

# The New Light of Myanmar

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Volume XXI, Number 279

5<sup>th</sup> Waning of Pyatho 1375 ME

Monday, 20 January 2014



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla greet Myanmar athletes.  
MYAWADY

## C-in-C honours Myanmar medalists

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla together with Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai enjoyed final events of women's and men's volley-

ball sitting events and wheelchair basketball at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex here today.

Myanmar secured gold at men's volleyball sitting event and silver at women's volleyball sitting.

The Senior General awarded K 3 million to the gold medalists and K 1 million to silver medalists.

The Senior General and wife had a documentary photo taken together with the sport members. —Myawady



Gold medalist Ko Aung Myo in men's volleyball sitting.—PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN

## Yangon to see economically strategic river crossing bridge

According to Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin's report on the second day of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ninth regular session, the Ministry of Construction is, with the use of ADB's assistance to Myanmar, planning to build a river crossing bridge (Pazundaung-Dawbon-Thakayta bridge) that will contribute towards swift flow of commodities to Yangon and Thilawa Ports that offer mooring

services for ocean-going vessels.

"As the already-built river crossing bridges are capable of withstanding a 60-ton load only, the bridges' capacity to withstand loads is lower than the present urban commodity flow volumes. As vehicles carrying more than 60 tons of load are passing over Maha Bandoola bridge with a capacity of withstanding a maximum of 60 tons, it could affect the bridge's weight capacity in future.

So, arrangements is being made to build a new bridge," said Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Zaw regarding a plan to build one more river crossing bridge.

In accord with the economic point of view, the ministry will construct over 1000 feet long bridges that can withstand 75-ton of load in commercial city of Yangon apart from building economically important roads and bridges. The bridge will help real-

**Byline:**  
**Saw Thein Win**

ize the strategic benefits of Yangon's economic development.

The new river crossing bridge will be a facility with a capacity to carry 75 tons of load, he added.

The bridge will be built with the aim of ensuring the development of national economy in future. It is envisaged that there will be smooth and speedy flow of imported

and exported goods from and to Yangon Port while transporting goods to upper and lower parts of Myanmar thanks to the bridge.

It is planned to implement construction projects of more than 1000 feet long bridges across the country. The new projects include construction of Chindwin Bridge (Kalewa), Thamo river crossing bridge, Thanlwin river crossing bridge (Chaungzon), Kokkwa Bridge, two bridges on Hlaingbwe-Shwegun road, Thamayoe Bridge on Monywa-Ayadaw-Shwebo road, six bridges on Yangon-Kyaukpau road and Thakayta Bridge on Pazundaung-Dawbon road.

Kyemon: 19-1-2014

Trs:YM

Photo shows an aerial view of the Pazundaung creek in Yangon.



## Fire drill exercised at furniture, plywood factories in Shwepyitha Tsp



YANGON, 19 Jan—A fire drill was held at No 6, 7 and 9 Furniture Factories of Wood-based Industries and No 3 Plywood Factory in Watayar Industrial Region of Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region on 16 January.

It was attended by manager in-charge U Than Naing of the factories and factory managers, head of Township Fire Services

Department U Myo Myint Aung and staff, members of Fire Services Department and workers totalling 150.

The manager in-charge and the head of Township FSD made speeches.

Members of Fire Brigade and workers of the factories participated in the fire drill.

The fire drills are held at the factories every Friday.

MMAL-166

## Drug Free Zone signboard put up in Thaton

THATON, 19 Jan—A ceremony to put up the signboard on Drug Free Zone was held in Taungsun Village of Thaton Township, Mon State, on 17 January.

District Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Thein Zaw and local authorities, teachers, students, members of social organizations and local people attended the ceremony.

District Drug Elimination Committee Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin made a speech.

Similar signboards were put up in Thayettaw, Daybarein, Kyauktan and Aungsai villages.

Plans are underway to erect more signboards in the remaining villages.

MMAL-District IPRD

## MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY 72<sup>nd</sup> Central Council Meeting

23-24 January, 2014

Assembly Hall

Myanmar Red Cross Society (Headquarters),  
Nay Pyi Taw

## Health care services provided to local people in Tachilek Tsp



TACHILEK, 19 Jan—A team led by Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun and officials made a field trip to grassroots level in Tachilek Township on 18 January.

At Basic Education Primary School in Peinnyaung Village of Mongphon Village-tract (A) of Tachilek Township, they provided health care services to Palaung national people.

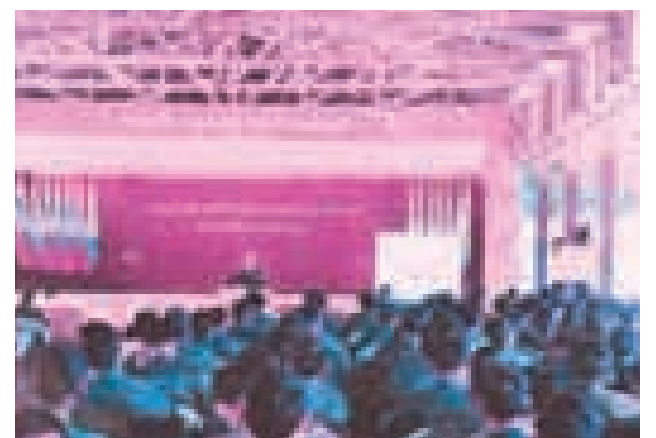
Specialists gave medical treatment to the local people free of charge and Tachilek Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated iodized

salt, egg and nutritious foods to the people. The state minister and the head of Shan State Health Department together with departmental officials and local authorities also made field trips to Golden Triangle

Paradise Hotel, Myanmar-Laos-Thai border post, Wampon Village Basic Education Primary School and Wampon People's Hospital and attended to the needs.

MMAL-Maung Yin Kyay

## Census taking process explained



MOHNYIN, 19 Jan—Mohnyin District Census Committee of Kachin State held a talk on taking census and housing matters at No 15 Infantry Regiment in Nampok Village of Mohnyin Township on 17 January.

Officials explained aims of taking census and peace process of the State.

It was attended by military officers of local station and departmental officials, totalling 277.

MMAL-District IPRD

## Mobile library gives service to readers

THATON, 19 Jan—A mobile library of Thaton District Information and Public Relations Department gives service to

the readers in townships of the district daily except public holidays.

Thanks to the mobile library, the local people

have easy access to various subjects of books, said U Thein Han of Nankhe Ward of Thaton.

MMAL-District IPRD

## cash donated to construction of school building in Myittha



MYITTHA, 19 Jan—Great Wall Co Ltd donated K 15 million to the fund for construction of a school building of Basic Education High School Branch in Thalun Village of Myittha Township, Mandalay Region, on 18 January morning.

Wellwisher U Tin Maung of Great Wall Co Ltd donated K 15 million to Patron of the School Board of Trustees U Soe Nyunt.

Township Administrator U Moe Oo and wellwisher U Tin Maung of Great Wall Co Ltd explained purpose of donations.

The school was allowed to open the BEHS Branch

in 2013-14 academic year. About 750 students from 17 villages of Myittha and Wundwin townships are learning education at the school.

As the school needs school buildings for the students, the buildings are being built on a self-reliant basis.

A-1 family donated K 7.5 million, Hlaing Co K 7.5 million, U Toke Paing K 2.5 million, 18 wellwishers K 8.9 million and people K 6.8 million.

It was estimated that the school building will cost over K 70 million.

MMAL-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

## Stake driven for construction of law office in Hpa-an

HPA-AN, 19 Jan—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the law office was held in Hpa-an of Kayin State recently.

The staff quarter will be built on 47x25x20 feet plot in Yekyawkwin field of Ward 9 near highway bus terminal in Hpa-an Township.

It will cost K 69.7 million for the two-storey building plus toilet supplied with electricity and water.

Swan Ye Wint Company will construct the building at a cost of

K 68.6 million.

Chief Justice of Kayin State High Court U Saw San Lin, Judge of the high court U Thein Ko Ko and State Law Officer U Ohn Thaung and judges of the district and township drove stake for the building.—MMAL-Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)



## WORLD

## Obama tells Merkel, Germans he will not wiretap

BERLIN, 19 Jan — US President Barack Obama told Germans and their leader on Saturday he would not let intelligence work damage relations, and differences of opinion between the two countries was no reason to wiretap.

In a rare interview on German TV, Obama set out to mend ties frayed last year by media reports citing leaked intelligence documents that Washington was spying on European Union citizens and had bugged Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone. "I must and cannot damage

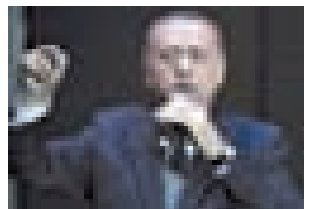
this relationship through surveillance measures that obstruct our trusting communication," Obama told ZDF public TV, according to a German translation of his comments.

"As long as I am the President of the United States, the German Chancellor need not worry about that," he added. The interview came a day after Obama banned US eavesdropping on the leaders of close allies, among a series of reforms triggered by the revelations of former US security contractor Edward Snowden.

## Turkey purges regulators, state TV in graft probe backlash

ANKARA, 19 Jan — Turkey has extended a purge of official bodies to the banking and telecoms regulators and state TV, firing dozens of executives in moves that appear to broaden Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's backlash against a corruption investigation.

The authorities have already reassigned thousands of police officers and about 20 prosecutors, and fired some state television officials in re-



Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan addresses a meeting in Istanbul on 17 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

sponse to the corruption investigation, the biggest challenge to Erdogan's 11-year rule.

Investigators are believed to have been looking into allegations of corruption and bribery involving trade in gold with Iran and big real estate projects, although full details of their charges have not been made public.

The combative prime minister says the investigations, which began a month ago with arrests of high profile figures including the sons of three of his cabinet ministers, are part of an attempted "judicial coup". His opponents say they fear a purge of official bodies will destroy the independence of the judiciary, police and media.

Reuters



US President Barack Obama speaks about the National Security Agency from the Justice Department in Washington on 17 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Obama's comments on Saturday were his clearest indication that Germany was included in that list of allies. Merkel and he "may not always be of the same opinion on issues of foreign policy, but that is no reason to wiretap," he told ZDF.

The German leader ac-

cused the United States of an unacceptable breach of trust after the allegations about her mobile in October and phoned Obama to tell him any bugging was unacceptable. Berlin has since been pushing for a sweeping "no-spy" agreement with Washington.—Reuters

## Former Japanese army straggler Hiroo Onoda dies at 91



TOKYO, 17 Jan—Hiroo Onoda, a former Imperial Japanese Army intelligence officer who continued fighting on a Philippine island for decades after Japan's surrender in World War II, died of heart failure at a Tokyo hospital Thursday afternoon, his family said on Friday. He was 91.

Onoda, who hailed from Wakayama Prefecture, returned to Japan in March 1974, after hav-

ing remained on Lubang Island in the northwestern Philippines for nearly 29 years after the end of the war without knowledge of Japan's surrender. Onoda was drafted in 1942 and received training at the army's Nakano School for intelligence officers and was sent to the island in 1944.

After returning to Japan, Onoda emigrated in 1975 to Brazil, where he ran a farm.

Since 1984, he had organized "Onoda Shizen Juku," or Onoda nature school, throughout Japan for nature and life education. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference, "I vividly remember that I was reassured of the end of the war when Mr Onoda returned to Japan."

Kyodo News

## Voting to pick new Nago mayor begins, US base relocation the focus

NAGO, (Japan), 19 Jan — Voters started casting ballots on Sunday to pick the leader of the city of Nago in Okinawa Prefecture, in a crucial election that will hand down a public verdict on the planned relocation of a US Marine base to the city.

The election pits Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine, 68, who opposes the construction of a new US military facility in the city's Henoko District, against Bunshin Suematsu, 65, a former Okinawa prefectural assembly member who backs the relocation plan. Inamine is seeking a second four-year term.

The closely watched mayoral election comes soon after Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima's decision last month to approve the central government's application for landfill work to build the facility.

The decision marked a step forward for the long-

stalled deal struck in 1996 between Tokyo and Washington to move the base. But the central government appears worried that despite Nakaima's approval, Inamine's victory could delay the landfill work.

Nakaima, along with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, have thrown their support to Suematsu, who stressed in his stump speech on Saturday that he "wants to create a new Nago." Suematsu said he will be able to make use of his connections with the central government to revitalize Nago's economy.

In a barbed reference to that government support for Suematsu, Inamine said in his stump speech on the eve of the election, "The residents will be the ones to choose their Nago mayor." And he was cheered and applauded by supporters when he said, "Nago residents are against Henoko."

Kyodo News



A steam locomotive runs through the snow-covered Kushiro Marsh in the town of Teshikaga in eastern Hokkaido, Japan, on 18 Jan, 2014. The locomotive on the JR Senmo Line began operating to attract tourists in winter. The Kushiro Marsh is the first Japanese marshland registered under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.—KYODO NEWS

## Japan informed int'l body of terrorism conspiracy law plan

TOKYO, 19 Jan — Japan informed an international body last summer of its intention to enact anti-terrorism legislation to punish those with even minor involvement in criminal plots, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

Last summer Japan told the Financial Action Task Force, which develops and promotes policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, that it would speed up efforts to develop legislation against terrorism, accord-

ing to a government source.

In December 2000, Japan signed a UN treaty aimed at fighting international organized crime. However bills aimed at punishing not just those who commit crimes, but those who take part only in plotting them, have since been defeated in parliament. The stalemate in Japan led to the visit by the FATF delegates in August 2013.

The FATF's plenary meeting is scheduled for 9-14 February in Paris, where Japan is expected

to explain what action it will take to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. But Tokyo will stop short of going into details over how to deal with conspiracy charges. The sources said there is a view within government that Japan should live up to the commitment made to the FATF. But critics caution that Japanese citizens may increasingly be put under state surveillance if conspiracy charges apply in a wider range of situations.

Kyodo News

## At least 28 people injured in 2 bomb blasts in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 19 Jan — At least 28 people were injured Sunday in two bomb blasts at a key antigovernment protest site in Bangkok.

According to police, the two bomb attacks occurred around 1:30 pm at the main protest stage of the Victory Monument. Bangkok's Medical Center said at least three people were in critical condition.

Local media quoted one of the protest leaders, Thavorn Senniam, as saying he was apparently the target of the first bomb, which was hurled in his direction while

he was sitting at the back of the stage with a group of journalists.

The second bomb was hurled as people were running away, Thavorn said.

It was the second bomb attack on the protesters in three days. A bomb attack on the antigovernment protesters Friday killed one person and injured 39 others.

The protesters, led by former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, have held the government responsible for the bomb attack on Friday. The

government has denied the accusation.

Deputy Prime Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul said on state-run television Sunday that the bomb attack was aimed at defaming the government.

Since the political violence in Bangkok erupted in early November, nine people have been killed and over 500 people injured.

The protesters took to the streets of the capital in November after the lower house of parliament passed a controversial amnesty bill.

Kyodo News



## Military sticks to sidelines in Thai crisis, protests continue



*An anti-government protester raises his fist during a rally outside the Government House in Bangkok on 19 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS*

BANGKOK, 19 Jan — Thailand's military chief urged both sides in the country's prolonged political crisis to settle their differences, with signs that opposition protests against the government could be running out of steam.

Anti-government firebrand Suthep Thaugsuban led thousands in a march through the Thai capital on Sunday, demanding Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra step down.

But the overall size of the protest numbers has been tailing off. At one major protest site on Saturday night, the number of demonstrators was in the dozens, with one closed-off street largely filled with food and t-shirt vendors.

"Now, all of us need to help each other in taking care of our own nation," supreme armed forces commander Thanasak Patimapakorn told local reporters after Saturday's Army Day

parade. His comments followed Friday's grenade explosion in the capital that wounded 35 anti-government protesters and killed one, a sudden flare-up of violence in more than two months of protests against Yingluck's government. It brings the death toll to nine since November.

"The relationship between the government and the army is normal ... We need to respect law and order. I myself respect the law and I respect all sides and I request that all sides should come together and talk to find a solution," Thanasak said. Separately, the *Bangkok Post* daily quoted Thanasak as saying he had no interest in becoming Prime Minister himself and acting as mediator in the latest episode in an eight-year conflict.

Speculation has been rife that the military might step in to end the impasse, which is beginning to take its toll on Southeast Asia's second-largest economy.

*Reuters*



*Snow-covered gasho-zukuri farmhouses in Shirakawa-go, Gifu Prefecture, are lit up during an annual event on 18 Jan, 2014. The traditional houses with steep thatched roofs, some of which are more than 250 years old, are designed to withstand the large amount of heavy snow. The Shirakawa-go and neighbouring Gokayama regions were declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1995.*

*KYODO NEWS*

## Syria's Assad warns against growing religious radicalism

DAMASCUS, 19 Jan — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Saturday that the Syrian society will not tolerate the radical religious mentality, warning that of the impact of the growing extremism on the region's country, according to the official SANA news agency.

Assad said that the Syrian society will never accept the radical mentality, adding that this dangerous mentality does not only threaten Syria but also all of the region's countries.

Speaking during a meeting with a visiting

delegation of the Anglican Church comprising clergymen from the US, Sweden, Switzerland, Lebanon and Syria, Assad said that one of the main problems regarding the western is that most of their leaders are far from comprehending the reality and nature of the region and the interests of its peoples.

He stressed that the majority of the western leaders are working to achieve their "narrow interests" which are far from the interests of their peoples and countries, said SANA.

For their part, members of the delegation expressed their solidarity with Syria and rejection of any foreign intervention in the Syrian affairs, hoping that peace and security will prevail again in this country, which represents a model for cultural and religious variety, according to SANA.

The Syrian government has repeatedly warned of the danger of the growing terrorism not only on itself but on regional and international countries alike.

*Xinhua*

### Water leakage found inside No 3 reactor of Fukushima plant

TOKYO, 19 Jan — Water that could contain radioactive material has been pouring into a drain on the first floor of the No. 3 reactor building at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, Tokyo Electric Power said on Saturday.

The camera of a rubble-removing robot operating inside the building captured the 30-centimeter wide water leak, according to TEPCO, the plant operator. It said the water had not leaked outside the building.

TEPCO has been pouring cooling water on the No 1 to 3 reactors to cool melted fuel, and water has been seen leaking through damaged parts of the No 3 reactor's containment vessel.

TEPCO is investigating whether the water spotted by the camera is leaking cooling water. The radiation level on the first floor of the No 3 reactor was a relatively high 30 millisieverts per hour. TEPCO said the amount of radioactive material in the just-found water is unknown because the radiation level inside the reactor building is already high.—Kyodo News

## No other candidate for presidency in upcoming elections

CAPE TOWN, 19 Jan — South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) would not field another candidate rather than President Jacob Zuma in the upcoming elections, the party's deputy secretary general Jesse Duarte said on Saturday.

Duarte denied reports that the ANC did not want Zuma to lead the organization.

Zuma is the party's only candidate for the presidency in the elections expected to be held in April.

The ANC fully supports Zuma to run for the presidency, Duarte said at the launch of the party's

Western Cape manifesto at Delft township on the outskirts of Cape Town.

Zuma, also the ANC's president who was elected in 2009, will start his second term if his party wins the next election.

"There are people who say we don't want our President, the policy is that the President of the ANC is always the candidate for the election. We don't have another candidate and there will be no other candidate. Let us be clear," said Duarte.

She was speaking amid signs that support for the ANC and Zuma had been waning.

According to a *Sunday Times* survey last month, only 55 percent of those who voted for the ANC in 2009, plan to do so again in the next elections.

Another thing that worries the ANC is that Zuma was booed at the memorial service of former late South African president Nelson Mandela on 10 December.

Despite all this, the ANC as the only dominant police force in the country is set to win the next elections, but probably with less electoral support.

In the last elections in 2009, the ANC won more than 60 percent of the votes.

*Xinhua*



*Yemeni soldiers stand guard in front of the Iranian Ambassador's residence in Sanaa, capital of Yemen, on 18 Jan, 2014. An Iranian diplomat died on Saturday after he was seriously wounded in a drive-by shooting in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, an interior ministry official told Xinhua.—XINHUA*

## Brazil bomb scare spurs emergency landing, brief airport closure

SAO PAULO, 19 Jan — A bomb threat left in a Brazilian airport caused a TAM Airlines flight to make an emergency landing and briefly closed the airport in the Amazonian city of Manaus on Saturday, five months before the country hosts the World Cup soccer tournament. A note that said a bomb was onboard TAM flight 3540 was found in a bathroom at Brasilia's Juscelino Kubitschek Airport, airport officials said.

That flight, which had already left Brasilia bound for Boa Vista, evacuated passengers via emergency

slides when it landed on the runway at Eduardo Gomes Airport in Manaus. The Manaus airport had reopened at 4 pm Brasilia time (1800 GMT) after no explosive device was found on the plane, a spokeswoman for the Infraero national airport authority said. She also said no other airports were affected. TAM spokeswoman Fernanda Feres said passengers on the affected plane had been rebooked on another flight leaving for Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima state, on Saturday. TAM is the local unit of LATAM Airlines Group.—Reuters



*Photo taken on 18 Jan, 2014 shows a vehicle's broken glass due to an explosion in Sanhe City, north China's Hebei Province. An explosion happened in a restaurant in north China's Hebei Province on Saturday, killing one person and injuring 31, two of whom critically. An initial investigation showed that a gas leak in the kitchen may have caused the blast.—XINHUA*



## WORLD



Women work at a cigar factory in Esteli, 140 km north of Managua, capital of Nicaragua, on 17 Jan, 2014. The tobacco industry in Nicaragua has grown fast in recent years, reporting annual exports worth 120 million dollars and creating about 35,000 tobacco-related jobs, according to the local Press. —XINHUA

## Ex-Tokyo Gov Inose gave 5 mil yen to mediator after governor race

TOKYO, 19 Jan —Former Tokyo Gov Naoki Inose, who resigned last year over his receipt of 50 million yen from Japan's largest hospital group, gave 5 million yen to a person who arranged a meeting for Inose with the group's founder, immediately after the Tokyo gubernatorial election in December 2012, the recipient said on Saturday.

Inose, 67, may have used part of the 50 million yen from the hospital chain Tokushukai for the 5 million yen paid to Mitsuhiro Kimura, leader of the right-wing political group Issui-kai.

If confirmed, the transaction contradicts Inose's account that the 50 million yen was "totally untouched" after his late wife put the

money in a safety-deposit box until it was returned.

Kimura, who arranged the meeting between Inose and Tokushukai founder Torao Tokuda, told *Kyodo News* he asked Inose's wife to lend 5 million yen and later received the money without a document on borrowing.

Kimura said he used about half of the money for operating costs of the group.

Inose's wife died last July. In September last year when a secretary of Inose was preparing to return the 50 million yen to Tokushukai, the secretary noticed that 5 million yen was missing.

Kimura told the secretary at that time he had borrowed 5 million yen and

later compensated for the money.

Inose has said he met with Torao Tokuda, 75, on 6 November, 2012, and received the 50 million yen from his son Takeshi Tokuda, a House of Representative member, on 20 November.

Tokushukai is at the centre of another election violation case involving the younger Tokuda, in which some family members, including his mother, have been indicted for allegedly buying votes in the 2012 general election.

Inose has repeatedly said he borrowed the 50 million yen in a personal capacity and the money was not reported as election campaign funds to authorities. —*Kyodo News*

## 22 killed, 65 wounded in bombing attacks in Iraq's capital

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan — At least 22 people were killed and 65 others wounded in a wave of violent attacks in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Saturday, police said.

The deadliest blast occurred in the Mansour District of western Baghdad, leaving six civilians killed and 12 others injured, a police source told *Xinhua*.

Four civilians were

killed and 13 others wounded when a car bomb went off in the Topchi area of northern Baghdad, while three were killed and 12 others were wounded during a car bombing in the Utaifiyya area, also in northern Baghdad, the source said.

Two mortars struck the Adeal neighbourhood of western Baghdad, leaving three killed and nine others

injured.

Also in western Baghdad, two civilians were killed and 10 wounded when a car bomb exploded in the Jamah District, while one civilian was killed and five others wounded by a roadside bomb in the Amiriya District.

Meanwhile, another car bomb attacked the Nahda area of eastern Baghdad,

leaving three people killed and four wounded.

Iraq is witnessing its worst violence in recent years. According to the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, a total of 8,868 Iraqis, including 7,818 civilians and civilian police personnel, were killed in 2013, marking highest annual death toll in years.

*Xinhua*

## Alert remains as smog persists

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China's top meteorological authority on Sunday continued to warn of smoggy weather that has battered parts of China for days.

The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) issued a yellow alert for smog on Sunday morning, the fourth straight day such an alert has been announced.

Smog will persist in the day time in parts of Hebei, Tianjin, Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui, Shanghai,

Zhejiang, Hubei and Hunan, the NMC said.

The NMC advised people in the affected regions to wear masks. It forecast that smog will ease on Monday thanks to a moderately strong north wind, which will lead to a drop in temperature.

China's meteorological disaster alerts are categorized as blue, yellow, orange and red as the severity of disasters ascends.

*Xinhua*



A group of Japanese citizens displaced by the 2011 disaster that ravaged Japan's northeast put boxes of clothing into a truck in Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture, on 14 Jan, 2014. The survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami were sending warm clothing and other supplies to Syrian refugees stranded in the Turkish border city of Kilis. —KYODO NEWS

## Day of non-violence urged to remember Dr Martin Luther King Jr

ATLANTA, 19 Jan — People worldwide should honour the memory of Rev. Dr Martin Luther King Jr. by making Monday a "no shots fired" day and ringing church bells in support of non-violence, urged the daughter of the slain US civil rights leader.

Church services and tributes will be held across the United States to commemorate King's 85th birthday on Monday, a federal holiday. At the same time, there is a push for a new monument and possibly a major movie production from director Oliver Stone. "Dr King's philosophy of non-violence is more relevant, I believe, than it was 10 years ago," King's daughter, Bernice, told *Reuters*.

In a time of school shootings and increasingly violent movies, television shows and video games, his message of non-violence should continue to resonate, said his daughter, chief executive officer of the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Center which promotes his philosophy of non-violence.

"America has an enormous appetite for violence. I don't know why we have

such an affinity for that, but I do know it has to stop," she said.

As part of the birthday tributes, the Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) began a gun buyback program, hoping to get 1,000 weapons off the city's streets.

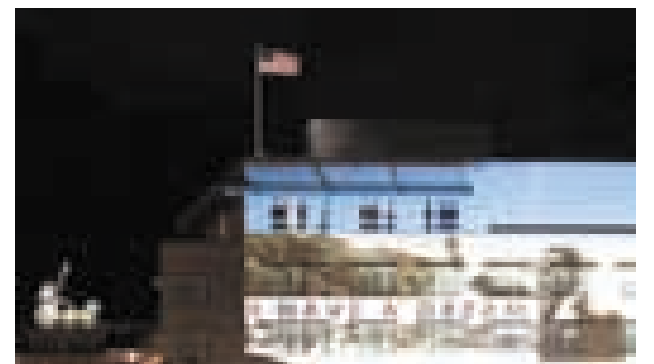
King, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, was assassinated four years later in Memphis, Tennessee. As this year's holiday approached, lawmakers in King's home state of Georgia introduced a bill to erect a new statue honouring him on the steps of the Georgia Capitol in Atlanta, five

blocks from where he was born on 15 January, 1929.

The statue would replace another of the late Georgia Senator Thomas Watson, who was known for his racist, anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic views. The Watson statue was moved late last year to a park across the street from the Capitol.

In another project aimed at examining King and his role in American history, movie director Oliver Stone said in late 2013 he was interested in directing a film about King, with actor Jamie Foxx playing the lead role, according to media reports.

*Reuters*



A light installation showing Martin Luther King Jr is projected on the facade of the US Embassy, next to the Quadriga (L) atop of the Brandenburg Gate, during the "Festival of Light" show in Berlin on 17 Oct, 2013 file photo. —REUTERS

## Libyan planes attack unruly militias in south, army on alert

TRIPOLI, 19 Jan —Libyan war planes attacked targets in the restive south on Saturday after gunmen stormed an air force base and the government ordered in ground troops following days of skirmishes between rival tribesmen and militias.

Western powers fear the OPEC producer could slide into further instability as the government struggles to contain heavily-armed militias, tribesmen and Islamists who helped to topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 but refuse to disarm. A lack of border controls and the ineffectiveness of a small army lacking equipment have turned Libya into a weapons smuggling route for al-Qaeda in sub-Saharan countries and also a corridor for Islamist fighters heading to Syria and economic migrants heading to Europe.

Prime Minister Ali Zeidan went on national television to announce he

had ordered troops to be sent to the south after a group of gunmen entered the Tamahind air force base outside Sabha, 770 km (480 miles) south of the capital Tripoli. Defence Ministry spokesman Abdul-Raziq al-Shabahi said later that government forces had regained control of the base after air strikes.

"A force was readied, then aircraft moved and took off and dealt with the targets," he told reporters in Tripoli. He gave no details of the military operation but blamed forces loyal to Gaddafi for the violence. Sabha, the biggest city in the south, has seen days of clashes between rival militias and tribesmen. "The situation in the south ... opened a chance for some criminals ... loyal to the Gaddafi regime to exploit this and to attack the Tamahind air force base," he said. "We will protect the revolution and Libyan people." —*Reuters*

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Intel to reduce global workforce by five percent in 2014

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Jan — Intel Corp plans to reduce its global workforce of 107,000 by about 5 percent this year as the chipmaker, struggling with falling personal-computer sales, shifts focus to faster-growing areas, a company spokesman said on Friday.

The announcement, equivalent to over 5,000 positions, comes a day after Intel posted a fourth-quarter earnings report that did little to dispel concerns about a slowing PC industry. "This is part of aligning our human resources to meet business needs," spokesman Chris Kraeuter said. The job reductions may include retirements, voluntary programs and other options, Kraeuter said, adding that Intel's typical annual

attrition worldwide is about 4 percent.

He declined to say whether details of the changes had been announced internally. On a conference call with analysts on Thursday after the earnings release, Chief Financial Officer Stacy Smith alluded to a reduction in employment this year and said that Intel would increase investments in areas such as data center technology, low-power chips and tablets. Intel dominates the PC chip industry, but it has been slow to adapt its processors for smartphones and tablets, markets now dominated by rivals such as Qualcomm Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

"If they've got a bunch of resources in a market that

may not be dead but is not growing a ton, it probably makes sense to reprioritize those investments in areas where there are fast-growing markets," said Bernstein analyst Stacy Rasgon. Intel has both added and shed significant numbers of jobs over the past decade. Struggling to fend off a challenge by smaller rival Advanced Micro Devices Inc in 2006, Intel announced it would reduce its workforce by over 10,000 positions, but its overall number of employees has grown since then.

The chipmaker is also not the only tech company to trim its workforce because of slowing demand for PCs since Apple's iPad started to cut into demand for laptops in 2010.

Hewlett-Packard Co is in the midst of a years-long internal restructuring that would ultimately see it shed 34,000 jobs, or 11 percent of its workforce, through fiscal 2014. Dell succeeded last year in taking itself off public markets, allowing CEO and founder Michael Dell to restructure away from Wall Street's scrutiny. That overhaul is expected to encompass layoffs.

Earlier this week, Intel said a newly built factory in Chandler, Arizona, originally slated as a \$5 billion project that in late 2013 would start producing Intel's most advanced chips, would remain closed for the foreseeable future while other factories at the same site are upgraded. In its report on Thursday, Intel



People visit the Intel booth at the 2013 Computex exhibition at the TWTC Nangang exhibition hall in Taipei on 4 June, 2013.—REUTERS

forecast March-quarter restructuring charges of \$200 million, a portion of which could be earmarked for severance pay. Last September, Intel said it would close an old factory in Massachusetts, eliminating about 700 jobs.

Intel has said it plans to quadruple tablet chip volume this year to 40 million units and aggressively stake out market share ahead of

future mobile chip launches. Essentially buying its way into tablets, Intel plans to subsidize its customers' engineering and manufacturing expenses, effectively reducing its gross margins in 2014 by 1.5 percentage points. Shares of Intel closed 2.6 percent lower at \$25.85 on the Nasdaq on Friday. They earlier traded down as low as \$25.25.

Reuters

## Smoking to kill 5.6 million US kids if not stubbed out

CHICAGO, 19 Jan — Another 5.6 million American children may die prematurely unless smoking rates fall in the United States, according to a report by the US surgeon general which links a range of new illnesses to the habit. Fifty years after the first surgeon general's report declared smoking a hazard to human health, the new study adds conditions ranging from colon cancer to diabetes and arthritis to the tally of tobacco-related diseases.

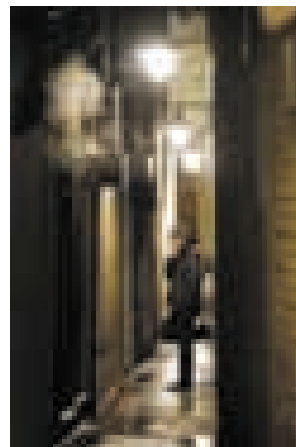
The report, the first in more than a decade, found that smoking has killed more than 20 million Americans prematurely in the last half century. Although adult smoking rates have fallen to

the current 18 percent from 43 percent of Americans in 1965, each day, more than 3,200 youths under the age 18 try their first cigarette, according to the report published on Friday. "Enough is enough," acting Surgeon General Dr Boris Lushniak said in a telephone interview. "We need to eliminate the use of cigarettes and create a tobacco-free generation."

Federal health officials are calling on businesses, state and local governments, and society as a whole, to end smoking within a generation through hard-hitting media campaigns, smoke-free air policies, tobacco taxes, unhindered access to cessation treatment and

more spending by state and local governments on tobacco control. "It's not just the federal lead on this anymore," said Lushniak. "To get this done, we have to go to industry. We have to go to healthcare providers and remind them that this problem is not yet solved."

The report, dubbed The Health Consequences of Smoking, 50 Years of Progress, details the growing science showing the diseases and health conditions caused by smoking since Dr Luther Terry issued the landmark report on 11 Jan, 1964, that first confirmed smoking tobacco caused lung cancer. In that first report, only lung cancer was associated



A man smokes in an alley behind his place of work in London on 17 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

with smoking. Now there are 13. "We're still a country very much addicted to tobacco," US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said at a White House event to mark the anniversary.—Reuters

## Cybercrime firm says uncovers six active attacks on US merchants

BOSTON, 19 Jan — A security intelligence firm iSIGHT Partners warned merchants and financial services firms that the Black-POS software used against No 3 US retailer Target had been used in a string of other breaches at retailers - but did not say how many or identify the victims.

Credit card companies, banks and retailers say that victims of any fraud resulting from the theft of their payment card data bear "zero liability" and will be credited for fraudulent purchases made on their accounts. "Our rules say five days, but most consumers get (their money) back within 24 hours," Visa spokeswoman Rosetta Jones said. Yet consumer advocates said that any debit card fraud could result in money being drained from a bank, mutual fund or other cash account at a time when those funds were really needed.—Reuters

IntelCrawler's findings are the latest sign that the cyberattacks disclosed by Target Inc and upscale department store Neiman Marcus are part of a wider assault on US retailer customer data security. On Thursday, the US government and the private

with smoking. Now there are 13. "We're still a country very much addicted to tobacco," US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said at a White House event to mark the anniversary.—Reuters

## Novartis employees may have violated trial protocol in Japan

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — Swiss drugmaker Novartis said on Friday it was looking into a report that employees of its Japanese unit may have violated clinical trial protocol by handling data from a small independent study of one of its cancer drugs.

Employees of Novartis Pharma KK (NPKK) transferred some data from research centers to a Tokyo hospital when that data should have been sent directly without first passing through Novartis hands, according to a report by Japanese broadcaster NHK that was picked up by the Wall Street Journal. "NPKK is



The logo of Swiss drugmaker Novartis is seen at its headquarters in Basel on 22 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

currently investigating the allegations," Novartis said in a statement.

The data was from a not yet fully enrolled 55-patient trial testing the Novartis cancer drug Tasigna, the

company said. "Novartis Pharma KK is aware of the media report regarding a small investigator-initiated clinical study ... conducted to assess side effects in patients with chronic myelo-

cytic leukemia," Novartis said in a statement.

"NPKK has conducted employee trainings on proper protocol related to investigator-initiated clinical studies and believes that any involvement of our medical representatives in investigator-initiated clinical studies is inappropriate." The University of Tokyo Hospital said it was re-examining test results it had received but had uncovered no evidence that Novartis employees had manipulated any of the data during the transfers, according to the Wall Street Journal report.—Reuters



The sign outside the Target store is seen in Arvada, Colorado on 10 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS





7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games

## Myanmar Men's, Women's volleyball sitting teams reach medal target, grabbing gold, silver

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Myanmar men's and women's volley sitting teams grabbed gold and silver medal respectively at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games. The final matches of the men's and women's volleyball sitting events took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A) this morning.

Men's volleyball sitting team of Myanmar bagged gold after beating the team from Thai while Myanmar women's team was satisfied with silver after they lost three sets of four to Indonesian team.

Myanmar stood first in the men's volleyball sitting tournament, followed by

Thailand and Cambodia.

"Nonetheless, we gave our best during the final match amid the excitement," said leader Nann Win Win Than of Myanmar women's volleyball team.

Gold-winning Myanmar team's member Ko Aung Myo voiced that they struggled throughout the competition, beating rival ASEAN teams, acknowledging that full support of Myanmar sports fans boosted a chance to winning the title.

"Tight matches gave my players excited. They cannot hide their emotions during the matches. This is their weakness and it



Myanmar playing against Singapore in force in men's volleyball sitting event at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium A.—PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN

can affect the team's performances. I am very glad that men's team won over Thailand for three times,"

Chief Coach U Kyi Win expressed his views on Myanmar teams.

Phyo Sanda Myint



Myanmar women meet with Thai women in volleyball sitting event.—PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN



Myanmar sports fans celebrate victory after Myanmar men's team has secured gold.

## Final matches of table tennis conclude

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— Table tennis finals of the ASEAN Para Games concluded at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, this morning.

At men's Team Class 3, Thailand grabbed gold medal while Vietnam silver and Indonesia and Singapore shared bronze.

At men's Team Class

4, Vietnam stood first followed by the Philippines second and Singapore third.

Yesterday, Myanmar athletes Min Min Phyo bagged bronze medal in Men's Open Singles Class 1-5 while Saw Hay Htoo and Tin Maung Nyunt bronze in Men's Doubles Class 9.

Kyemon-Phyo Sanda



Two players in opponent teams concentrate on table tennis.

## Thailand captures gold medal in wheelchair basketball

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— Final match of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games were continued at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex here today.

The first and third place matches of wheelchair basketball took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B) this afternoon. The Philippines won over Myanmar with 81-39 points in the third place. Thailand seized gold, after defeating Malaysia with 62-39 points in the final.

Kyemon-Phyo Sanda

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 20 January, 2014

## Better life

Efforts sometimes make a difference between rich and poor. However bright an opportunity is, we cannot realize it without efforts. We must work with heart and soul to grab every opportunity well.

Prosperity never comes automatically. So, the question here is "How are we going to make ourselves rich?" There is only one way "Work hard!" Only with hard work and resolve will we be able to enjoy the fruits or in other words "a better life". We must understand that if we want fruits and shelter, first we must plant a tree—a tree of plenty.

Sadly, there are people who only want to eat the fruits and take shelter, and do not want to grow trees. They are the people who content themselves with the current position, and never think of making life better. Such people are not productive and have no value at all. If the number of such people is high in a family, that family cannot become rich. Likewise, a community or even a country will be poor if their population is high. So, it is crystal clear that people need to work hard with heart and soul.

Our country Myanmar at present is witnessing the launch of poverty alleviation plan covering both the rural and urban areas. Under this plan, the government has been creating job opportunities especially for the new generation, and providing financial and technical assistance in multiple sectors. The plan in fact is a golden opportunity for the entire country.

There is opportunity, so there must be efforts also to enjoy better life. Every one who wants food and shelter must grow trees.



A police helps an athlete.

## Onion price down in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 19 Jan — Onion growers in Myingyan Township pin their hopes on good price as onion price went down these days.

According to brokerages in Myingyan, the price of onion is falling at least K 50 per viss daily.

The price of onion was

at K 700 per viss three days ago and it has decreased daily, reaching K 550 per viss today.

Meanwhile, the price of white corn is seen upward, increased from K 440 to K 470 per viss while the feedstuff corn is at K 360 per viss today.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

## Development of Myanmar rice industry discussed

YANGON, 19 Jan—Patron of Trade Sector Development Subcommittee Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held discussion with the presidents of Myanmar Rice Federation and Myanmar Rice Millers Association and officials on development of Myanmar rice industry, stability of rice price and promotion of socioeconomic status of farmers at the hall of Kinsana Kyuntha Rice Co in Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township this morning.

The Union minister said that rice price should not be a burden for consumers but a fair price for farmers, saying Myanmar Rice Federation is closely cooperating with entrepreneurs to become stable rice price. He urged the entrepreneurs to export more high-grade rice and value-added products and pointed out that



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint inspects factories in Shwelinban Industrial Zone.—MNA

they should cooperate with relevant ministries and MRF for sustainable development of rice industry.

They also discussed matters on emergence of seeds companies, ensur-

ing crops insurance and loans for farmers, conducting courses on turning out skilled workers and holding rice mill and its spare parts shows.

The Union minister

and party viewed round grinding of high-grade rice and operation of modern rice mills in Shwelinban and Ahnawrahta Industrial Zones.

MNA

## Acting Union Education Minister leaves for London

YANGON, 19 Jan—To attend the Education World Forum 2014 from 20 to 22 January in London, Britain, Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint

together with Deputy Director-General Dr Zaw Myint of the Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) left here by air yesterday. Education minis-

ters from over 80 countries around the world will attend the forum. The Myanmar delegation can absorb experiences of various countries in overcoming the difficul-

ties and implementation of the education systems and meet education officials of Britain to coordinate uplift of Myanmar's education standard.—MNA

## Bago Region Chief Minister meets Chinese entrepreneurs

YANGON, 19 Jan—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win met Director of Kunming Engineering Corporation of the People's

Republic of China Dato' Cheah Sam Kig and party at the hall of Region Government Office in Bago yesterday to discuss investment

prospects in hydropower, wind power, solar power and, small and medium hydropower projects in Bago Region.

It was also attended by Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Baby Ohn.

MNA

## Security personnel give helping hands to athletes, sports fans

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The officials concerned, sports teams from participant countries and sports fans enjoyed the final matches of various sports events in the 7th ASEAN Para Games at Wunna

Theikdi Sport Complex as of 8.30 am today.

The officials and security personnel warmly welcomed the athletes, sports fans and people to the games.

Police Information

Selection of tentatively Myanmar bowling players for 28<sup>th</sup> SEA Games on 12 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Selection of tentatively Myanmar players to take part in bowling event of the 28<sup>th</sup> SEA Games to be hosted by Singapore in 2015 and Open Bowling Contest in commemoration of 67<sup>th</sup> Union Day will be held at Asia Point Bowling Center on 12 February. The event includes men's and women's categories and K 500,000 will be presented to first prize winner, K 300,000 to second, K 200,000 to third, K 100,000

to fourth and K 50,000 as high game.

If participants were selected as tentatively players, they must be capable of training in Nay Pyi Taw. Those wishing to compete in the contest are to enroll at U Win Kyi, Ph-01-542509, Myanmar Gymnastic Training Office, Kyaikkasan Sports Ground, Yangon, U Soe Moe Aung, Ph-098573037, 09-444023332, Chan Tha and Sons Construction Co (C&S), Thabyegon (Pa-86-

## Meiktila University welcomes freshers

MEIKTILA, 19 Jan—Rector Dr Maung Thin of Meiktila University welcomed the fresher students for 2012-2014 academic year at the convocation hall, here, on 16 January.

After the rector has delivered an address on the occasion, dean professors and registrar of the university

made clarifications on facts about the academic and student affairs. Afterwards, the rector and pro-rectors presented prizes to the outstanding students and the winners in sports, essay, article and aesthetic essay contests.

Altogether 1524 fresher students attended the ceremony.—NLM-017

## Anti-foot-and-mouth vaccination for cattle

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—OIE and Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries jointly carry out vaccination to cattle, sheep, goat and pig that may suffer foot-and-mouth disease for development rural so-

MNA

cial economy of the nation.

Staff Officer Dr Tun Myint Soe, Dr Kyaw Htay and members of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and trainees vaccinated the cattle in West Hseagan Village of Otathiri Township on 17 January.

Officials of the department will go on vaccination tasks in villages of the township up to 22 January.—Salai (IPRD)



## LOCAL NEWS

### Kengtung Sub-printing House to be moved to new place



KENG TUNG, 19 Jan— Kengtung Sub-Printing House was set up in 2002 March to publish Myanmar Alinn and Kyemon dailies

in time and now it will be moved to new place.

The house was located in the area of Triangle Region Command headquarters

for temporarily publishing works.

In 2014, the press house and staff quarters have been constructed, and so, the house will be moved to the new place, said the in-charge of the house.

When it is being moved to the new place, the dailies are being transported to Kengtung by air from Yangon as of 17 January.

At present, the local people enjoy the newspapers in colour.

The press of the sub-printing house will resume its operation by January this year.—Kyemon-513

### Mote of Mandalay repaired

MANDALAY, 19 Jan— The walls of the moat were damaged along 26<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> streets in Mandalay.

Road and Bridge Department of Mandalay City Development Committee is repairing the moat.

The drains were constructed along 70<sup>th</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> streets on the south of the moat along 26<sup>th</sup> street were built in the monarchical period for washing the clothes.

The repair works must be carried out two at feet

underwater of the moat by damming the water of the moat.

In 2013, the moat retaining walls was repaired with reinforced concrete, said an official.

Kyemon-Aye Mya (Mandalay)



### Express bus hits motorcycle, leaving two dead in Dawei District

KALEINAUNG, 19 Jan— An express bus namely Shwe Pyi Soe running Dawei-Mawlamyine route bumped against a motorcycle driven by Win Naing Tun together with Kyaw Yin and Saw August at mile post 39 on Dawei-Ye Road in Yebon Village of Kaleinaung Sub-Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region at 8pm on 14 January.

In the incident, Win Niang Tun, 18 of Yebon Village was injured at head, eye, eyebrow and right foot and rushed to Dawei People's Hospital.

Two riders Ko Kyaw Tin, 17 of Yebon Village and Saw August, 19 died on the spot due to injuries.

Kaleinaung Sub-

Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against express bus driver Kyaw Kyaw Htaik, 28 of

Kyaukmyaung Ward in Thayetchaung Township under the law.—Kyemon-Kaleinaung IPRD



### National Objectives of 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

### Painting Contest for students

YANGON, 19 Jan— Jointly organized by Basic Education Department and P&G (Myanmar) Company, the painting contest for basic education high, middle and primary school students will be held soon.

The entries are to be sent to the Major Media International (MMI) at 5B on Pyay Road in Hline Township of Yangon, Tel:

01-500330, 500331 and 534700 during 10 January to 12 February 2014.

The entries can depict any theme.

It must be created on A 3 size paper and presented name of contestants, age, grade, school, full address, discription of own creation, endorsement of respective school heads and name of P&G good used in the

family.

Artistes and cartoonists will scrunize the entries. At the prize presentation ceremony, the winnes must create one painting chosed by the scrutiny committee.

First prize will be laptop and K 700,000, second laptop K 500,000, third laptop and K 300,000, special prize K 100,000.

Kyemon-597

### Mandalay Region Chief Justice on inspection tour of Meiktila District

MEIKTILA, 19 Jan— Chief Justice of Mandalay Region U Soe Thein together with Mandalay Region Judicial Officer U Myo Tint inspected Meiktila District Court, Mahlaing, Thazi and Wundwin Township courts on 17 January.

The Chief Justice of the region high court instructed officials to build trust of the people in judicial affairs, hand down the verdicts in correct and accurate manner in line with the laws, rules and regulations with free from corruption and bribery.



The Chief Justice inspected places for the hall for lawyers, that for

witnesses and staff quarters.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

### Real estates market booming in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 19 Jan— The market of real estate is better in downtown Mandalay and Myothit as of early week of January 2014 as the real estate prices have been issued in Mandalay.

In downtown Mandalay, the 40 feet by 60 feet plots and buildings between 26<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> streets and 84<sup>th</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> streets facilitated with power adn water can be sold at K 500 million to K 1000 million.

The land plots between Theikpan and Manawhari streets and 62<sup>nd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> streets in Chanmyathazi

Township are sold at K 500 million.

The houses and buildings on 40x30 feet plots between 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> in Myayinanda Ward are sold at K 40 million.

Investors bought the land plots at K 15-K 20 million in Patheingyi Township.

Some people from countryside who had left their native lands by selling out farmlands bought the land plots of Mandalay to do business, said read estate brokers.

Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

## WORLD

## Michelle Obama turns 50, joins retiree advocacy group

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — Michelle Obama on Friday celebrated a rite of passage for Americans turning 50: getting a membership card to AARP, a national organization that promotes the interests of older people.

The first lady tweeted a photograph of herself, smiling while holding up a card from the group, which with its approximately 38 million members cuts an influential swath in the nation's capital. "Excited to join Barack in the 50+ club today ... check out my @AARP card," she said in a post signed with her initials. Her husband, President Barack Obama, is 52. AARP, previously the American Association of Retired Persons, now goes

simply by its acronym. One of the most powerful lobbying groups in the country, it was a strong backer of the president's signature health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

People are eligible for AARP membership on their 50th birthday, even though most Americans do not retire until their mid-60s. But you do not need to be a retiree to join, and getting the group's membership offer, for some, triggers dark humor about the inexorable march of time and the ravages of age. The first lady is an example of how youthful people still are at 50, said AARP chief executive Barry Rand.

"Not only is Mrs. Obama

helping to change and reshape the way people look at aging in this country, but she's also showing folks how great 50 looks today," he said in a statement.

"We're proud to be able to call her a member of the AARP family and know that she will continue to set a great example to all by showing that age sets no boundaries on what you can achieve in life," Rand said.

The group has not always been on the same page as the administration. It previously described as "irresponsible" one of the president's budget proposals to rein in the costs of retiree programs by linking benefit increases to a less generous measure of inflation. Michelle Obama's 50th birthday has drawn additional public scrutiny to the first lady, previously a lawyer and a hospital executive, who has used her White House position to launch a campaign called "Let's Move" to fight childhood obesity. In an interview with



US first lady Michelle Obama applauds as she gives remarks at an event on Expanding College Opportunity inside the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington, on 16 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Michelle Obama's 50th birthday has drawn additional public scrutiny to the first lady, previously a lawyer and a hospital executive, who has used her White House position to launch a campaign called "Let's Move" to fight childhood obesity. In an interview with

People magazine, she said she aspires to remain fit and active into her 70s and 80s. Asked what she thought about Botox or plastic surgery, she said she could not envision such procedures for herself, but that she has learned to "never say never."—Reuters

## Albania to rewrite tax legislation

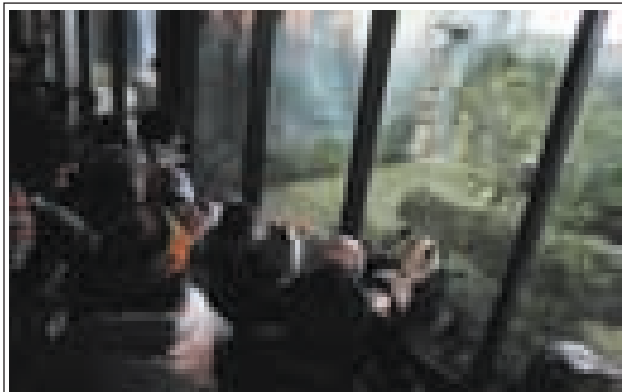
TIRANA, 19 Jan — Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said at a meeting with tax administration officials on Saturday that the current tax legislation should be rewritten in a very near future, according to ATA.

According to the Premier, "the existing tax legislation, due the constant changes it has undergone, creates high potential discordances and conceptual disputes between the state and the taxpayers."

Rama said that the legal framework will be amended in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and leading international experts in this field. The Head of the Government also said that income tax legislation will be rewritten within the first six months of 2014.

Rama said completing the legislation appropriately requires close cooperation and full commitment of the tax administration and business community.

In his remarks, the Premier also pointed to the business concern over the delayed refund of the value added tax (VAT). "The extreme delay in refunding VAT is unacceptable and we will refund it within 60 days to put an end once and for good to this epoch," Rama pledged, adding that failure to refund VAT has ruined private and national economy.—Xinhua



The female giant panda cub "Bao Bao" (Rear) and her mother "Mei Xiang" (Front) are seen in Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington DC, the United States, on 18 Jan, 2014. "Bao Bao" made her public debut here on Saturday. The giant panda cub was born on 23 Aug, 2013, and received her name "Bao Bao" after a name vote involving global fans.—XINHUA

## China breaks up gang offering sex-selective abortions

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China has broken up a gang that offered illegal services to determine the sex of unborn children so that women could abort those they did not want, the country's health ministry said on Sunday.

Three decades of strict family planning have bolstered a traditional bias for male offspring, seen as the main support of elderly parents and heirs to the family name, and have resulted in abortions, killings or abandonment of girls and trafficking of both male and female children.

The health ministry said the crackdown netted 10 people who had since 2010 operated a service sending women from all over the country to a clinic in the central city of Zhengzhou to find out the sex of

their unborn child.

Last year alone, more than 1,000 women used the service, it said, although it did not say how many abortions resulted.

One of the ringleaders has already received a jail term of 3-1/2 years and fined 100,000 yuan (\$16,500), with the rest getting slightly shorter sentences.

The ministry said it was the biggest case of its kind in the past few years.

"This went on for a long time, covering a wide area and involved many people. It was malicious, had serious results and was a great threat to society," it added.

The problem is widespread, the ministry warned, adding that it faced a "serious situation" in trying to end such abuses.—Reuters

## Brazilian police dismantle \$31 million lottery fraud

SAO PAULO, 19 Jan — Brazilian police said on Saturday that they had broken up a bank robbery scheme that had diverted 73 million reais (\$31 million) from a lottery run by state-owned lender Caixa Econômica Federal.

The operation, which spanned three states, was the largest fraud in Caixa Econômica's history, according to a statement from the federal police. The statement said 70 percent of the stolen funds had been recovered.

The money was diverted from Caixa by forging

a winning ticket to the Mega-Sena lottery late last year, police said. The diverted cash was deposited in a bank account that had been opened in the name of a made-up person at a Caixa branch in Tocantins state and quickly dispersed to other accounts.

The Caixa branch manager in Tocantins has been arrested and charged with participating in the scheme, police said.

Caixa said in a statement that it had informed the police as soon as it discovered the fraud and would continue to cooper-

ate with law enforcement as needed. Efforts to identify and contact the branch manager for comment were unsuccessful.

The reported crime comes a week after magazine Istoé reported that Caixa had violated financial regulations by taking control of proceeds from about 496,000 inactive accounts in 2012. Bank executives told Reuters on Monday that Caixa would follow central bank orders to correct procedures for how it books such accounts on its balance sheet.

Reuters

## Final drinking water ban lifted in West Virginia

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — West Virginia authorities on Saturday completely lifted a 10-day-old ban on the use of tap water that was imposed after a chemical spill contaminated drinking water, but they advised pregnant women to continue using alternative water sources.

The final 2 percent of the 300,000 customers affected by the spill have now been cleared to drink and wash from their tap, said West Virginia American Water spokeswoman Laura Jordan.

However, out of an "abundance of caution," the water utility advised pregnant women to consider an alternative drinking water source "until the chemical is non-detectable in the water distribution system."

Crews have been

flushing out the water system around the capital of Charleston since 9 January, when a chemical used to process coal leaked from a massive storage container into the Elk River, the main water source in the region.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin declared a state of emergency and local officials issued a do-not-use advisory until testing showed levels below the 1 part per million level safety standard set by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

An investigation into the spill is under way and water sampling is ongoing, Jordan said.

"This is a good first step," she said. Freedom Industries, the chemical company responsible for the leak, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection

on Friday, after vendors demanded that it pay in cash, straining its finances. The filing would also help protect the company's assets, shielding it from lawsuits while allowing it to remain in business.

The Freedom Industries site has not been in-

spected since 1991 and is about a mile upstream from a West Virginia American Water plant, the biggest in the state.

The company has apologized for the spill and is conducting its own investigation into the cause of the leak.—Reuters



Residents line up for water at a water filling station at West Virginia State University, in Institute, West Virginia, on 10 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS



## REGIONAL



Examinees sit for taking the unified college entrance examinations at the University of Tokyo on Jan. 18, 2014, as the two-day event began across Japan with more than 560,000 applicants and a record 843 public and private institutions taking part. —KYODO NEWS

## Cargo vessel sinks in C Philippines

ILOILO CITY, (Philippines), 19 Jan — A cargo vessel sunk off Guimaras Island in central Philippines on Sunday morning due to inclement weather, no casualty is reported so far, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Operatives of the Philippine Coast Guard are racing against time to contain oil spillage in the said venue.

Nemesio Igona, captain of the vessel coming from Cebu City, said that the cargo vessel collided with another boat, after the anchor of the boat was washed away and drifted into the sea.—Xinhua

## China to increase subsidies to grain production

ZHENGZHOU, 19 Jan — The Chinese government will extend greater support to agriculture, including more subsidies to major grain-growing regions, vice premier Wang Yang has said.

Wang made the remarks during his visit in central China's Henan Province from Friday to Saturday, saying that policy supports will be strengthened for agricultural development and farmers interests.

He stressed the crucial role of grain production in social and economic development, and urged more investment, subsidies and incentives for grain production and processing.

Infrastructures like water conservancy and technologies will be improved for sustainable agricultural

development, Wang said.

Innovative land management and land circulation will be promoted only if farmers' interests are not impaired, land use is not altered and agricultural production capacity is not damaged, Wang said.

Social service system in rural area to inject more strength for public welfare will be further improved, and rural financial innovation will encourage larger agricultural credit market, new rural cooperative financial institutions and stronger insurance supports.

Meanwhile, Wang warned of possible droughts in wheat-growing areas recently because of rainfall shortage and demanded local authorities to prepare earlier.

Xinhua

## Abe eager to expedite talks on territorial row, peace pact with Russia

TOKYO, 19 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed eagerness on Sunday to resolve a long-standing territorial dispute with Russia and conclude a post-World War II peace treaty.

“By signing a peace treaty, we would be able to unlock the untapped potential of the Japan-Russia relationship. We would

like to accelerate talks to get the Northern Territories back and sign a peace treaty,” he said on an NHK programme, referring to four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido.

Concerning his planned visit to Russia to attend the 7 February opening ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics, Abe

said he hopes to “increase the opportunity to have as many summit talks as possible” with Russian President Vladimir Putin this year “and settle problems in a relationship of trust with him.”

Abe met with Putin four times last year.

The four islands off Hokkaido — Etorofu, Ku-

nashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in World War II on 15 Aug, 1945.

The spat over the ownership of the islands has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty.

Kyodo News



A girl trembles in flood water in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 18 Jan, 2014. Widespread flooding in Indonesia's capital Jakarta has left seven dead and displaced about 11,000 people, with bigger floods expected to be caused by heavy downpours in the next two days, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for national disaster agency, told Xinhua by phone on Saturday.—XINHUA

## India ruling party appoints Rahul Gandhi as election campaign head

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan — India's main ruling party, Congress, on Friday named its vice president Rahul Gandhi to lead its election campaign ahead of polls due by May.

The appointment of the 43-year-old Nehru-Gandhi family scion as campaign chief came in a general resolution passed at a meeting joined by some 2,500 senior party leaders from across the country, including party president Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

It came a day after the party's top leaders made a strategic choice not to project him as its prime ministerial candidate, disappointing many party supporters who have been clamoring for his candidacy.

Rahul Gandhi said at the meeting that his party would only choose its prime ministerial candidate after the election, adding that he would “fulfill every responsibility” it bestows on him in the future.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has already put forward Gujarat state's chief minister Narendra Modi as its candidate for the top office if it wins the election for the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

Resorting to populist measures and addressing the poor and lower middle

classes of the country ahead of polls, Rahul urged Singh at the meeting to increase the number of subsidized cooking gas cylinders from nine to 12 for every household.

“Nine cylinders are not enough for a household. Please increase the number to 12,” he said.

He said the past decade of rule by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government has lifted nearly 140 million people from poverty and now aims to address the needs of country's nearly 700 million people belonging to the lower and middle classes.

“This class of people which lies between the abject poor and the middle class...actually runs the country. We promise to take care of them,” he added.

On 3 January, 81-year-

old Singh ruled out a third term as prime minister if the UPA wins the general election, saying India is ready to be guided by a “new generation of our leaders.”

He said Rahul Gandhi, who is the son of assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has “outstanding credentials” to be nominated as the Congress party's candidate for prime minister.

Congress has ruled India for most of the six decades since its independence, mostly recently since 2004, but it is not considered a shoe-in to win the upcoming general election, especially after losing ground to the BJP, which was in power between 1998 and 2004, in recent assembly elections in four politically crucial states.

Kyodo News

Candidates are seen at a spring job fair in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 18 Jan, 2014. Hundreds of employers held on-site recruitment here on Saturday. XINHUA



## 11 die as cold wave grips Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan — At least 11 people have died in the last 24 hours due to intense cold wave in the Indian capital Delhi, a senior official said on Sunday.

“The death toll is 11, with all the victims succumbing to extreme cold conditions in the national

capital. We have ordered a probe into the deaths,” he said on condition of anonymity.

The victims were all homeless people, the official added.

The anti-graft Aam Aadmi Party had promised night shelters for all home-

less people, after forming the government in the Indian capital barely a month ago.

Cold wave and fog are common in northern India, particularly during the winter months of December and January.

Xinhua



Thai soldiers parade during celebrations of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day at a military base in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA



Nepalese people participate in a Bagmati Cleaning Campaign programme in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 18 Jan, 2014. Hundreds of volunteers cleaned the Bagmati River for 36 weeks as part of a cleaning campaign. — XINHUA

## Al-Qaeda extends ransom deadline for S African hostage

CAPE TOWN, 19 Jan — Al Qaeda-linked kidnappers in Yemen have extended the ransom deadline for freeing a South African teacher, it was reported on Saturday.

The deadline for paying about 32.5 million rands (3 million US dollars) has been extended for three weeks, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) said.

Pierre Korkie, a teacher in the Free State Province,

and his wife Yolande were abducted in the Yemeni city of Taiz in May last year.

Yolande was released by the kidnappers last week.

The kidnappers had given Korkie's family until Friday to pay the ransom in exchange for Korkie's freedom.

The South African government has repeatedly stated that they will not pay the ransom in exchange for freeing Korkie.

The kidnappers have

also volunteered information that Korkie is not in good health, the report said.

After her release Yolande said the kidnappers had believed they were American when they abducted them because "their perception of Westerners was based on skin colour."

South African International Relations Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim is on a mission to Yemen to secure Korkie's release.

"It is hoped that the visit by Deputy Minister Ebrahim to Yemen will result in Mr Korkie being released unharmed and as soon as possible," ministry spokesman Nelson Kgwete said.

"The South African government takes interest in the well-being and security of its citizens, including when they are in distress or danger in foreign countries," Kgwete said.

Xinhua

## Twenty Pakistani soldiers killed in attack on army convoy

DERA ISMAIL KHAN/PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 19 Jan — At least 20 Pakistani soldiers were killed on Sunday when an explosion hit an army convoy in the north-western region of Bannu, intelligence and military sources said.

At least two dozen others were wounded in the attack in a town near North Waziristan, a lawless Pakistani region on the Afghan border where many militant groups are holed up in re-

mote mountain camps.

"It's not clear if it was a suicide attack or an improvised explosive device," said one military official, adding that the soldiers had been travelling in a civilian vehicle hired to carry them to Razmak in North Waziristan.

The assault follows a threat by the Pakistani Taliban to step up attacks on security forces after the group elected a new leader, Mullah Fazlullah, at the end

of last year. Another police officer said the blast took place as a convoy of army troops and paramilitary Frontier Corps was preparing to leave Bannu, adding that security forces had cordoned off the area to investigate.

"We fear that dozens were killed and injured," said an intelligence source. "It is not yet clear what caused the blast ... A large number of soldiers were there." — Reuters



Fishermen harvest fishes after ice fishing in the Ulunggur Lake in Fuhai County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 18 Jan, 2014. The annual winter fishing tourism festival, which opened here Saturday, attracted numerous tourists despite the cold weather. As a cultural tradition and an impulse of local economy, the ice fishing has become a special scenery in the cold winter of Xinjiang. — XINHUA

## UNODC chief condemns deadly attack in Kabul

VIENNA, 19 Jan — Head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna on Saturday condemned the Friday attack on a busy Restaurant in Kabul.

"I strongly condemn this senseless and cowardly attack on innocent civilians, some of whom were fellow UN staff members," said Yury Fedotov, the Executive director of UNODC, extending sincerest condolences to the injured and to the families, friends and colleagues of all those who have lost their lives.

On Friday night, three Taliban launched a suicide bombing and shooting attack at a restaurant in Kabul, killing 21 people, including 13 foreigners.

Xinhua



Local residents visit a photo exhibition about China during a temple fair at Brightwater Commons Center in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18 Jan, 2014. A Spring Festival temple fair jointly held by Chinese Embassy in South Africa and Brightwater Commons Center was held here on Saturday, attracting lots of overseas Chinese and local residents. — XINHUA

## Algeria set to start presidential election on 17 April

ALGIERS, 19 Jan — Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika signed on Friday a decree that set the presidential election for 17 April, the presidency announced in a statement Saturday.

The 2014 election is legally due on 16 or 17 April, given that the current presidential term expires on

16 April, 2014, and Article 132 of the Organic Law stipulates that the presidential elections should be held 30 days prior to the end of the presidential term.

A national committee in charge of preparing the presidential election is to be set up imminently, which will be headed by the Prime Minister Abdelmalek

Sellal. The committee will be consisted of representatives from ministries of interior, justice, finance and media. However, the opposition has been urging the government to establish an independent commission to organize a fair and free presidential election, which has been rejected by the government. — Xinhua

## Three Afghan youths killed in Taliban rocket attack in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 19 Jan — Three Afghan youths were killed while four others wounded when a rocket fired by the Taliban landed in Maiwand District of southern Kandahar Province Saturday evening, sources said.

"Three footballers were killed and four injured as the rocket fired by the Taliban hit a football in Maiwand district at around 5:45 pm (local time) Saturday. The killed and the injured were admitted to the district hospital," provincial government spokesman Jawid Faisal told Xinhua.

Kandahar is notorious for growing poppy and is a known Taliban hotbed.

Earlier on Saturday,

three civilians and four policemen were wounded when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attached to a bicycle went off in neighbouring Spin Boldak District.

The Taliban insurgent group has yet to make comments.

On Friday night, three Taliban launched a suicide bombing and shooting attack at a restaurant in the country's capital Kabul, killing 21 people, 13 of them foreign nationals.

More than 2,500 Afghan civilians were killed and over 5,000 wounded in Taliban-led attacks and violence last year, according to Afghan and UN assistance mission officials to Afghanistan. — Xinhua



## ENTERTAINMENT

## Nyong'o, Leto win supporting actor awards from Hollywood peers

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — Lupita Nyong'o and Jared Leto won Screen Actors Guild awards for their supporting roles on Saturday as Oscar nominees seek to gather crucial momentum in a competitive race for Academy Awards in six weeks.

The Kenyan actress Nyong'o was recognized for her role as the hard-working slave Patsey in "12 Years a Slave," while Leto won for his turn as transsexual AIDS activist in "Dallas Buyers Club," in honours that actors relish because they are voted by their peers.

Both actors are nominated for Oscars for their best supporting roles and Leto won the Golden Globe last Sunday.

"Thank you, thank

you, thank you Steve McQueen," Hollywood newcomer Nyong'o said to the British director who chose her after auditioning 1,000 actresses.

"Thank you for taking a flashlight and shining it under the floorboards of this nation and reminding us what it is we stand on."

In what is widely considered one of the best years for quality film in recent memory, Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and other guild awards to be handed out in the next two weeks could collectively steer the race in favor of one film for the industry's highest honor, the best picture Oscar, on 2 March.

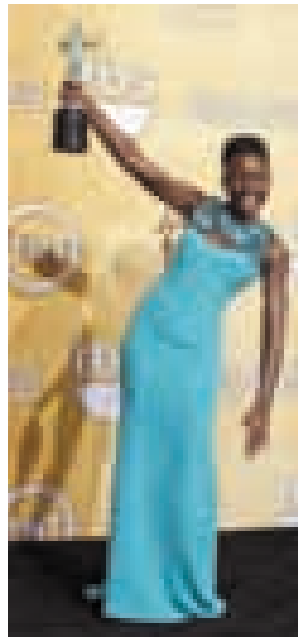
Vying for the top SAG prize — best ensemble cast — are the films "12 Years a Slave," "American Hustle,"

"Dallas Buyers Club," "August: Osage County" and "Lee Daniels' The Butler."

But the last two films were not included in the nine best picture Oscar nominees announced last Thursday.

The slavery drama "12 Years a Slave" is considered an Oscar best picture frontrunner, but faces serious competition from 1970s crime caper "American Hustle" and space thriller "Gravity." "American Hustle" stands out for receiving Oscar nominations in all four acting categories, but at SAG, only Jennifer Lawrence was nominated for best supporting actress.

"Gravity" is basically a one-woman show starring Sandra Bullock and is most recognized for its technical innovation.—Reuters



Actress Lupita Nyong'o poses with her award for outstanding performance by a female in a supporting role for her role in "12 Years a Slave" at the 20th annual Screen

Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 18 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

## Juhi Chawla: I did Gulaab Gang because of Madhuri Dixit

MUMBAI, 19 Jan — They have been Bollywood contemporaries since the 1990s but Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla have only come together now for Gulaab Gang. Juhi says Madhuri's presence in the movie was a big draw for her towards the project.

"I did this film because Madhuri was there. I really did it because (I thought that) with this script, it will be amazing if we do it together. I remember saying to her on the first day that 'Madhuri, we will make it rock', and we have," Juhi said at the launch of the song Dheemi Gati from Gulaab Gang on 17 January.

What kept them away from working together for so long?

"I would say that earlier there were a few chances

when we could have worked together, but at that time I didn't do the film because Madhuri was there in the films. I thought if she is there, then what would I do? Comparisons were bound to happen, so to avoid all that tension, I didn't do those films," she said.

However, now she is not worried.

"I am so glad that I am playing a villain in the film. So you can't compare the two of us. I neither had to dance nor sing. All that has been done by Madhuri," said Juhi, who essays a politician in the film.

Slated to release 7 March, Gulaab Gang is inspired by a group of women activists in the Bundelkhand region and talks about women empowerment.—PTI



Madhuri and Juhi at the song launch in Mumbai. PTI

## Kim Kardashian: Kanye a hands-on dad



Kim and Kanye are all set to get married soon. PTI

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — Socialite and reality TV star Kim Kardashian believes her fiancé Kanye West makes an "amazing dad", but changing diapers for their baby North West is not his cup of tea.

North is seven months old.

"He is honestly the most amazing dad. He loves her so much. He just left to go out of town, so I send him a picture and video every day. He's like, 'She grew up so much!' and I'm like, 'Babe, it's been one day. You haven't seen her in a day. Not a lot has changed.' But he really is a hands-on dad," Kim said on the The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

"He's not a diaper-changing kind of guy and that's okay. He would if it's an emergency. But I love that time.

I know it sounds crazy, but I love my time with her when she's on the changing table. She tries to talk so much and I really enjoy that bonding time when I'm with her," she said.

Kim and Kanye plan to exchange vows this summer but a date is yet to be set.—PTI

## 'American Hustle' wins top prize from Hollywood actors

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — The cast of the 1970s crime caper "American Hustle" took the top prize from the Screen Actors Guild on Saturday in a key test of the film's Oscar mettle in the competitive race for Academy Awards in six weeks.

"American Hustle" from director David O. Russell has been hailed for its performances, although it won no individual acting awards on Saturday and only Jennifer Lawrence was nominated for her supporting role. It prevailed over another presumed Oscar frontrunner, "12 Years a Slave."

Bradley Cooper accepted the best ensemble cast award on behalf of a line-up that included Christian Bale and Amy Adams in addition to Lawrence, and praised Russell, with



Actors Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper (C) and Jeremy Renner introduce a clip from the film "American Hustle" at the 20th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 18 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

whom they have all worked previously.

"He is an actor's director," said Cooper. "That notion is tossed around; he is the embodiment of it. He's the reason why all of us wanted to become actors when we were children."

Australian Cate Blanche

winchett won best actress for her role as a socialite who suffers a reversal of fortune in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine," while best actor went to Matthew McConaughey for his turn as an unlikely AIDS activist in "Dallas Buyers Club."

Reuters

## Johnny Depp, Amber Heard got engaged 'a while ago'

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — Actor Johnny Depp is said to have popped the question to his girlfriend and The Rum Diary co-star Amber Heard "a while ago". His ladylove was recently spotted wearing a huge sparkler on her ring finger.

The couple is yet to confirm their engagement, but an insider has told *US Weekly*, "The proposal happened a while ago. She just didn't wear the ring."

Johnny Depp, who was earlier in a 14-year long relationship with Vanessa Paradis, has been with Amber Heard for less than two years.

With Vanessa Paradis, he has two children - 14-year old Lily-Rose and 11-year old Jack.

The Lone Ranger star has been married once before to Lori Anne Allison from 1983 to 1985. He's

previously been engaged to actresses Jennifer Grey, Sherilyn Fenn and Winona Ryder and he even had a talked-about four-year relationship with supermodel Kate Moss.

Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis announced their breakup in June 2012 after 14 years together. A year later, Johnny broke his silence about their split.

PTI



Johnny and Amber have been together for about two years.—PTI

## SPORTS

## Fernandez wins men's skating at European Championships

BUDAPEST, 19 Jan — The 22-year-old Javier Fernandez of Spain, surprise winner of last year's men's title at the European Figure Skating Championships, did it again in Budapest on Saturday with 267.11 points, significantly more than second placed Sergei Voronov (27) of Russia's 252.55.

What battles there were, involved third place, taken by Russia's Konstantin Menshov (31) with 237.24 points, beating out fourth-placed Czech Michal Brezina (24), who finished with 236.98 points and this year's Russian national champion Maxim Kovtun (19), who scored 232.37 and ended up in fifth place.

While Fernandez will definitely compete in the Sochi Olympics, the one slot awarded to the Russians is still up for grabs. Before Budapest Kovtun, who beat 32-year-old veteran skater Evgeni Plushenko in the national championships and relegated him to second place, was thought to be the front-runner. Given his fifth place performance in Budapest however, that option appears less and less likely, but Sergei Voronov may have a chance.

Nonetheless, Plushenko, who skipped the European Championships, is now the likeliest choice.

Sunday marks the final day of the European Figure Skating Championships where the pairs' competition will be followed by a gala performance with all the top skaters getting to demonstrate their skills.

Xinhua

## China's Li charges into last eight

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan — Li Na stormed into the quarter-finals of the Australian Open with a 6-2, 6-0 hammering of Russian Ekaterina Makarova in just under an hour on Sunday.

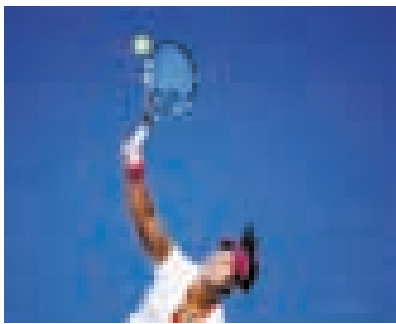
The Chinese fourth seed, who had to battle back from match point down in her second round encounter with Lucie Safarova, looked much more assured on Hisense Arena on Sunday and her win set up a last eight

meeting with Italy's Flavia Pennetta. The 31-year-old briskly saved two break points in the first set, another couple at 3-0 up in the second and sealed the win with a backhand volley at the net to serve out to love.

The former French Open champion has a good record at Melbourne Park, having reached the final here last year and in 2011 and the semi-finals in 2010.—Reuters

**Li Na of China serves to Ekaterina Makarova of Russia during their women's singles match at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 19 Jan, 2014.**

REUTERS



## Pennetta defies injury to make first quarters

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan — Italy's Flavia Pennetta advanced to her first Australian Open quarter-final with as much relief as delight on Sunday just weeks after suffering a left wrist injury that she thought could rule her out of the Melbourne Park tournament.

Pennetta had reason to be worried after an injury to her right wrist required surgery in 2012, leading her to spend six months on the sidelines, miss last year's Australian Open and watch her ranking drop to 166 by June.

"It was a really dif-

ficult moment, because I didn't know what I had," the 31-year-old told reporters after she advanced to the quarter-finals following a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 victory over ninth-seeded German Angelique Kerber.

"I had an MRI (scan) five days after which turned out to be pretty good because my ligament and my tendon were fine," she added of the injury she sustained at the Hopman Cup in Perth and forced her out of the Hobart International. "Just a strain."

Pennetta, who has won nine career titles and broke into the top-10 in 2009, found her original injury and subsequent drop in rankings hard to take.

Reuters



Flavia Pennetta

## Inspired Ivanovic stuns Serena in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan — An inspired Ana Ivanovic blew the race for the Australian Open women's title wide open with a stunning upset of overwhelming favourite Serena Williams in the fourth round on Sunday.

The 14th ranked Serb played the match of her life to come from a set

down and secure the biggest shock of the tournament so far with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over the world number one. Fourth seed Li Na and Italy's Flavia Pennetta, who both won fourth round matches earlier on Sunday, will have considerably more to play for in their quarter-final now the

17-times grand slam champion has been removed from their path.

Ivanovic, who will meet Casey Dellacqua or Eugenie Bouchard in her quarter-final, said she held nothing

back against the top seeded American.

"It's amazing, when I came onto court I was just hoping to play as well as I could," she said. "I just went out there swinging at the ball and I did it really well." Williams admitted to not feeling her best but offered no excuses.

That was until she realized coach Patrick Mouratoglou had told reporters about a back injury she sustained before her third round match.

"So he's the one that's snitching?" she said to laughter. "I don't want to blame anything. I feel like

Ana deserves all the credit. I feel she played unbelievable today. I think she went for her shots.

"It's not like I gave her the match. I tried to fight the best I could today."

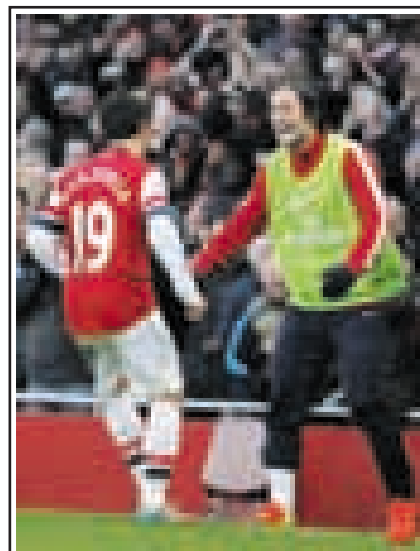
Defending men's champion Novak Djokovic was next up on Rod Laver Arena, looking to avoid a similar upset at the hands of his friend Fabio Fognini.

Williams was riding high on a winning streak of 25 matches going back to the start of last year's US Open and had never even lost a set to Ivanovic in four previous meetings.

Reuters

## Premier League Standings

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	P
1	Manchester City	20	13	4	3	38	15	23	42
2	Manchester United	20	12	5	3	31	18	13	41
3	Chelsea	20	11	6	3	28	17	11	39
4	Liverpool	20	11	5	4	29	19	10	38
5	Arsenal	20	10	6	4	26	18	8	36
6	Tottenham Hotspur	20	10	5	5	27	20	7	35
7	Newcastle United	20	9	6	5	24	19	5	33
8	Everton	20	9	5	6	22	20	2	32
9	West Ham United	20	8	7	5	21	21	0	31
10	Blackburn Rovers	20	8	6	6	20	20	0	30
11	Cardiff City	20	7	7	6	19	20	0	28
12	Sheff Wed	20	7	6	7	18	21	3	27
13	Sheff Utd	20	7	5	8	17	22	5	26
14	Blackburn Rovers	20	6	7	7	16	21	4	25
15	Blackburn Rovers	20	6	6	8	15	22	7	24
16	Blackburn Rovers	20	6	5	9	14	23	4	23
17	Blackburn Rovers	20	5	7	8	13	24	3	22
18	Blackburn Rovers	20	5	6	9	12	25	7	21
19	Blackburn Rovers	20	4	7	9	11	26	5	20
20	Blackburn Rovers	20	4	6	10	10	27	17	19
21	Blackburn Rovers	20	3	7	10	9	28	19	18
22	Blackburn Rovers	20	3	6	11	8	29	21	17
23	Blackburn Rovers	20	3	5	12	7	30	23	16
24	Blackburn Rovers	20	2	6	12	6	31	24	15
25	Blackburn Rovers	20	2	5	13	5	32	25	14
26	Blackburn Rovers	20	2	4	14	4	33	26	13
27	Blackburn Rovers	20	1	5	14	3	34	27	12
28	Blackburn Rovers	20	1	4	15	2	35	28	11
29	Blackburn Rovers	20	1	3	16	1	36	29	10
30	Blackburn Rovers	20	0	4	16	0	37	30	9



Santi Cazorla (2nd L) of Arsenal celebrates his second goal with teammate Tomas Rosicky during the Barclays Premier League match between Arsenal and Fulham at Emirates Stadium in London, Britain on 18 Jan, 2014. Arsenal won 2-0. XINHUA

## Real Madrid win to go joint top

MADRID, 19 Jan — Real Madrid won 5-0 away to a hapless Betis to move level on points with FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid on Saturday. With Barca and Atletico not playing until Sunday, this was always a good chance for Real Madrid to make up ground against a side that has only taken 11 points all season and so it proved.

Real Madrid were in control from the moment Cristiano Ronaldo drilled home a powerful right foot shot from 25 yards after just 10 minutes and the goals continued to arrive at regular intervals against a rival which was unable to manage a single shot on goal all game.

Gareth Bale's free kick on 2 minutes doubled the lead as Betis goalkeeper Stefan Anderson stood rooted to the spot and Karim Benzema netted his

10th goal of the season with the last kick of the first half.

With members of the crowd protesting about their team and demanding the resignation of coach, Juan Carlos Garrido Angel Di Maria scored from distance to add a fourth and Alvaro Morata poked home a fifth in the last minute to round off what will probably be Madrid's easiest game of the season. Elche took a big step towards safety at the expense of Rayo Vallecano in a match marked by the sending off of Ray's Raul Baena for conceding a 17th minute penalty.

Albacar converted the spot kick and Elche dominated the game, but thanks to a string of saves from Rayo keeper Ruben, were unable to seal the points until Javi Marquez's shot in the 80th minute put the definitive 2-0 on the scoreboard.—Xinhua



Serena Williams



## GENERAL

# China building second aircraft carrier



Chinese naval soldiers stand guard on China's first aircraft carrier Liaoning, as it travels towards a military base in Sanya, Hainan Province, in this undated picture made available on 30 Nov, 2013. —REUTERS

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China is building its second aircraft carrier, which is expected to take six years, and the country aims to have at least four such ships, Chinese and Hong Kong media reports said on Sunday.

After two decades of double-digit increases in the military budget, China's admirals plan to develop a full blue-water navy capa-

ble of defending growing economic interests.

The country's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning - a Soviet-era ship bought from Ukraine in 1998 and re-fitted in a Chinese shipyard — has long been a symbol of China's naval build-up.

Successfully operating the 60,000-tonne Liaoning is the first step in what state media and some military

experts believe will be the deployment of locally built carriers by 2020.

In comments carried on Chinese news websites, Wang Min, the Communist Party boss of the northeastern Province of Liaoning, where the first carrier is based, said the second carrier was being built in the port city of Dalian.

Its construction would take about six years, and in future China would have a fleet of at least four carriers, Wang told members of the province's legislature on Saturday, the reports added.

Dalian is the port where the existing carrier was re-fitted for use by the Chinese navy.

Some of the reports about the new carrier were apparently latter removed from the Internet, as links to the stories did not work.

Reuters

## Egypt's military raid kills 3 militants in Sinai

SINAI, (Egypt), 19 Jan — At least three militants were killed Saturday in a massive military raid on hairline militants in North Sinai's Rafah city bordering Israel, a security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

"One of the three militants turned out to be Ahmed Ehmidan, leader of the military wing of Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, an al-Qaida-inspired Sinai-based Jihadist group," the source said.

He said that the raid has been launched at al-Mahdiya town in southern Rafah at the borders with Israel, noting the militants had machine guns, ammunition and explosives in their possession.

Meanwhile, the military campaign found and destroyed two secret tunnels in Sinai leading to the adjacent Palestinian Gaza Strip governed by Hamas according to the source, who noted that other three extremists were

arrested in Sheikh Zuweid city. Since Islamist-oriented president Mohamed Morsi was ousted by the army last July, hardliners took the peninsula as a stronghold for targeting police and army premises. Over the past few months, the Egyptian army launched large-scale security operations in coordination with police to uproot terrorist hideouts in Sinai's Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid cities.

Xinhua

## MYANMAR TV

(20-1-2014, Monday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

2. Physical Exercises

6:40 am

3. Nice & Sweet Song

6:50 am

4. Documentary

7:00 am

5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am

6. People Talks

7:35 am

7. Teleplay (Health)

8:00 am

8. News/ International News

8:45 am

9. Documentary (ASEAN)

9:00 am

10. News/International News

9:30 am

11. Cartoon Series

10:00 am

12. News

10:20 am

13. Documentary

11:00 am

14. Teleplay

11:20 am

15. New Melody

12:00 pm

16. News/International News/Weather Report

12:30 pm

17. Myanmar Movies

2:00 pm

18. Musical Programme

2:15 pm

19. Documentary

2:35 pm

20. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts

Competitions

2:45 pm

21. Teleplay (Traffic)

3:00 pm

22. News

3:20 pm

23. Joint Performance by State Orchestra and Traditional Orchestra

4:00 pm

24. News

4:25 pm

25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)

-First Year (History)

4:40 pm

26. Songs Programme

7:00 pm

27. News

7:50 pm

28. 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para

Dames Closing Ceremony (Live)

8:00 pm

29. News/International

News/Weather Report

8:35 pm

30. People Talks

8:45 pm

31. Documentary

9:00 pm

32. News

33. Documentary

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

20-1-14 07:00 am ~  
21-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Prestigious Myanmar Silversmith
- \* World News
- \* Creations of a Designer
- \* Local News
- \* Tasty Delicious! Smart Food (YKKO)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- \* Local News
- \* Let's explore the Customs of Mindut
- \* World News
- \* Hip-Hop and Design
- \* Local News
- \* My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inay Lake
- \* World News
- \* Nang
- \* Local News
- \* A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
- \* World News
- \* Wholesale Fish
- \* Local News
- \* Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
- \* World News
- \* Trishaw Man
- \* Local News
- \* Hiker's Journey (Yangon City) (EP-6) (Part-1)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-3)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"

## Unheralded Lee repels Mickelson charge in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 19 Jan— Little-known Briton Craig Lee withstood a barnstorming display from world number five Phil Mickelson to grab a two-stroke lead after the third round of the \$2.7 million Abu Dhabi Championship on Saturday.

Lee, 36, who had shared the overnight lead with Spaniard Rafael Cabrera-Bello, lifted his hopes of scooping the first European Tour victory of his career by firing a three-under-par 69 for a 12-under total of 204.

Mickelson surged into contention, a dazzling 63 taking him into a tie for second place on 206 along with India's Gaganjeet Bhullar (66).

A further stroke adrift were world number seven Rory McIlroy (70), who was scuppered by a two-shot penalty, and Spain's Pablo Larrazabal (68).

Early starter Mickelson charged through the field with a dynamic round containing nine birdies, one eagle and two dropped shots.

The five-times major winner conjured up a four at the par-five 18th after finding a bunker off the tee and sandy waste with his second shot.

With a palm tree in front of him, the 43-year-old Californian produced a low, fading escape with his third effort that scuttled up on to the green and he fist-pumped the air in



Craig Lee of Scotland plays with the ball on the third hole during the Abu Dhabi Golf championship on 18 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

delight when he rolled in his putt from 30 feet for his closing birdie. "It probably wasn't very sensible of

me to try to go for the green but hey, that's what I do," Mickelson told reporters.

"I was fortunate in that

I just had enough room to trap out a low pitching wedge that flew under the leaves and up on to the green.

"Bones (caddie Jim Mackay) did not like the decision and I don't blame him. It probably wasn't my smartest play," added Mickelson.

Lee will play alongside the left-hander in the final group on Sunday and said he would take heart from unheralded Welshman Jamie Donaldson's victory in Abu Dhabi 12 months ago.

"You can look back on that and say fairytales do happen," said the Scotsman. "I just have to go out and play the best I can.

"My career is start-

ing to gradually get better and better and steadier and steadier which is probably the most important part. To come out on top tomorrow would be a joyful occasion."

Northern Irishman McIlroy incurred a two-stroke penalty after breaching the rules while taking a drop at the second, turning his par-five at the hole into a double-bogey seven.

"I guess I just have to try to make up those shots as early as possible tomorrow and try to get off to a fast start," he said. "I felt like I hung in there well and had a lot of opportunities on the back nine that I didn't take. It was nice to birdie 18 but it was all sort of in vain." —Reuters

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— Together with Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Ohn Myint and Dr Pe Thet Khin, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Commanders Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Maj-Gen Soe Lwin, Chairman of Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint, Chairman of Leading Body of Naga Self-Administered Zone U Ruh San Kyu and officials, Union Minister U Hla Tun held a meeting with local people at Aung San Hall of Basic Education High School in Pansawng Township on 15 Jan.

First, the Union minister and party presented cash assistance, solar panels, agricultural supplies, clothing and exercise books to Naga national representatives.

Union Minister U Hla Tun said that national unity is important and all ethnic groups are now enjoying equal rights. He pointed out the importance of security

measures as Panghsawng Sub-Township shares border with India, calling for formation of township management committee, township development support committee and township development affairs committee to undertake development tasks. Development committees need to cooperate with people in implementing people-centered development tasks as they represent the people, he added.

They then looked into construction of station hospital and inspected security measures taken at border post-173 near India-Myanmar border.

They met with locals at the town hall in Nanyun on 16 January and Leading Body Chairman U Ruh San Kyu reported on regional requirements and the Union ministers and the chief minister coordinated the essentials.

Union Minister U Hla Tun emphasized rule of

## Union Minister inspects Myanmar-India border post in Pansawng



*Union Minister U Hla Tun presents gift to a Naga national representative in meeting with local people in Pansawng.*

MNA

law in the region, saying the government is striving for education, health, eco-

nomie and rural development tasks in collaboration with the people. He stressed

the need for systematic use of fund allotted by the State and urged them to try their

best to increase per capita income.

MNA

## Union Ministers award winners of football 7-A side, table tennis events

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan together with Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat

Ohn Khin enjoyed volleyball sitting and football 7-A side events at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A), here, this morning.

In football 7-A side event, gold medal went to Myanmar, silver to Singapore and bronze to Malay-

sia. The Union Ministers awarded medals to the winners and presented gifts to them.

The Union Ministers also awarded the winners in men's and women's table tennis events.

MNA

## Table tennis (invitational) kicks off in Tatkon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— An invitational match for table tennis event took place at Aung San Gymna-

sium in Tatkon Township yesterday.

Athletes from Meiktila, Pyawbwe and Pinyin-

na townships participated in the event.

*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)*



**Union Minister U Tint Hsan celebrating with gold medalist Myanmar football 7-A side team.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Final of football 7-A side event of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, today.

Myanmar won over Singapore with a 2-0 result while Malaysia played a goalless draw with Thailand in the event.

In the first half of the match, Myanmar scored two goals through the efforts of Thet Naing. Singapore team tried for getting equalizer but Myanmar team controlled the match after possessing the winning goals.

Myanmar stood first, Singapore, second and Malaysia, third in the event.

MNA

## Host Myanmar brings glory to nation in football 7-A side event



**Final of football 7-A side event of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games in progress at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex.**

THAN NAING (ZABUTHIRI)