and gave the name “Maha Loka Tharaphu [The Great Crown of the World]. A sumptuous spired temple was built to house the image. The image is a monolithic Sagyin marble, measuring 29 feet in height, 19 feet wide between the two knees, 9 feet in width and its pedestal throne is 3 feet and an inch high. This image is the largest of the four. A beautifully sculpted image of Sakka Deva [Thunder god] in the posture of pouring lustral water from a conch shell is housed in a brick pavilion. This image was also carved out of a single piece of Sagyin marble, located at the north-west corner of the precinct. Through a hidden pipe inside the image water pours out of the conch shell.

(3) Maha Thet Kya Yan Thi Image has a long history. Its original donor was King Bagyidaw [1819-1837]. He was a great grandson of King Alaungpaya, the founder of the Third Myanmar Union, and grandson of conqueror King Bodawpaya. King Bagyidaw paid a visit to Sagyin marble hills in search of a good monolith to curve a Buddha Image when found a big stone of his liking, he personally participated in the quarrying, conveyance and sculpting of the big Sagyin marble stone into an handsome sitting Buddha Image. All religious rites of consecrating the sacred image were performed by the king with pomp and ceremonies.

(to be continued)

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein attends opening of No.36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse)



President U Thein Sein observes production line at No.36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan—The opening of No.36 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) of No.3 Heavy Industries

Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry took place at the factory in Kyaukse Industrial Zone in Kyaukse

Township, Mandalay Region, this morning, attended by President U Thein Sein.

The opening ceremony

was attended by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Myint

Hlaing, U Win Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, U Maung Myint and U Kyaw Lwin, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commander, deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests, staff and local people.

First, Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Maung Myint, the region chief minister, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar and assistant president of CAMCE Co from China cut the ribbon to open the factory. Then, the President and party had a documentary photo taken.

After that, the President and party viewed round production of various advanced glasses in the factory and inspected sites for availability of raw materials at the factory environment.

The factory has the capacity of producing international standard quality glasses with the use of float glass process. There is a plan to produce laminated

glass, tempered glass and mirror glass.

The glass factory that can produce 150 tons of glass per day built by CAMCE Co Ltd from China in 2009 was come into operation on 28 December 2013. It is expected to produce 17,700 tons of color glass and 25,000 tons of clear glass totaling 42,700 tons of glass per year. The sand, main raw materials for the factory were extracted from Yinswe Hill.

The Ministry of Industry had built a glass factory that has capacity to 30 tons of quality glass per day in Patheingyi in Ayeyawady Region in 1977. Today's glass is better than that of past products. So, the government arranged to implement the glass factory (Kyaukse) to produce quality glass that is well capable of competing with the imported glass. The factory will fulfill the demand of construction works across the country.—MNA

President U Thein Sein inspects No.18 Heavy ...

(from page 1)

of the three gas-fired generators from Thailand and four private gas power plants in Yangon would reach 665 megawatts and hydropower plants would supply only 225 megawatts to Yangon this summer.

Next, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and the Union ministers made clarifications on generation and distribution of power.

The President said that according to the Master Plan Study conducted by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, JICA, electricity produced by hydro power plants makes up 74 percent of the total power production in Myanmar while 23 percent is produced by gas-fired generators and plants and 3 percent is by coal-fired power plants.

The study has suggested that 48 per cent of power should be produced by hydro power plants, 44 percent by natural gas-fired generators and plants and 6 percent from coal-fired plants in 2015-16 fiscal year.

The President has also called for conducting systematic survey not to damage the environment when

coal-fired power plants projects are carried out in the future as the country would rely on coal-fired plants to produce power in the future.

Afterward, the President viewed round operation of turbine and works in the control room in the power plant and storage of water in the dam.

RCC type Yeywa Dam was constructed on Myitnge River (Dokhtawady River) in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region. Four turbines with a capacity of 197.5 megawatts each have been installed at the power plant and it could generate 790 megawatts of power. Yeywa Project was started in 2001-02 fiscal year and completed in 2011-12 fiscal year.—MNA

Myanmar Medical Conference begins

YANGON, 11 Jan—The 60th Myanmar Medical Conference was kicked off at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay delivered an opening address. An official read the messages sent by associa-

YANGON, 11 Jan—Prize awarding for outstanding students is milestone of education sector in their life as recognition for their all-out efforts, said Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint at the Ma Myat Lay Education Foundation's Award presentation ceremony at Diamond Jubilee Hall, here, this morning.

The awarding will be new strength for the winners to pursue further studies in their fields and it will be a drive for students to do their best in learning. Not only Myat Myat Lay Education foundation but other education foundations are a reliable one to turn out outstanding students, he said.

Deputy Speaker of

tions to the MMC.

After the opening ceremony, officials formally opened the pharmaceuticals and medical equipment exhibition to mark the conference.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, officials of Ministry of Health, medical

Ma Myat Lay Education Foundation awards outstanding students



Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi presents cash assistance through Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa. MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, son of the founder, explained the emergence of the scholarship award.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi donated K 500,000 to the fund of the scholarship

officials of Thailand, Singapore and Australia, Myanmar Medical Council, Myanmar Academy of Medical Science and MMA (Central).

The conference will run up to 17 January.

MNA

award to Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, grandchildren of the founder U Kyaw Dewa, Daw Khin Sanda Lin and Dr Saw Thu Nandi K 2.1 million to Acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint, and Daw Aye Aye Myint Maung K 1 million to daughter of founder Daw Khin Saw Ohnmar.

The deputy speaker and the Union ministers presented certificates to scholarship award winners.

Writer Ma Myat Lay, founder of the award, joined the literary field in

1935. She created literature on dynamism for patriotic spirit of the people in the independence struggles. In honour of veteran writer Ma Myat Lay who had written literature serving the interest of the nation for many years, Ma Myat Lay Education foundation was founded.

The foundation started awarding 12 outstanding students in 2001-02 academic year. This year, the foundation awarded 66 outstanding students.

MNA

Taking census process discussed in Tamway Tsp



Departmental officials attend discussions on census taking process.

YANGON, 11 Jan—A coordination meeting on census taking process and matters of houses was held at the hall of Tamway Township General Administration

Department, here, on 8 January.

Township level departmental officials discussed duties for population and houses and

tasks for taking census in detail.

Participants of the meeting asked the questions at the meeting and officials replied to them.

MMAL-Hla Hla

School building handed over

HSIHSENG, 11 Jan—A ceremony to hand over new school building constructed by Nippon Foundation and local people to Ministry of Education was held at the school in Hsitayan Village of Hsihseng Township in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of southern Shan State on 9 January.

Project Manager Daw Aye Aye Thant of Nippon Foundation presented documents related to the building and K 5 million to Township Education Officer U Than Kyaw.

The building, 120 feet by 30 feet, was constructed at a cost of K 49,799,250.

MMAL-Khun Ye Htwe (Hsihseng)

HRD

Students, parents, teachers enjoy School Family Day



MANDALAY, 11 Jan—A ceremony to mark the School Family Day for 2013-14 academic year was held at the hall of No 12 Basic

Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 9 January morning.

Township Education

TACHILEK, 11 Jan—Officials of Myanmar-

School Family Day in progress at BEHS No 12 in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

Officer Dr Kyaw Lwin and Headmistress of the school Daw San San Myint explained purpose of the ceremony and comprehensive development of education sector.

The school officials awarded winners in the contests and subjects respectively.

First standard students honoured the ceremony with a song entitled "One Direction".

The ceremony was also attended by responsible persons of Parent-Teacher Association, School Board of Trustees and parents of the students.

MMAL-Khin Khin Win (Education)

Take Fire Preventive Measures

from members of MCWA, departments and local people from Khinmon Model Village attended the two-day course.

"We have the great opportunities to study making process of juice and jams thanks to the Township MCWA. We will produce the products on a manageable or commercial scale to be able to save time and money in our life. So we can produce the healthy and fresh products," said a trainee.

The training course was provided to the trainee free of charge.

MMAL-Township IPRD



Juice, jam making course conducted

CHAUNGU, 11 Jan—Maternal and Child Welfare Association of ChuangU Township from Sagaing Region organized the natural juice and jam making course in Khinmon Model Village

of the township on 9 January.

Course instructor Daw Hla Hla Khet gave training on making juice and jams to the trainees practically and theoretically.

A total of 70 trainees



Medicines, medical equipment donated to rural dispensaries

Thailand Sustainable Vocational Development Project donated medicines and medical equipment to rural dispensaries at Yaungkha Station Hospital in Monghtalan Village-tract of Monghsat Township, Shan State (North), on 9 January.

The Project Manager presented medicines and medical equipment worth over K 4 million to District Medical Officer Dr Aung Zeya. The donor also presented medicines to Mongtwin rural dispensary.

MMAL-District IPRD

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Stimulant tablets, heroin seized in Lashio Ward 11



LASHIO, 11 Jan—Police of No 24 Anti-Drug Squad together with witnesses, acting on tip-off, raided the house of Ma Shauk Htwe in region 2 of Ward 11 in Lashio on 9 January evening.

The police team seized 43 pink stimulant tablets weighing 3.87 grams worth K 86000 and 0.1 gram of heroin worth K 1900.

In her confession, Ma Shauk Htwe said that she bought stimulant tablets from Shauk Sho from the same ward and heroin from Ah Hong. Thus, the police arrested the suspects in the evening.

Shauk Sho confessed he bought 200 stimulant

tablets from Shauk Khwam from the same street. In a raid at the house of Shauk Khwam, he escaped from the scene.

Lashio Myoma Police Station filed lawsuits against three suspects under the law.

According to the confession of Ma Shauk Htwe, the police squad raided the house of Than Oo (a) Ah Hong from the same ward at 8.30 pm and seized 0.14 gram of heroin worth K 2660 in the straw of soft drink under the pillow.

Thus, the same police station opened a file of lawsuit against Ah Hong under the law.

MMAL-Han Htay (IPRD)

REGIONAL

China to expand cross-border use of RMB: PBOC

BEIJING, 11 Jan — China will continue to expand the cross-border use of the Chinese currency, the Renminbi or yuan, this year, China's central bank said on Friday.

The Chinese yuan's cross-border settlement reached 3.64 trillion yuan (596.6 billion US dollars) in the first eleven months of 2013, which was 350 times the amount in 2009, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said at a work-planning meeting.

Meanwhile, the PBOC will maintain steady monetary credit growth, improve the multi-tier capital market, modernize financial services and engage further in international financial regulation policy-making this year.

Xinhua



Japanese monkeys snuggle to keep warm under the eaves as snow falls at Sapporo Maruyama Zoo in Sapporo, Hokkaido, on 10 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

S Korea urges N Korea to agree to reunions of separated families

SEOUL, 11 Jan — South Korea on Friday again requested North Korea to agree to the resumption of reunions of families that remain separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War.

"We urge North Korea to show a sincere attitude toward our offer," Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Eui Do said in a Press briefing.

The comment came a day after North Korea rejected South Korea's proposal to hold talks on Friday to discuss holding the reunions around the Lunar

New Year, which falls on 31 January this year.

The rejection was contained in a notice that the North's Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, an organ which handles ties with South Korea, sent on Thursday to the South via the truce village of Panmunjeom, a statement issued by the ministry said. In the notice, "the North's side said the South has not changed its confrontational attitude and demanded obstacles be removed and an atmos-

phere be created to hold a humanitarian event," the statement said.

The North also accused the South of planning a joint military exercise with the United States. South Korea and the United States have held an annual exercise in the spring to enhance deterrence against North Korean aggression.

Following a proposal made by President Park Geun Hye earlier this week, the South offered to hold working-level talks on Friday to discuss the reunions. —Kyodo News

Strip-searched Indian diplomat returns home, US diplomat expelled

NEW DELHI, 11 Jan — An Indian diplomat whose arrest last month for visa fraud and treatment in custody triggered a serious diplomatic row between New Delhi and Washington returned to India on Friday night from the United States, *Press Trust of India* reported on Friday.

Devyani Khobragade, a former deputy consul general in New York, was asked to leave the United States on Thursday after having been indicted earlier the same day on two criminal charges for visa fraud and making false statements concerning how much she paid her maid-servant in a work visa application for her.

To retaliate for the effective expulsion of Khobragade, India asked the US Embassy to withdraw an officer of similar rank.

In Washington, a State Department spokesperson

confirmed that a US official was leaving India.

"We deeply regret that the Indian government felt it was necessary to expel one of our diplomatic personnel," Jen Psaki said, adding that India will now take steps to improve its relationship with the United States and return it to a more constructive place.

The 39-year-old diplomat was arrested in New York on 12 December, strip-searched and placed in a cell with common criminals, sparking outrage in India, which argued her diplomatic immunity had been violated.

India has since taken a slew of retaliatory actions, including removing security barricades from around the US Embassy and telling the embassy to stop its "commercial activities" such as running a restaurant and bar on its premises.

Kyodo News

India to host global coffee fest

NEW DELHI, 11 Jan — India is to host an international coffee festival in its southern city of Bengaluru later this month, a top official has said.

"Indian coffee, grown under tree shade, is very popular in the international markets. We want to showcase the best from India in the festival," Jawaid Akhtar, the head of the state-run Coffee Board of India, told the media.

This year will mark the festival's fifth edition organized by the Indian Coffee Trust promoted by the Indian Coffee Board under

the Commerce Ministry, and the five-day event will commence on 21 January.

India is the fifth largest coffee exporter in the world, with coffee being produced in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

Though traditionally a tea drinking nation, domestic coffee consumption has also risen in recent years, with US coffee retailer Starbucks entering the Indian market already dominated by Cafe Coffee Day and international brands like Barista Lavazza and Costa Coffee. —Xinhua

China's culture minister sees hope for resumed exchanges with Japan

BEIJING, 11 Jan — China's Culture Minister Cai Wu on Friday expressed hope for a resumption of friendly exchanges with Japan even though bilateral ties have worsened in the wake of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's controversial visit last month to a war-linked shrine. "We often say that winter has come and spring is not far away," Cai told a Press conference. "The two countries will be able to resume friendly exchanges between our people. We need to have confidence."

Cai, however, stressed that Abe's government is entirely responsible for the dismal state of Sino-Japanese relations and needs to correct its mistakes before mutual trust can be restored. "We should create an enabling environment for full cultural exchanges,"



China's Culture Minister Cai Wu holds a Press conference in Beijing on 10 Jan, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

he said. "But the right-wing tendency of Japanese politics, especially the wrong attitude actually taken by Abe's administration, has undermined such environment, which will inevitably have a bad impact on cultural exchanges." "The problem was not created by China. It was created

by Japan," he said, adding that "The ball is in Japan's court."

The minister's remarks came a day after it emerged that China has put off three cultural exchange programmes with Japan slated for this month to press the seriousness of its opposition to Abe's visit to Yasukuni Shrine on 26 December. The shrine in Tokyo honours 14 Class-A war criminals along with Japan's millions of war dead. China and South Korea, in particular, view it as symbolic of Japan's militarism and visits there by political figures as insensitive to the feelings of people in neighboring countries that suffered Japanese wartime aggression.

Cai said China has consistently held the position that history will "guide our future" and urged Abe

to learn lessons from the past. He also said friendly exchanges have dominated 2,000 years of historical ties between the two countries, adding that "only a small number of right-wing factions in Japan" are trying to turn the clock back to its past militarism. Cai was the first Chinese to hold a formal Cabinet-level meeting with Japan last September since Abe's government was formed about a year ago.

The visit to the shrine, which came on the first anniversary of Abe's taking office as prime minister and as China marked the 120th birthday of Mao Zedong, has made it even more difficult for the two countries to mend, any time soon, ties that have plummeted to the worst levels in many decades over conflicting claims to a group of small islands.

Kyodo News



Investigators wearing masks examine a sewer work site around a manhole in the Kurihama district in the city of Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 10 Jan, 2014. Four sewer maintenance workers were found lying earlier the same day near the manhole, where hydrogen sulfide was detected. — KYODO NEWS

Rain, snow continue in south China

BEIJING, 11 Jan — Most parts of southern China will continue to be hit by rain and snow in the next three days, the national observatory forecast on Saturday.

Rain and snow started to hit south China on Friday, bringing down temperatures in the provinces of Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said in a statement. From Saturday to Monday, light to moderate snow, or sleet will fall in the country's southwest, including some parts of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the West Sichuan Plateau, Guizhou and Yunnan, the NMC said.

Most parts to the south of Yangtze River, south China and Yunnan will be hit by light to moderate rain in the next few days.

The NMC also said that the central and eastern parts of China will be swept by a cold front, bringing down temperatures by up to 8 degrees Celsius. —Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (349)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (349) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Former spokesman for President Ronald Reagan dies



Former White House Press Secretary (far right) before the start of a ceremony in the White House Briefing Room, on 11 Feb, 2000. — REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — Larry Speakes, who took over as press secretary for President Ronald Reagan in 1981 after his predecessor was wounded in an assassination attempt against the president, died on Friday in Mississippi, a funeral home owner said.

Speakes, who had Alzheimer's disease, died in his sleep at his home in Cleveland, Mississippi, said Kenney Williams, owner of the Cleveland Funeral Home. He was 74.

Speakes joined the Reagan administration in 1981 as deputy press secretary after previously serving as vice president of public relations firm Hill and Knowlton. Later that year, he took over from James Brady as acting press secretary after Brady was wounded in the shooting attack on Reagan, and Speakes held the position until 1987.

He conducted some 2,000 daily press briefings, dealing with issues from the Iran-Contra scandal to the investigation into the bombing of Pan Am Flight

103 and Cold War relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

An announcement from the White House in 1987, when Speakes received the Presidential Citizens Medal, described him as "cool under pressure" and "conscientiously working to get the facts out."

In a statement, Ronald Reagan's widow, Nancy Reagan, called Speakes "an articulate and respected spokesman day in and day out, including some very historically significant moments." "I was saddened to learn about Larry, who served Ronnie with great loyalty in one of the toughest jobs in the White House," Reagan said. She said it was a source of "special sadness" to know Speakes suffered from Alzheimer's, which also afflicted Ronald Reagan.

More recently, Speakes was criticized for his response to the AIDS crisis when the disease that early on was associated with gay men first came up at a White House press briefing.

Reuters

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ASEAN Summit and related Summits Committee

Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ON SPONSORSHIP MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has assumed the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and will hold 24th ASEAN Summit and 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It will be the first time that Myanmar takes ASEAN Chairmanship since it joined ASEAN in 1997.

2. Myanmar has drawn great attention from the International community due to its significant reforms, abundant natural resources and historic and scenic beauties. Hosting of ASEAN Summits and related Summits will be a golden opportunity for the local and foreign companies to promote business and to further expand investment in Myanmar and to the Southeast Asia region.

3. In view of the above opportunities, bids are invited by the Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration for the selection of Sponsorship Management Consultant with the following terms and conditions:—

- (1) One bidder shall be selected as Sponsorship Management Consultant;
- (2) Closed Envelope Bidding shall be made on the following categories:-
 - (a) Computers and IT Products support;
 - (b) Internet services and Technical assistance;
 - (c) Conference Management;
 - (d) Food and Beverage;
 - (e) Billboards and Banners;
 - (f) Security equipments;
 - (g) Lighting facilities for Meeting Venue;
 - (h) Dresses for Liaison Officers, Security Officers and Drivers;
 - (i) Floral Services;
 - (j) Mobile Phone Hand sets and Sim Cards;
 - (k) Souvenirs;
 - (l) Meeting Document kits and Collaterals;
 - (m) Financial services and
 - (n) Others
- (3) Closed Envelope Bidding shall include the following:-
 - (a) Proposed Bidding and Quotations;
 - (b) Financial Background; and
 - (c) Company Profile.
- (4) The selected Sponsorship Management Consultant shall work on commission basis and deposit of USD 100,000 at the designated bank account after signing the Agreement.
- (5) No territorial limit of marketing sponsorship.
- (6) Deposit shall be refunded within 7 banking days after the event.

4. Bids shall be only on the official Bidding Form and to be delivered into the Tender Box located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw no later than (16:00) hours on 24 January, 2014.

5. Bids shall be opened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9 Nay Pyi Taw at on 27-31 January, 2014.

6. Announcement on the successful bidder will be made on 1 February 2014.

7. Official Bidding Form shall be available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.(9), Nay Pyi Taw during the office hour from (17-1-2014) to (24-1-2014) in payment of Kyat 10,000 (Kyat ten thousands).

8. Inquiry can be made at the following contact phone numbers;
067-412052; 067-412352; 067-412354

Secretary

Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration
ASEAN Summit and Related Summits Committee

US military advisers deployed to Somalia to help African forces

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — The US military has established a unit of fewer than five troops in Mogadishu to advise African and Somali forces as they try to take control of Somalia from the al-Qaeda-affiliated al Shabab militant group, a spokesman said on Friday.

Army Colonel Tom Davis, a spokesman for US Africa Command, said US forces began establishing the Mogadishu Coordinating Cell in October and it became fully operational in late December. The unit's establishment marks the first time US troops have been deployed to Somalia since 1994, when the last American forces withdrew from

the country several months after the so-called "Black Hawk Down" incident in which Somali militants shot down two helicopters and killed 18 US troops.

"The US has established a military coordination cell in Somalia to provide planning and advisory support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali security forces to increase their capabilities and promote peace and security throughout Somalia and the region," Davis said in a statement. A US military official said the size of the coordinating cell was fewer than five US military personnel.—Reuters



Tama, a cat "station master" at Wakayama Electric Railway Co's Kishi Station, is presented with a new station master's cap during a ceremony at the station in Kinokawa, Wakayama Prefecture, on 5 Jan, 2014, to mark seven years since the feline "took office," as her promotion to become "ultra" station master to head 14 stations on the railway's Kishigawa Line was announced. KYODO NEWS

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Miley Cyrus to feature in Marc Jacobs' campaign

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — Pop star Miley Cyrus has landed in a fashion campaign with luxury house Marc Jacobs.

She will feature in the fashion brand's spring-summer 2014 advertisements.

The campaign will show a softer side to the 21-year-old, reports contactmusic.com.

Cyrus has sported a fitted navy Marc Jacobs jacket and maroon-coloured short with toned down make-up for the campaign.—PTI

Taylor swift and her friend Ed Sheeran have worked together in album Red.

Taylor Swift won't feature in Ed Sheeran's album

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — British singer Ed Sheeran confirmed that his good friend Taylor Swift will not make a guest appearance in his new album like she did in his previous record.

Earlier this week, Sheeran had announced that he wants to surprise people with his upcoming album and any collaboration with the Red hit maker is unlikely, reported Ace Showbiz. "I didn't work with Taylor on the album."

I have done only one song with Taylor in last two years so I don't know if anyone would be too shocked by that", he said. "I just felt to surprise people and keep them intrigued," he explained. Sheeran and Swift have been good friends since they worked together for Swift's collaboration in Red album, called Everything Has Changed.—PTI

Huma Qureshi: Will cherish Dedh Ishqiya even after 20 years

MUMBAI, 11 Jan— Actress Huma Qureshi is proud of her latest movie Dedh Ishqiya, which came out on Friday (10 January), and says it will remain special even after 20 years.

"Lots of special memories. This is the film for which I keep saying that even after 20 years, when I am older, I will look back at the film very fondly and

be very proud of it," the 27-year old actress said on 9 January at the special screening of the film.

A sequel to the 2010 hit Ishqiya, Dedh Ishqiya, which also stars Madhuri Dixit, Naseeruddin Shah and Arshad Warsi, has opened to rave reviews.

Director Abhishek Chaubey helmed both the versions.—PTI

Huma plays the character of Muniya in Dedh Ishqiya.

Vanessa Hudgens was super low shooting for Gimme Shelter

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — Actress Vanessa Hudgens had put on weight and cut her hair for her role in Gimme Shelter and she says that the look of the

character made her feel like a complete disaster.

The 25-year-old, who played the role of a homeless pregnant teenager in the film, said that she was

not herself when she came back from the shoot, reports contactmusic.com.

"I didn't really know who I was. Vanessa was gone. I came home and I was a complete disaster", Bang Showbiz quoted Hudgens as saying.

The actress cut her hair for the film.

"My best friend still gets concerned about me when she thinks about that days because I was just a bit of a mess. I wasn't really comfortable in social situations and my self-esteem was super low because I had no hair and I had put on all this weight, so physically I didn't feel attrac-

The film Gimme Shelter is about a pregnant teenager

tive. And I was single", she added. Gimme Shelter revolves around a pregnant

teenager who runs away from her abusive mother to find her real father.—PTI

Anne Hathaway rescued from swimming accident in Hawaii

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan — Actress Anne Hathaway injured her foot while swimming on a holiday in Hawaii.

The 31-year-old, who has been holidaying on the island of Oahu with her husband Adam Shulman for several days, hurt herself after she got into difficulty in a strong rip current close to the beach.

Hathaway started screaming for help and a nearby surfer rushed to assist her back to safety, reports radaronline.com.

The eyewitnesses report that the Oscar-winner's husband was on the beach at the time and rushed with a first-aid kit as she was brought ashore. She was distressed as she came out of the water with a few minor wounds on her foot.

PTI

SPORTS

Title hopefuls Monaco held at lowly Montpellier

PARIS, 11 Jan — Monaco missed a chance to move level on points with Ligue 1 leaders Paris St Germain when they were held to a 1-1 draw by strugglers Montpellier on Friday.

Layvin Kurzawa's opener for the visitors after the break was cancelled out

by Montpellier's on-loan AC Milan forward M'Baye Niang, who followed up to score on his league debut after his penalty was saved by Danijel Subasic midway through the half.

Monaco stayed second in the standings with 42 points from 20 games,

two points behind PSG who travel to bottom club AC Ajaccio on Saturday (1600 GMT).

Montpellier, the 2012 champions, remained one place above the relegation zone in 17th with 18 points and are now four points clear of the bottom three.

"we can't be satisfied as we wanted all three points but we knew Montpellier would be aggressive,"

Montpellier's Mathieu Deplagne (L) challenges Layvin Kurzawa of Monaco during their French League soccer match at the Mosson Stadium in Montpellier, on 10 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS



Impatient Sharapova realistic on grand slam return

MELBOURNE, 11 Jan — Maria Sharapova happily admits that patience is not her strongest trait but the Russian will temper her expectations as she begins her Australian Open title campaign.

The 26-year-old missed the last few months of the 2013 season, including the US Open, with an injury to her right shoulder, the same shoulder that required surgery in 2008.

She made an impressive return to the WTA Tour last week by reaching the semi-finals in Brisbane before losing to world number



Maria Sharapova of Russia

one Serena Williams.

After another lengthy

absence, Sharapova knows better than to expect to hit top form immediately.

"You obviously have to lower your expectations a little bit and be a bit realistic about maybe the first few matches," she said at Melbourne Park on Saturday.

"You have to grind, work through them, hope to get better as the tournament goes on."

The Australian Open champion in 2008, Sharapova begins her campaign this year against American Bethanie Mattek-Sands, an opponent who has given her trouble in the past.

Monaco midfielder Joao Moutinho told BeIN Sport.

"Let's focus on keeping that second place for now but we still have the title in the back of our minds."

Monaco lead third-placed Lille, who host Stade Reims on Sunday, by two points.

After a dull opening half, Monaco went ahead when fullback Kurzawa headed home from James Rodriguez's free kick.

But Eric Abidal, again the weak spot in the Monaco defence, brought down Remy Cabella in the area in the 67th minute. Although Subasic parried 19-year-old Niang's penalty, the striker tapped in the rebound to earn a share of the points.

Reuters



Britain's Andy Murray.

Murray dampens expectations of Australian Open success

MELBOURNE, 11 Jan — Four months after back surgery, Wimbledon champion Andy Murray was understandably cautious on Saturday about his chances of reaching a fourth Australian Open final in five years.

The Briton goes into the first grand slam event of the year having played just two competitive matches since the surgery in September and said it would take him time to hit top form.

"Expectations are a bit different," Murray told reporters in Melbourne. "Obviously I need to be pretty patient with myself and not expect too much."

"But you never know. I've done a lot of training the last few months; it's just I haven't played many matches."

"If somehow I can work my way into the tour-

namment, feel a little bit better every day, then I might start to raise those expectations."

"But for now they're not going to be obviously as high as they were the last few years. I'll just concentrate on my first match."

Seeded fourth and drawn in the same half as top seed Rafa Nadal and Swiss Roger Federer, Murray begins his campaign against Japan's Go Soeda, ranked 112th in the world.

A kind draw in the first week gives the 26-year-old the chance to ease himself into the tournament, which begins on Monday, and Murray said it was possible he could click into gear fairly quickly. "It can come almost from one day to the next sometimes, or one tournament to the next," the 2012 US Open champion said.—Reuters

'Faster' Melbourne Park courts not to Rafa's taste

MELBOURNE, 11 Jan — World number one Rafa Nadal thinks Melbourne Park's resurfaced hardcourts are playing faster than ever and may not provide a good show for fans when the Australian Open begins on Monday. The speed of the blue Plexi-cushion courts has sparked debate this year, with some players adamant they have picked up in pace, while tournament director Craig Tiley says they were re-laid with exactly the same surface as previous years.

The prospect of slick courts, made even faster by baking heat forecast for the first week at Melbourne Park, has been welcomed by some players, including Roger Federer and Australian Lleyton Hewitt, but Spaniard Nadal made his displeasure clear.

"Completely different conditions than what I remembered of this tourna-

ment," the 27-year-old told reporters on Saturday of his training on the courts.

"Faster conditions that I ever played here in Australia."

"Well, I really don't understand very well why they change because the last couple of years, Australian Open had amazing matches, long ones, good ones for the crowd."

"I don't know why the people who decide to make the conditions that fast."

Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain

Free of favourite tag, Federer hopes to flourish in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 11 Jan — Armed with a new coach and bigger racket, Roger Federer hopes being in the unusual position of underdog will help him add to his record tally of 17 grand slam titles.

The Swiss has been overshadowed by Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic in recent years, winning only one grand slam title (Wimbledon 2012) since his 2010 victory Melbourne Park

and dropping to sixth in the world rankings.

However, the 32-year-old told reporters on Saturday that he could fly below the radar.

"I definitely have less pressure this year, less to lose," he said. "I'm not the defending champion or any of that."

"So I should be able to play more freely, and other guys are supposed to make their move or defend again,

all these things."

"Things are maybe a little bit more comfortable this year around. But at the same time maybe the draw becomes tougher in the process."

"But I'm happy I'm back here, I'm very proud of my grand slam streak (57 straight slams). I hope I can keep playing for a long time." Federer is playing with a slightly bigger racket-head but it is the addition



Roger Federer.

of former world number one Stefan Edberg to his coaching team which has caught the imagination of the tennis world. The unflappable Swede, who served and volleyed his way to six grand slam titles, is to work with Federer for 10 weeks this year, including the grand slams.—Reuters

centre back Mamadou Sakho set to return to the squad after a hamstring injury.

Striker Daniel Sturridge, who last featured in the Merseyside derby against Everton on 23 November, has also resumed training and will be assessed ahead of the weekend.

Reuters

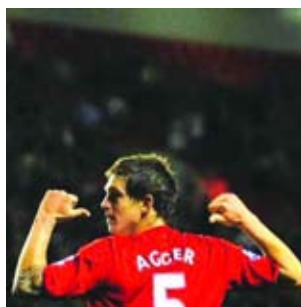
Liverpool defender Agger out for up to a month

LONDON, 11 Jan — Liverpool defender Daniel Agger has been ruled out for up to four weeks with a calf injury, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Friday.

The Denmark centre back limped off 10 minutes from the end of their 2-0 FA Cup third-round victory over Oldham Athletic at Anfield on Sunday.

"Daniel will probably be out three to four weeks," Rodgers told a news conference. "Unfortunately he has picked up a calf problem so he will be out for a while."

There was better news for fourth-placed Liverpool on the injury front ahead of their Premier League trip to Stoke City on Sunday with



Liverpool's Daniel Agger

GENERAL

Mother tongue gives taste of home

BEIJING, 11 Jan — Dialects have their limitations, but they also have their place in our culture. While social mobility is working against them, it seems rash to relentlessly push them over the cliff of usefulness. A recent proclamation from the regulating agency for the television industry has made it clear that hosts for TV shows must not use dialects, but Mandarin (Putonghua) only.

This surprised me a bit because, living in Beijing, I have not heard any programmes in dialects. When I was growing up in Zhejiang Province, I could tune in to radio programs in the Shanghai dialect; and while I was a graduate student in Guangzhou, a few TV shows were in Cantonese.



As far as I know, dialect programs have always been in a small minority. I used to hold a very negative opinion on dialects. There are scholarly studies on the number of dialects in China, but that really depends on how you define a dialect. Where I grew up, you could cycle for half an hour and the popular pronouns would begin to change. People could tell

where you were from simply by the way you said “I” and “you” and “he”. And that was not fun. It means a cluster of villages have their own variation of a dialect. Naturally, the farther you travel, the more difference you'll encounter in terms of the speaking tongue, until you reach a place where it is virtually incomprehensible.

Xinhua

North Carolina police say teenager in custody shot himself

DURHAM, 11 Jan — A teenage suspect who died in North Carolina while he was handcuffed in the back of a police car shot himself in the head with a gun he hid from an officer, according to a police report released on Friday.

Jesus Huerta died on 19 November after he was arrested on an outstanding warrant for trespassing. His family had called authorities and reported that he ran away from home and requested police search for him.

Huerta's case triggered

several protests in recent months over police conduct in Durham. The release of the report followed repeated calls from Huerta's family for more details about the circumstances of his death.

The preliminary results of the Durham Police Department's internal investigation indicate that an officer who arrested and searched Huerta failed to find a gun he had hidden on him.

In presenting the report, Deputy Police Chief Anthony Marsh used still

photographs taken by Arkansas police in a case there to illustrate how a suspect might be able to shoot himself while handcuffed.

“Not only can it be done, it has been done,” Marsh said.

Alexander Charns, a lawyer representing Huerta's family, dismissed the findings and called the report a “whitewash wrapped in a cover-up.”

“The tiny truths in there are intertwined with half-truths and misdirection,” he said in a statement.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(12-1-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am	3:00 pm
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	18. News
6:25 am	3:15 pm
2. Physical Exercises	19. Mono Classical Songs
6:40 am	3:35 pm
3. Documentary	20. Teleplay
7:00 am	4:00 pm
4. News/Weather Report	21. News
7:25 am	4:15 pm
5. (38) Phyar Mingalars	22. Performance with Song
8:00 am	4:20 pm
6. News/ International News	23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Years (Botany)
8:30 am	4:45 pm
7. Amazing World	24. Documentary (SEA Games) (Part-2)
9:00 am	5:00 pm
8. News/ International News	25. News
9:30 am	5:15 pm
9. Beautiful ASEAN	26. Sing & Enjoy
9:45 am	6:00 pm
10. Documentary	27. News/Weather Report
10:00 am	6:30 pm
11. News	28. Cartoon Series
10:15 am	7:00 pm
12. Documentary	29. News
10:35 am	7:20 pm
13. Teleplay (Health)	30. Teleplay
11:05 am	8:00 pm
14. Gitadagale Phwintbaohhn	31. News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:00 am	8:35 pm
15. News/ International News/ Weather Report	32. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
12:30 pm	9:00 pm
16. Round Up of The Week's International News	33. News
12:40 pm	34. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
17. Myanmar Movies	35. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

12-1-14 07:00 am ~ 13-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Bago....Still Steeped In Legend And History
- * World News
- * I'm In Love with Diamond
- * Local News
- * A visit to Ye
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Sunee
- * Local News
- * Shop Shop Shop - Bogyoke Market
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-2)
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady: Kalayar Moe
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - The Planetary Posts
- * World News
- * [Doctor] [Painter]
- * Local News
- * Ar Khar New Year Festival
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure - Inlay Lake (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"
- * Local News
- * Travels In Monywa - Moe Hnyin Sambudhe Pagoda
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith

Serena zips her lip after scorches follow Melbourne shivers

MELBOURNE, 11 Jan — A subdued Serena Williams vowed never again to complain about Melbourne's changeable weather after her grumbles on an unseasonably chilly summer's day were followed by several days of scorching heat. The world number one, and hot favourite to win her sixth title at Melbourne Park after a brilliant 2013, tweeted her disdain for the cold when arriving in Melbourne earlier this week from subtropical Brisbane.

Back down to a cool 20 degrees Celsius (68 Fahrenheit) on Saturday after several sweltering days, the heat is expected

to return with a vengeance on Monday, when the Australian Open kicks off, and remain for much of the first week. “(The cold's) been putting me in a really bad mood. But then it got really, really hot. I was very sad that I complained, so I don't complain any more about the weather,” she smiled at reporters during her pre-tournament media conference.

“I'm not (looking forward to the heat). That's why I said I'm not going to complain any more. I should have kept my mouth quiet and dealt with the cold weather.” “I shiver, then I just stay indoors. I travel with a blanket. If I go

out to eat, I just always take my blanket with me.”

Williams, who like many of the world's top players calls balmy Florida home, prepared for Melbourne Park with a dominant defence of her Brisbane International title, where she defeated Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka, the players rated her two biggest obstacles to an 18th grand slam title.

Winning at Melbourne Park would see her join Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova with 18 grand slam singles crowns. “It would mean a lot to be on the same level as such great players as Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova,” said

Williams. “I still have a lot of work to do. I obviously want to be able to reach that level, but I'm not there yet. Hopefully I'll get there.”

Top seed at Melbourne Park, the 32-year-old has been robbed of further silverware at Melbourne Park due to a combination of injuries and illness in the past three years. “I just wasn't able to stay on two feet, literally,” said Williams, who won the last of her five Melbourne Park titles in 2010.

“So I just think that just this year I've been doing a lot of exercises for my ankles and trying to make sure that they're pretty stabilised to get used to this.”

On opposite sides of



Serena Williams of the US

the draw, second seed Azarenka and Williams would meet in the final if they advance that far.

Low-key and brief with her responses to reporters' questions, Williams perked up for a moment when asked about her rivalry with Azarenka, who won two of their five matches last year but has never beaten the

American in eight encounters at the grand slams.

“I think Victoria is great,” said Williams, who faces Australian wildcard Ashleigh Barty in the first round on Monday. “She obviously plays really great on the hardcourt. I think we have a really special thing going on currently right now.”—Reuters

Myanmar athletes bring new hopes to nation, says Vice-President U Nyan Tun

YANGON, 11 Jan— Myanmar athletes who showed the sportsmanship in the previous XXVII SEA Games hosted by Myanmar brought new hopes for nation building, Vice-President U Nyan Tun praised athletes who represented the country in the SEA Games.

The Vice-President, who is also the patron of the leading committee of the SEA Games, made the comment in a ceremony to honour the athletes who participated in the Nay Pyi Taw SEA Games at Myanmar Convention Centre here today.

Myanmar won 233 medals—86 gold, 62 silver and 85 bronze medals—in the SEA Games.

The Vice-President acknowledged the efforts of each sports federation for

supporting athletes.

He congratulated the athletes who won medals in the SEA Games while acknowledging the hard work of athletes who missed out on medals.

The ceremony was sponsored by a number of individual donors.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun awarded the prizes and certificates of honour and trio gold medalist Wushu player Maung Wai Phyo Aung, on behalf of all athletes, spoke words of thanks.

A total of K 2127.2 million was awarded to athletes who represented the nation.

The ceremony was also attended by the Yangon Region Chief Minister, deputy ministers and top government officials.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun greets victorious Myanmar athletes.—MNA

Measures taken for peace, stability in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan — Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for Implementing Peace, Stability and Development Tasks in Rakhine State Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Bertrand Bainvel discussed matters related to measures being taken for

the rule of law and development in Rakhine State at the Rakhine State Government office in Sittway on 9 January.

They also met with local people from Myebon and visited Kantha and Taungpaw camps of internally displaced people yesterday. During the visits, they distributed blankets to the displaced people.

They also visited the camps of the displaced people in Sittway and the training school for youths of national people on 11 January. During the visit, they presented cash assistance to the school.

After the trips, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Mr Bertrand Bainvel reviewed the situation in Rakhine State.

MNA

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum (MDCF) on late January

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan— First meeting of Leading Committee for holding 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum (MDCF) that will include development partnerships, NGOs, social organizations and UN agencies was held at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development yesterday.

Committee Chairman Union Minister Dr Kan

Zaw said that economic and social reform framework and short- and long-term plans were laid down in 1st Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum. Development partnerships and organizations also discussed cooperation for comprehensive development of Myanmar and Nay Pyi Taw Accord was released. The forum's topic is to discuss how to use aids presented by the donors. The NPED ministry is responsible for holding the forum and cooperation of relevant ministries is crucial, he added. He continued that logistics and administrative arrangements (draft) will discuss at the forum and requested to send data to be discussed in the forum not later than 20 January.

Union Minister at President Office U Soe

Thane underlined to cooperate with development partnerships for availability of electricity and purified drinking water.

Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun disclosed that the results from 1st MDCF are much beneficial to the country, urging the participants to effectively use development aids provided by the partnerships in the interests of the people without any wastage. The deputy ministers clarified arrangements for entry visa, interpreter, arrival visa, accommodation, air ticket, invitation of media, advertisement, security measures among others.

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum will be held at Myanmar International Convention Center in the last week this month.—MNA

Construction and Housing Development Bank opens head office in Yangon



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party open Construction and Housing Development Bank.—MNA



YANGON, 11 Jan — Construction and Housing Development Bank opens its head office in Dagon Township here this morning.

The opening of the bank would help to ensure the financial flow to the de-

veloper market to be able to speed up housing projects which is playing an important role in uplifting the living standard of the people, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

According to the statistics, private developers

have built over 7000 units of apartments every year in Yangon where 30 percent of the country's urban population is living.

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint

Swe, Deputy Ministers for Construction U Soe Tint and Dr Win Myint, Yangon Region Minister for Finance Daw San San Nwe, Chairman of the bank U Min Sein and officials concerned formally opened the office.—MNA

Media accreditation cards for AMM

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan— News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, accepts applications for media accreditation of local and foreign correspondents and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club who will cover the news from the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Bagan of NyaungU District.

The correspondents are to submit recommendations of respective media to take out the cards at the Nanmyint Tower of Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan, not later than 14 January during the office hours.

The information released on the meeting is available at www.asean2014.gov.mm and www.moi.gov.mm in time.—MNA