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7th ASEAN Para Games in Myanmar concludes in great success

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Today is a proud day for the host Myanmar as the seventh ASEAN Para Games held from 15 to 20 January concluded in a great success today.

The closing ceremony of the 7th ASEAN Para Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Sport Complex this evening, attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Union ministers, parliamentarians, members of the lead-



Auld Lang Syne.—KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)

Press conference on IEE and EIA reports and EMP drawing on 25 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan— The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has arranged to hold a press conference on initial environmental evaluation (IEE) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports and environmental manage-

ing committee for holding the Games, the ASEAN ambassadors, the president

ment plan (EMP) drawing related to investment sectors and business firms, at the Myanma Timber Enterprise (Head Office) on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, Yangon from 9 am to 12 pm on 25 January.

Any one may attend the conference.—MNA

of ASEAN Para Sports Federation and officials, managers, coaches and athletes, media persons, Liaison Officers and Volunteer Officers and guests.

Before the closing ceremony, entertainment programs were presented.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 7th ASEAN Para Games Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gave an account of the Games.

Next, the Vice-President expressed his delight for witnessing the self-respect, self-confi-

dence and self-reliance of over 1500 athletes during the games.

The disabled athletes showed their diligence, spirit and meaning of the essence of life individually and the capabilities had brought the amazing days to audience including him, the Vice-President said.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun announced the closing of the 7th ASEAN Para Games.

The flame at the main torch was extinguished shortly after firework displays marked the closing

ceremony.

Then, the ceremony proceeded with lowering the flags of the State and ASEAN Para Sports Federation and raising the flag of Singapore that will host the 8th ASEAN Para Games in 2015.

The Union sports minister handed over the federation flag to the representative of Singapore.

The closing ceremony came to an end with a dance performed by more than 2000 entertainers and performances of vocalists and movie stars.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint attends closing ceremony of 7th ASEAN Para Games

(See page 9)



Photo shows War vessel HMAS CHILDERS from Australian Navy.
MYAWADY

HMAS CHILDERS calls at MITT Port

YANGON, 20 Jan— War vessel HMAS CHILDERS from Australian Navy arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa-MITT Jetty of Thanlyin, here, this morning.

Acting Commander of No.1 Major War Vessel Group Cdr Aye Min Htwe, Australian Defence Attache Captain DUDLEYT RAN and servicemen from Defence Services (Navy)

welcomed the war vessel.

Three officers led by Commanding Officer LCDR C. Brought, RAN and 24 other ranks of the war vessel on boarded.

The war vessel will be there till 24 January. The calls of war vessels from neighbouring countries frequently can promote bilateral ties, mutual trust and cooperation between the countries.

MNA

K 40 million donated to fund for construction religious buildings

WUNDWIN, 20 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for renovation of ancient monastery, ancient pagoads, refectory and meditation buildings was held at Layhtet monastery in Naypugon Model Village of Wundwin Township, Meiktika District, Mandalay Region on 19 January.

Wellwisher U Han Tha-Daw Myint Myint Kyi (Retired Assistant Director of Ministry of Culture) of Pyittaingtaung Saw Mill of Paunglaung Ward of



Pyinmana donated K 40 million to the fund through a members of the monastery

board of trustees.

Abbot Bhaddanta

MYANMAR RED CROSS SOCIETY 72nd Central Council Meeting

23-24 January, 2014

Assembly Hall

Myanmar Red Cross Society (Headquarters),
Nay Pyi Taw

Surprise check made on vehicles in Kyaikto Tsp



KYAIKTO, 20 Jan—With the aim of decreasing traffic accidents and ensuring traffic rules enforcement, members of Traffic Police Force performed surprise on vehicles and motorbikes in Mawlamyine, Thaton and Kyaikto townships.

A combine team led by officials of Deputy Company Commander Office No.9 Traffic Police Corps in

Mawlamyine Township and the Platoon Commander of Traffic Police Force No. 53 in Thaton carried out a surprise check on vehicles in front of Shwebontha Pagoda at the corner of Kyaikpawlaw Pagoda road and Bogyoke Street in Kyaikto on 17 and 18 January.

Maung Maung Nyein
Chan

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Eye specialists give free eye care to patients



YANGON, 20 Jan—A total of three eye specialists, technicians and staff led by Medical Superintendent Dr U Ngwe Hsan of Eye Specialist Hospital on Natmauk Street in Tamway Township gave eye care services to the people on

16 January.

Eye patients from 20 wards of the township received free eye care services from specialists.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Ohnma Myint and staff and membes of social

TATKON, 20 Jan—To commemorate the 69th Literary Day, literary awarding ceremony and literary talks took place at Sasana Beikmantawgyi in Tatkon on 17 January.

Secretary writer Nyan Linn of Township Writers Association read out a organizations joined hands with the medicla teams to be able to smoothly and conveniently provide eye care to the local people.

Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, township level officials viewed the health care services.

Among 264 patients who received medical treatment, 23 patients were referred to Eye Specialist Hospital.—MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

Trafficking Squad, Traffic Police Corps, World Vision (Myanmar) and Law Office of Tachilek Township gave lectures on anti-human trafficking in villages of the township and explained human trafficking, human smuggling, sexual exploitation, rights of child, traffic rules and criminal cases.

MMAL-Myint Mo
(Tachilek)

message sent by Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) before the officials presented awards to the winners of the 4th quiz contest of Shwethinkha Education Foundation and short story, poem and article competitions to mark the 69th Literary Day.

At the talks, Writers Aung Kyi Nyunt (Tekkatho) and Tekkatho Sein Tin shared their knowledge and experiences on literary affairs, attended by over 2000 people.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

Kawthoung BEHS No 2 holds School Family Day



KAWTHOUNG, 20 Jan—The School Family Day

was observed at Basic Education High School No 2

in Kawthoung on 18 January.

Tactical Operations Commander Col Thet Tun Oo made an opening address.

Township Education Officer U Htay Lwin explained academic matters.

Officials and members of the School Board of Trustees gave prizes to the outstanding students for 2012-2013 academic year.

Next, students performed entertainments to the audiences.

MMAL-Kyaw Soe
(Kawthoung)

Signboard erected for prevention against trafficking in persons



MONGPHYAT, 20 Jan—A ceremony to erect the signboard of anti-human trafficking was held in front of Mongphyat Basic Education High School recently.

Mongphyat District Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Ohn and Commander of District

Police Police Lt-Col Tin Shwe supervised the ceremony, attended by departmental personnel, members of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad, Tachilek Traffic Police Corps and World Vision (Myanmar), teachers and students.

Police and officials of District Anti-Human

Suspect arrested for loss of jewellery in Nay Pyi Taw

NAYPYITAW, 20 Jan—A suspect in jewellery burglary worth K 12.22 million was k arrested within a day in Bawgatheikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township, here, yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police of Zabuthiri Police Station No.3 arrested the

suspect Thein Pe Myint, 29, of Nyaunglebin Township together with the evidences in his motorbike yesterday afternoon.

The suspect is a helper of the complainant and he burglarized the jewellery in the house.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)



WORLD

UN chief invites Iran to Geneva 2, Syria opposition threatens to withdraw

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Jan — Syria's political opposition said on Monday it will withdraw from international peace talks scheduled this week unless United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon retracts an invitation to Iran, President Bashar al-Assad's main backer.

Washington, however, suggested it could support Iran's participation if it explicitly declares its support for a June 2012 plan for a political transition that the United States says means Assad would have to step

down. "This is something Iran has never done publicly and something we have long made clear is required," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement. "If Iran does not fully and publicly accept the Geneva communique, the invitation must be rescinded."

Ban said earlier that he had invited Iran to attend the first day of talks on 22 January in Montreux, Switzerland and that Teheran had pledged to play a "positive and constructive role" if

it was asked to participate.

Less than 48 hours since Syria's main political opposition group in exile, the National Coalition, agreed to attend the talks, dubbed "Geneva 2," it threatened to withdraw.

"The Syrian Coalition announces that they will withdraw their attendance in Geneva 2 unless Ban Ki-moon retracts Iran's invitation," it said in a Twitter post, quoting National Coalition spokesman Louay Safi. Another senior Coalition member, Anas al-

Abdah, told Al-Jazeera TV by phone that the body was "surprised" by the invitation to Iran. "It is illogical and we cannot in any way accept it."

Some 130,000 people have been killed and a quarter of Syrians driven from their homes in the civil war, which began with peaceful protests against 40 years of Assad family rule and has descended into a sectarian conflict, with the opposing sides armed and funded by Sunni Arab states and Shi'ite Iran.—Reuters



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (L) welcomes Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif before a meeting in Damascus on 15 Jan, 2014, in this handout released by Syria's national news agency SANA.

REUTERS

Egypt charges secularists alongside Mursi in new case

CAIRO, 20 Jan — Deposed Egyptian president Mohamed Mursi was on Sunday ordered to stand trial for insulting the judiciary, legal sources said, alongside 24 others including liberal activists who opposed his Islamist rule but have also been critical of the new army-backed order.

It is the fourth case brought against Mursi since he was ousted by the army last year, after a year in power, following mass protests against his rule.

But it also points

to the growing pressure faced by the secular-minded activists who helped to topple Hosni Mubarak in 2011, and have criticized both Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood when it was in power and the new military-backed authorities. The non-Islamists charged in the case include former members of parliament Amr Hamzawy and Mostafa El Naggar, as well as Alaa Abdel Fattah, an activist blogger detained since November and already facing trial



Egypt's Islamist President-elect Mohamed Mursi (R) delivers a speech in Cairo's Tahrir Square, on 29 June, 2012.—REUTERS

on charges of protesting without permission.

The charge of insulting the judiciary carries a jail term of up to three years.

Mursi has already been charged with inciting violence and conspiring with foreign militants against Egypt. Egypt's army-backed interim government

has waged a determined campaign of suppression against the Brotherhood, which it has labeled a terrorist organization. The security forces killed hundreds of its supporters in the weeks after Mursi was overthrown, and arrested thousands more.

Reuters

S Korea trade official kidnapped in Libya

SEOUL, 20 Jan — A South Korean trade official in Libya was abducted on Sunday by unidentified armed men, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

The official was identified as Han Seok Woo, who heads the Tripoli office of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency.

Yonhap News Agency said Han, 39, who has been in Libya since July 2012, was being driven home from work when several

men in a car forced his vehicle to stop. They abducted him but left behind his Iraqi driver.

The Foreign Ministry has established an emergency task force and has requested the Libyan government's cooperation in locating the kidnappers and freeing Han, while it also plans to ban South Koreans from traveling to the country in light of the abduction case, according to Yonhap.

Kyodo News

Protesters clash with police at large Ukraine rally



Pro-European integration protesters take cover behind shields among burnt-out vehicles during clashes with Ukrainian riot police in Kiev on 19 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

KIEV, 20 Jan — Protesters clashed with riot police in the Ukrainian capital on Sunday after tough anti-protest legislation, which the political opposition says paves the way for a police state, was rushed through parliament last week.

A group of young masked demonstrators attacked a cordon of police with sticks and tried to overturn a bus blocking their way to the parliament building after opposition

politicians called on people to disregard the new legislation. Despite appeals from opposition leaders not to resort to violence, and a personal intervention from boxer-turned-politician Vitaly Klitschko, protesters continued to throw smoke bombs and hurl fireworks and other objects at police.

The police appeared to show restraint during that fracas. The Interior Ministry said 30 police were hurt, including more than 10

admitted to hospital and four in serious condition.

A spokeswoman for Klitschko tweeted that President Viktor Yanukovich had agreed to meet Klitschko immediately at the presidential residence outside Kiev, although there was no confirmation from Yanukovich's side. Klitschko later tweeted that the president had agreed to set up a committee on Monday to settle the political crisis. As tensions continued into the night, police used water cannon against demonstrators gathered near the parliament building and the heavily protected government headquarters, eyewitnesses said.

Earlier, some distance away from the clashes, up to 100,000 Ukrainians massed on Kiev's Independence Square in defiance of the sweeping new laws, which ban rallies and which Washington and other Western capitals have denounced as undemocratic.

Reuters

Powers and Iran to activate landmark nuclear deal after IAEA nod

BRUSSELS/VIENNA, 20 Jan — World powers and Iran are due to start implementing a landmark deal on Monday curbing Teheran's nuclear programme, amid hopes that it will pave the way for a broad settlement of a decade-old standoff and ease fears of a new Middle East war.

If, as expected, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog confirms in the morning that Iran is meeting its end of the agreement, the European Union and the United States will later in the day suspend some economic sanctions in return.

The mutual concessions are scheduled to last six months, during which

time six powers - the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — aim to negotiate a final accord defining the permissible scope of Iran's nuclear activity.

Western governments want such an agreement to lay to rest their concerns that Iran could produce an atomic weapon. Teheran is seeking an end to painful economic sanctions that have severely damaged its oil-dependent economy.

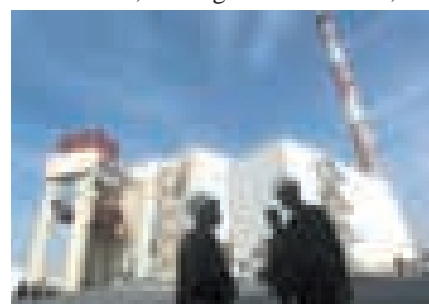
The interim accord, struck on 24 November after years of on-off diplomacy, marks the first time in a decade that Teheran has limited its nuclear work, which it says has no

military goals, and the first time the West has eased economic pressure on Iran.

"It is an important agreement and I hope that this will now give us an opportunity to move forward and to look at a more comprehensive agreement shortly," EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said.

Ashton coordinates diplomatic contacts with Iran on behalf of the six nations and plans to visit Teheran in the coming weeks as part of her effort to bring an end to the nuclear dispute. Under the deal, Iran is obligated to suspend enrichment of uranium to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, a short technical step away from the level needed for nuclear weapons.

It also has to dilute or convert its pile of this higher-grade uranium, and cease work on the Arak heavy water reactor, which could provide plutonium for bombs.—Reuters



Iranian workers stand in front of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, about 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 26 Oct, 2010 file photo.

REUTERS

Islamist group claims Volgograd attacks, threatens Olympics

MOSCOW, 20 Jan — An Islamic militant group said in a video posted online that it was behind two suicide bombings that killed at least 34 people last month in the Russian city of Volgograd, and threatened to attack the Sochi Winter Olympics. In a warning to President Vladimir Putin over next month's Games, a man says in Russian in the video: "If you hold the Olympics you will receive a present from us ... for you and all those tourists who will come over."

"It will be for all the Muslim blood that is shed every day around the world - be it in Afghanistan, So-

malia, Syria, all around the world. This will be our revenge," he says. The video says two men called Suleiman and Abdurakhman carried out the Volgograd attacks on behalf of a group known as Vilayat Dagestan and linked to an Iraqi faction called Ansar al-Sunna.

Dagestan is in Russia's North Caucasus, where militants are waging an insurgency to create an Islamist state. Doku Umarov, a militant leader, has urged the insurgents to attack the Games in Sochi, which lies on the western edge of the Caucasus mountains.

Reuters



Members of the emergency services work at the site of a bomb blast on a trolleybus in Volgograd on 30 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

Islamist rebels reject 'hollow' Syria peace talks

BEIRUT, 20 Jan — A powerful alliance of Syrian Islamist rebels rejected upcoming peace talks on Sunday, meaning that even if the talks reach an unlikely breakthrough in the three year old civil war, it will be harder to implement it on the ground.

Syria's main political opposition group in exile, the National Coalition, agreed on Saturday to attend the talks beginning on Wednesday in Geneva, setting up the first meeting between President Bashar al-Assad's government and its foes.

But the Islamic Front, an alliance of several Islamist fighting forces that represents a large portion of the rebels on the ground, said on Sunday it rejected the talks.

Syria's future would be "formulated here on the ground of heroism, and signed with blood on the front lines, not in hollow conferences attended by those who don't even rep-

resent themselves," Abu Omar, a leading member of the Islamic Front, said on his Twitter account.

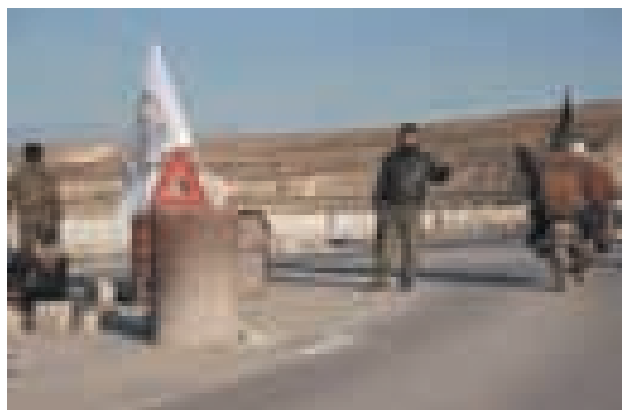
Some 130,000 people have been killed and a quarter of Syrians driven from their homes in the civil war, which began with peaceful protests against 40 years of Assad family rule and has descended into a sectarian conflict, with the opposing sides armed and funded by Sunni Arab states and Shi'ite Iran.

In what appeared to be a symbolic conciliatory move ahead of the talks, Syria permitted some aid

to reach a besieged suburb of Damascus on Saturday and Sunday, state media said.

Saturday's shipment included only 200 food parcels for Yarmouk, a camp of Palestinian refugees where 15 people have died of malnutrition so far under a seven-month siege. UN Relief Works Agency spokesman Chris Gunness said it would feed just 330 of the camp's 18,000 residents for a month. It was not immediately clear how much aid made it through on Sunday.

Reuters



A member of al-Jabha al-Islamiya (the Islamic Front) mans a checkpoint between the village of Kafaroumeh and the town of Maaret al-Naaman, to prevent members of the al Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from advancing towards Jabal Al-Zawiya, in Idlib on 6 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

13 killed as suicide bomber hits in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 20 Jan — At least 13 people were killed and over 20 others injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up near a police check post jointly owned by police and Pakistan army on Monday morning, officials said.

Haroon Joya, Superintendent police, said that a teenager suicide bomber riding a bicycle blew himself up in the middle of Royal Artillery Bazar, located around 500 meters away from the General Headquarters of Pakistan army in Rawalpindi, the sister city of Pakistan's capital Islamabad. He said that six security personnel and seven civilians including a woman and two school kids were among

the killed, while the injured included security personnel and school kids who were passing by the blast site.

Police said that they found leg of the suicide bomber with a black shoe from the blast site. According to initial reports the bomber was carrying an estimated 5-8 kg of explosives which were used in the blast. The injured have been shifted to District Hospital and Military Hospital where several of them were said to be in critical condition.

Shortly after the blast, Shahid Ullah Shahid, spokesperson of Pakistan Taliban, claimed responsibility for the blast saying that they would keep on targeting security forces in

the future. He said they are targeting and would target forces in response to the ongoing operation in the country's tribal areas, and killing of their leader Wali ur Rehman.

This is the second attack on the security forces over the last 24 hours, earlier on Sunday morning, 23 troops were killed and over 30 others injured when a suicide bomber hit an army convoy in northwest Pakistan.

Following the blast, both Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Mamnoon Hussain condemned the blast and directed hospital administration to provide best possible medical facilities to the injured people. —Xinhua

Photo taken on 19 Jan, 2014, shows an ice sculpture of a British castle lit up during the Souknyo ice festival in Kamikawa, Hokkaido. KYODO NEWS



New Zealand hit by M6.3 quake, some damage reported

SYDNEY, 20 Jan — New Zealand's North Island was hit by a strong quake on Monday afternoon that reportedly caused some damage, though there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The quake, which occurred at 3:52 pm, had a magnitude of 6.3 and was followed by several aftershocks, according to the US Geological Survey, which monitors global seismic activity.

It was centered 115 kilometers northeast of Wellington, in the southern part of the island, and had an estimated depth of 27.4 km.

Radio New Zealand said St John Ambulance has reported substantial damage at Eketahuna, a small town in the southeast corner of North Island. It also said there has been a massive rock fall from a hill in Castlepoint, near the quake's epicentre.

Train services in the affected area have reportedly been suspended because of the quake. —Kyodo News

New exam-free policy attracts HK students to mainland

BEIJING, 20 Jan — Hong Kong student Huen Chak-ming never imagined his interest in traditional Chinese medicine could develop into a career until he received an admissions letter from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine last summer.

"If I had stayed in Hong Kong, I probably would have had to change my major because there are few universities offering classes in Chinese medicine, and opportunities for clinical practice are also rare," Huen said on Friday after finishing his first semester at the university.

Thanks to the exam-free

policy, adopted by the Ministry of Education in 2012, Huen and 25 other Hong Kong secondary school graduates enrolled at the university in autumn 2013 without taking the Joint Entrance Examination, previously mandatory for students from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao.

The exam-free admissions policy has made universities on the Chinese mainland attractive destinations for Hong Kong students. Hong Kong students interested in enrolling in college on the mainland can apply directly to as many as 75 universities using their results from the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination.

The policy was inspired by then vice-premier Li Ke-qiang's call to boost academic exchanges between Hong Kong and the mainland, a proposal Li made during his visit to the University of Hong Kong in August 2011.

The policy will attract more students to the mainland while relieving the ad-

mission pressure in Hong Kong, said Zhang Meng, deputy director of the Education Ministry's office of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan affairs.

Of the 73,000-plus final-year students who took the HKDSE in 2013, only about 26,000 scored high enough for Hong Kong university admission, according to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Wu Wai-yan, who was admitted to China University of Political Science and Law last year through the new policy, said subjects like math in the previous JEE exam, based on the mainland's high school curriculum, were unfairly difficult for Hong Kong students.

However, mainland universities still require Hong Kong students' HKDSE results to meet minimum standards, and officials arrange admission interviews to assess students' academic backgrounds and their ability to adapt to a new environment.

Xinhua

WORLD

Canada PM on debut visit to Israel eyeing closer ties

JERUSALEM, 20 Jan — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper landed in Israel on Sunday afternoon for a four-day visit to the country to meet with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Airport Authority's spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua.

Harper and his wife as well as a large of entourage of cabinet ministers including a senator and three Canadian business executives were welcomed in the Tel Aviv Airport by the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Canada's ambassador to Israel Vivian Bercovici.

According to an announcement by the Cana-

dian cabinet spokesperson Jason MacDonald, Harper's first trip to Israel will focus on cooperation in various fields between the two countries, especially economic cooperation, and the status of the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Harper will be given an official welcome ceremony at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Sunday evening, and Netanyahu and his wife will later host a dinner for the Canadian prime minister at the Prime Minister's official residence in Jerusalem.

On Monday, he will speak in front of the Israeli parliament (Knesset) and on Tuesday he plans



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (1st R) and his Canadian counterpart Stephen Harper (2nd R) inspect guards of honor at a reception in Jerusalem, on 19 Jan, 2014. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper landed in Israel on Sunday afternoon for a four-day visit to the country to meet with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Airport Authority's spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua. —XINHUA

to meet with Israeli President Shimon Peres. Later in the day a joint meeting of Canadian and Israeli ministers will take place in Jerusalem.

Reports indicate that

Harper plans to meet with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and will still visit neighboring Jordan and meet with Jordanian King Abdullah II.

Xinhua

European court ruling belongs to legal arena

SARAJEVO, 20 Jan — The European Human Rights Court ruling should be dealt with by legal experts, instead of politicians of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), said two appellants on Sunday whose action led to the ruling.

Dervo Sejdic and Jakob Finci, the two appellants, said the ruling is "a simply" legal issue which should not be moved to political arena, reported Fena, the Federal News Agency of BiH. The two launched an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights on the basis that BiH's Constitution violates the European Convention on Human Rights.

Under the Constitution of BiH, the presidency, which consists of three members, can only come from three constituent peoples: one Bosniak and one Croat elected from the Federation of BiH and one Serb elected from RS.

The European Court of Human Rights passed a ruling in favor of Sejdic and Finci in September 2009. The European Union has made the adoption of the ruling as a precondition for BiH to join the bloc.

The issue should be solved long ago by legal experts, according to Sejdic and Finci.

Xinhua

FAO to boost efforts to improve food security in Somalia

NAIROBI, 20 Jan — The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will spend approximately 120 million US dollars in Somalia in 2014 in order to improve the nation's food security, the UN food agency's local representative told Xinhua. Speaking to Xinhua late Saturday, Luca Alinovi said the funds will be used to support the livestock, fisheries and agricultural sectors of the Horn of Africa nation.

"We want to ensure that Somalia is resilient so that it can prevent the re-occurrence of famine," Alinovi said on the sidelines of a Somali investment conference. The one-day event brought the private sector, government, donor officials to examine opportunities in the private sector in Somalia. He said Somalia has one of the largest livestock sectors in Africa, despite decades of civil strife.

"It has a stock of between 15 to 20 million live-

stock consisting mainly of goats, sheep and camel," he said. "Somali exports approximately five million live animals to the Gulf nations annually," the country representative said. Somalia is also a major importer of wheat, sugar, maize, potato and sorghum.

The Horn of Africa nation has massive marine resources but the country's fishing industry remains largely underdeveloped and its fisheries unexploited. This is partly due to decades of conflict and piracy on the high seas, and partly because fish does not form part of the traditional Somali diet. Consecutive droughts have affected the country in the last few years while the ongoing conflict has made it extremely difficult for aid agencies to operate and access communities in the south.

The combination of the massive scale-up in humanitarian assistance and an exceptional harvest has

helped to improve the humanitarian situation in Somalia where famine conditions are no longer present. But any significant interruption to assistance would reverse the gains made since famine was declared in July 2011.

The country is still emerging from a food security crisis following the drought and famine of 2011 that left many thousands dead. Alinovi said his organization is currently constructing slaughterhouses in Somalia. He noted that Somalia's domestic livestock market has not been fully exploited. "We want to encourage producers to develop the local market," he said. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Poverty Reduction and Environmental Protection (PREP) Programme Manager in Somalia Jonathan Brooks said that private sector development is crucial in order to stimulate livelihoods in Somalia.

Xinhua

White House threatens sanctions against Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan — The White House threatened on Sunday to slap sanctions on Ukraine "in response to its use of violence" against protesters.

"The US will continue to consider additional steps — including sanctions — in response to the use of violence," National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement. "We are deeply concerned by the violence taking place today on the streets of Kiev and urge all sides to immediately de-escalate the situation," she added.

According to Ukraine's media reports, the protesters have tried to overturn one police car and torched another interior forces vehicle, which met with strong resistance from the police.

No casualties in the clashes have been officially confirmed so far. Ukrainian police has opened a criminal

case into the incident. The latest wave of protests came after the Ukrainian parliament approved a legislation on Thursday, banning some type of demonstrations. The bill is widely seen as "anti-protests law" and has sparked public criticism.

"The increasing tension in Ukraine is a direct consequence of the government failing to acknowledge the legitimate grievances of its people," Hayden said, urging the government to repeal the bill, withdraw the riot police from Kiev, and start a dialogue with the opposition.

In his first response to the violence, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said on his website late Sunday that he has tasked a working group, headed by national security council head Andriy Kliuyev to "consider the issues regarding the settlement of political crisis." —Xinhua



Migrant workers from east China's Jiangxi Province start their homebound motorcycle journey, on 19 Jan, 2014. Many migrant workers in the province choose motorcycle as the means of transport when they return to their hometowns for family reunion during the Spring Festival. —XINHUA

British Queen likely to gradually "shift" royal duties to heirs

LONDON, 20 Jan — British Queen Elizabeth II is said to begin sharing some of the monarch's duties with her son Prince Charles, as the latter is set to stand in for his mother in a growing number of official activities, a British newspaper reported on Sunday. The 66-year-old Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, will accompany the 88-year-old Queen to France to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allies' landings in Normandy in 1944, and attend some of the "key engagements" in place of his mother, according to a front-page report by the Sunday Times.

The move shows the two will "move towards what is in effect a job-share," the report said. The press offices of the Queen and Prince Charles are to be merged, with the new office to be run by the Prince's staff, further signaling Prince Charles will assume more royal responsibility, according to the report. Last year, Prince Charles accompanied the Queen to attend the state opening of British parliament in May and represented his mother at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Colombo of Sri Lanka in November.

Xinhua



A resident takes part during the Citizen's Fair in the framework of the 7th anniversary of the government of Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, in Sucua, Morona Santiago Province, Ecuador, on 18 Jan, 2014. The Ecuadorian government implemented the citizen's fairs to inform the public in a practical way on various services offered by the ministries of the State. —XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Consortium upgrading Panama Canal says won't immediately halt work

PANAMA CITY/MADRID, 20 Jan — A consortium of construction companies, led by Spain's Sacyr (SCYR.MC), backed down on Sunday from a threat to immediately halt work expanding the Panama Canal in a dispute over cost overruns, but said it could still do so at a later date. The consortium, known as Grupo Unidos por el Canal (GUPC), had threatened to suspend work

by Monday, 20 January unless the Panama Canal Authority (PCA) paid \$1.6 billion in cost overruns. The authority has rejected that demand and asked GUPC to withdraw the threat of suspension.

But with neither side backing down, and with Monday's deadline looming, it had seemed a hiatus in one of the world's largest construction projects was

inevitable, until the consortium clarified its position on Sunday. "GUPC does not necessarily have to make any change in the status of the project tomorrow," the consortium said in a statement.

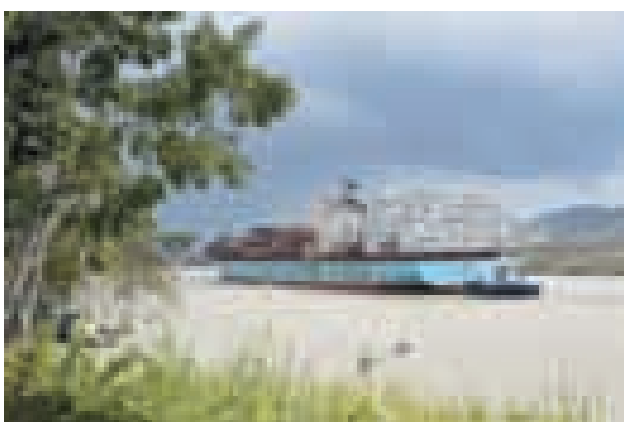
However, the threat that construction could stop has not yet dissipated, with the consortium adding that a letter sent on December 30 demanding payment for cost overruns gave it the right to suspend work at any time from January 21 onwards. The consortium is set to meet with the PCA and insurers Zurich North America on Tuesday to discuss the status of the work, including its \$600 million bond on the \$3.12 billion locks project, the most difficult part of the expansion.

Canal Administrator Jorge Quijano has said the PCA is already in discussions with other third-party contractors in case it cannot

resolve its dispute with the GUPC. He estimated the remaining work would cost about \$1.5 billion. GUPC — which also includes Italy's Salini Impregilo SpA (SALIMI), Belgium's Jan De Nul and Constructora Urbana from Panama — won the contract to build a third set of locks for the century-old canal in 2009.

The canal authority has said it is willing to consider detailed claims for the overruns through arbitration. Sacyr's chairman, Manuel Manrique, said at a press conference last week in Madrid that the dispute will not have a significant impact on the company's earnings and is not putting its solvency at risk. The canal is one of the world's most important shipping routes. The entire project was due to cost about \$5.25 billion, but the overruns could bump that up to nearly \$7 billion.

Reuters



A cargo ship is seen at the Panama Canal in Panama City on 8 Jan, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS

Warburg Pincus buys stake in European ETF provider

NEW YORK, 20 Jan —US private equity firm Warburg Pincus has bought a majority stake in a European exchange traded fund

provider, in a deal that will give the asset manager new funds to expand offerings and grow through acquisitions, the *Financial Times*

reported on Sunday.

Warburg Pincus purchased the stake in Source from a group of banks that included Bank of America

Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, according to the report that valued the investment at about \$300 million.—Reuters

SFO granted extra funds to probe Rolls-Royce corruption case

BANGALORE, 20 Jan —The Serious Fraud Office has received additional funding from the UK Treasury in its probe of alleged bribery and corruption by defense group Rolls-Royce (RR.L) in China and Indonesia, the *Financial Times* reported, citing sources.

The Serious Fraud Office and the UK Treasury declined a comment on the story. The Treasury has agreed to so-called block-

buster funding "in the low millions" of pounds for the SFO's probe, people familiar with the matter told the newspaper on Sunday. The *Financial Times* said that the secret funding could explain why the SFO made the surprise announcement before Christmas that it was accelerating its interest in Rolls-Royce to an official criminal probe.

Rolls Royce, the world's second-largest maker of air-

craft, in December last year confirmed SFO's investigation in the matter. Tommy Suharto, the youngest son of Indonesia's late president, in November 2013 denied allegations that he received any bribes from Rolls-Royce.

Allegations of corruption are not new to the defense and aerospace industry, in which companies commonly use individuals or companies as intermediaries in countries where they do not have a large presence. BAE Systems (BAES.L), Europe's biggest defence company, was fined \$450 million by the United States and Britain in 2010, following long-running corruption investigations at home and abroad into defence deals in Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Hungary.—Reuters



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

Biocon to start selling breast cancer drug in India in February

MUMBAI, 20 Jan —Biocon Ltd said its generic version of Roche's Herceptin breast cancer treatment would be available to patients in India from the first week of February.

Bangalore-based Biocon jointly developed biosimilar trastuzumab, which received the Indian drug regulator's marketing approval in November, with US-based Mylan Inc.

About 150,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer every year in India, of which 25 percent are eligible for treatment with trastuzumab, Biocon said.

Roche decided not to

pursue a patent application for its breast cancer drug Herceptin in India, paving the way for generic drug-makers to produce cheaper copies, known as biosimilars because they are not

identical to the original drug.

Global sales for Herceptin were valued at about \$6.4 billion in 2012, including about \$21 million in India, Biocon said.—Reuters



India's Biocon Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw



A consumer (R) consults with a salesrep from a real estate company in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 30 Sept, 2013. XINHUA

China's GDP up 7.7 pct in 2013

BEIJING, 20 Jan — China's economy grew 7.7 percent year on year in 2013, the same as 2012 and beating the government's target of 7.5 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday.

Last year, gross domestic product (GDP) reached 56.88 trillion yuan (9.31 trillion US dollars). The economy's fourth-quarter growth also stood at 7.7 percent."

China's economic performance stabilized in 2013," said Ma Jiantang, director of the NBS at a Press conference, citing encouraging GDP and job

data as well as subdued inflation. The Chinese government defined the "upper and lower limits" of the reasonable range of economic performance in 2013.

With a GDP growth rate of 7.5 percent, the "lower limit" is intended to ensure steady expansion and employment, and with the consumer price index at around 3.5 percent, the "upper limit" is meant to prevent inflation.

Figures showed that China created more than 10 million new jobs in 2013 and inflation came in at 2.6 percent for the whole year.

Xinhua

After Target hack, Verifone smart card readers could shine



A data breach at Target Corp that exposed the credit card information of tens of millions of holiday shoppers was a major black eye for the retailer. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 20 Jan — A data breach at Target Corp that exposed the credit card information of tens of millions of holiday shoppers was a major black eye for the retailer. In its wake, investors and analysts are circling companies that could benefit from a major upgrade in credit card technology.

One of their favour-

ites: Verifone Systems Inc, a \$3.2 billion market cap company that is one of two major global manufacturers of point-of-sale terminals and mobile payments systems and could profit from any major upgrades of payment technology. Analysts at JPMorgan Chase and JEFFERIES & Co upgraded their outlook for the company in the last 10 days, help-

ing send its shares price up about 25 percent since the Target breach was first reported on 18 December.

Yet for its shares to continue to rally, Verifone must prove to analysts and portfolio managers it has taken steps to right its own ship after several years of choppy performance. That question mark is a product of several years of poor acquisitions and a history of missing earnings estimates that left the company's shares down more than 20 percent for the year just before the Target breach became public — in a bullish year for stocks. It hangs over the company as a new wave of credit card technology looks poised to finally make inroads in the US after being the standard in Europe for years.—Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar

7TH ASEAN PARA GAMES SPECIAL



7th ASEAN Para Games



Patrons of Myanmar Women's Federation seen with Myanmar goal medalist. KYEMON



Closing ceremony of 7th ASEAN Para Games in progress.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 21 January, 2014

The fastest way to physical fitness

Many people know that running or jogging is a good exercise as renowned health societies even suggest that jogging and other types of aerobic exercise can reduce the risk of lung, colon, breast, and prostate cancers, among others.

While running on a treadmill will provide health benefits such as cancer prevention, and aid in weight loss, a study of an international health organization reports that jogging outdoors can have the additional benefits of increased energy and concentration. Jogging outdoors is a better way to improve energy levels and advance mood than using a treadmill at the gym.

Moreover, outdoor running will also provide an excellent variety of scenery, routes, and terrain, but will cause added strain on our knees and shins (the very front part of our lower legs). But how do we start this excellent exercise. First we need a pair of running shoes. And if necessary, we should visit a store that specializes in running equipment for advice.

Any store that carries proper running shoes will also carry proper running attire. We must know the level of commitment that we are comfortable with and the amount of time and energy we want to use for running.

No matter what our goal is we need to start small, slow, and build up. Moreover, it will be more enjoyable if we can find a friend who also wants to get in shape, and start jogging together. So, running can be a great way to get into shape and stay fit. It is by far one of the simplest (and cheapest) sports available, can be done anytime of the day, any day of the year, and is the fastest way to physical fitness.

Myanmar, Norway to cooperate in environmental conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Norwegian Ambassador Ms Ann Ollestad at his office today.

Their discussions focused on cooperation in environmental conservation, development of forestry sector, protection of

biodiversity, especially in development of Inlay Lake and betterment of social economy of national people residing around the lake, conservation of water resources, development of ecotourism industry and enhancement of technology, expertise and human resources between Myanmar and Norway.—MNA

Union Minister U Win Tun receives Norwegian Ambassador Ms Ann Ollestad.—MNA

**Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar comprising 300 members of the Sangha represent over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles which were passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders shall hold its annual meeting at least once a year.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that altogether seven Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and supports of Buddhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010 respectively. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists all over the world know that altogether six great Buddhist Councils (Synods) leading and contributing to the

purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha over 2557 years ago. The Fifth great Buddhist Council (Synod) was successfully held in the City of Mandalay, Myanmar in 1871 (2415 Buddhist Era) and it was attended by 2400, venerable elders (Mahatheras) led by the most Venerable Jagarabhivamsa and they confirmed to recite and approve the sacred scriptures

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

which were then inscribed on stone slabs. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) was also successfully held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, Myanmar in 1954 (2498 Buddhist Era), and it was attended by 2500 venerable elders (Mahatheras) from the Five Theravada Buddhist Nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar led by the most Venerable Bhaddanta Revata of Myanmar, and they confirmed to recite and verify the sacred scriptures which were later put into print. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist Nations were greatly pleased and honoured for successfully holding the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unitedly implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be possible to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His teachings.

In fact, the main ob-

jectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate, promote and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas)

which were contrary to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schisms and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

To rebuild the unity and mutual understanding between different schools and sects of the Sangha Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All the Buddhists firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation was well-developed and prosperous in those golden times when the members of the Sangha of Orders unanimously practiced the Vinaya Laws and fulfilled their religious duties.

The First, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth and the seventh Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar successfully have rebuilt the unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and Government since 1980. A single Sangha Organization could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the first time in one hundred years.

The Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic the Union of Myanmar, the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are fixed to be held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Hillock, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, from 20 to 21 January 2014. The meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Ovadaçariya (Patrons) representing all members of Sangha throughout the country.

The main objectives of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to strengthen more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have already been made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are heartily pleased and honoured to be able to pay profound respect to the members of the Sangha being present at the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

LOCAL NEWS



7th ASEAN Para Games ...

(from page 1)

Host Myanmar stood fifth at the medal tally of the Games, winning 34 gold, 26 silver and 36 bronze medals while Indo-

nesia was at the top, grabbing 96 gold, 82 silver and 70 bronze medals, followed by Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint and party attending the closing of the 7th ASEAN Para Games.—MNA

Coordination with experts ...

(from page 16)

16 villages in Pindaya and Ywangan Townships will be implemented through JICA ODA loans in 2014-2015 FY. He confirmed that most of the points stated in the 24-point agreement signed by rural electrification committees will be erased and amendments ac-

ceptable to all made as soon as possible.

Next, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin submitted Ambassadors' Bill to the Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member read out the report on the Bill.

MNA

Enactment of anti-money laundering ...

(from page 16)

a proposal urging the Union government to carry out a long-term national plan for formation of a national level organization consists of ministries, NGOs, INGOs and scholars to respond impact of climate change, fund designation and exchange of information in coordination with international organizations for the interest of the State and people, and two Hluttaw

representatives seconded the proposal.

Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw replied that National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, National Natural Disaster Preparedness Management Work Committee and eleven subcommittees had already been formed. K 100 billion were allowed in Union Budget Allocation Law for 2013-2014 fiscal year for

natural disasters and other emergency issues in Myanmar.

Being a member of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, Myanmar is carrying out exchange of information and data in collaboration with NGOs and INGOs in ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and United Nations Environment Programme.

Hluttaw announced not to approve the proposal as a majority was not in favour of the proposal.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photo with General Suravach Butrwong, Director of Neighbouring Countries Coordinating Center from Royal Thai Armed Forces.(News on page 16)—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives lecturer of Oxford University

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Stipendiary Lecturer in Faculty of Law from Oxford University Mr Andrew

McLeod and party at the Hluttaw Building, here, today.

They cordially discussed process of 2008 constitution review committee, suggestions of social or-

ganizations and in persons, assistance of Oxford University for development of library, academic and research of Law Department at Yangon University.

MNA

7th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders Meeting held

YANGON, 20 Jan—Meeting of 7th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa

presided over the meeting.

The Sayadaws supplicated on purpose of holding fifth all orders Sangha meeting, date and numbers of the Sayadaws for fifth all orders Sangha meeting, duty assignment for organizing committee for holding meeting, amendment of basic principles for Sangha organizations and duty assignment for amendment committee. The meeting was attended by the Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, Deputy Minister U Soe Win and departmental officials.—MNA

course for executive management of Myanmar civil service-2014 was opened at Nga Laik Kan Tha Garden & Resort here this morning.

UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu extended greetings. A total of 15 senior officers are taking the course that runs up during 20-24 January.—Myanma Alinn

1st International Health Partner & Steering Committee meet in Geneva

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—The 1st International Health Partner & Steering Committee Meeting was held in Geneva of Switzerland on 15-16 January.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung chaired the meeting. He made clarification on progress of Myanmar reforms in administrative machinery, economic and social sectors, providing public health care services, uplifting hospitals, promotion of traditional medicine, supervision of food and drug pro-

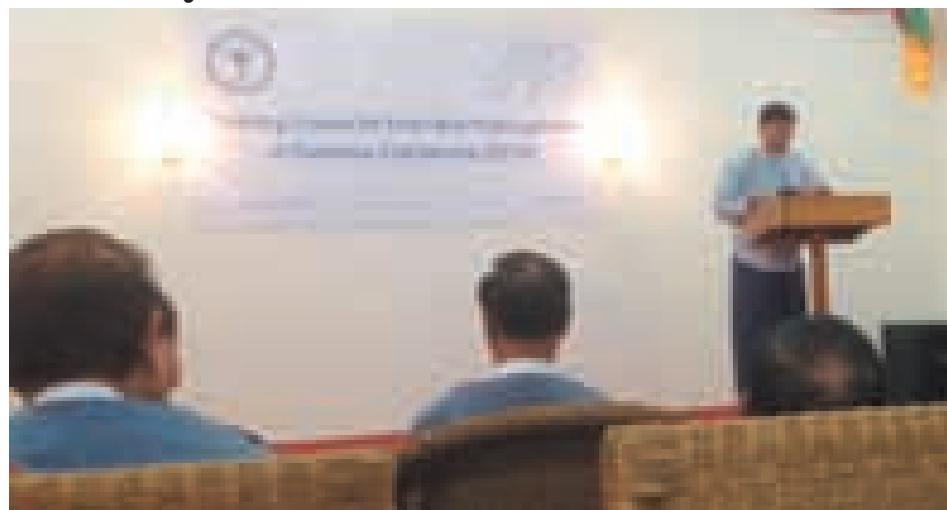
cess, follow-up plans of the Ministry of Health and co-operation with international organizations.

Including international organizations and UN, WHO and World Bank led the committee in 2007 with a view to ensuring development of health care services in developing countries. Myanmar joined the committee in 2014.

The Committee has thirty-five member countries to cooperate in developing health sector.

MNA

Training course for executive management of Myanmar civil service-2014 starts



UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu extends greetings at training course.

MYANMA ALINN

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Organized by the Union Civil Services Board in collaboration with Sa-

akawa Peace Foundation of Japan (SPF), a training

33rd Lahu national New Year Festival observed in Kengtung



KENG TUNG, 20 Jan—The office of Lahu literature and cultural troupe was held in conjunction with the Lahu National New Year Festival in Hwekha (Lahu) Village of Mongzin Village-tract in Kengtung Township on 18 January.

Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo, Lahu National Affairs Minister U Sha Mwe La Shen, Deputy Commissioner of Shan State U Tin Maung Shwe and Nanyun People's Militia U Kya Soe Bo formally opened

the office.

The commander and the Lahu National Affairs Minister extended greetings.

Member of the committee U Eindray spoke words of thanks.

The commander donated K 200,000 and solar power panels worth K 700,000 for the festival.

The office is 60 feet by 30 feet reinforced concrete. It comprises the meeting hall, the Lahu national affairs minister office, Lahu literature and culture committee chairman office, the secretary office and computer pool.—MMAL-Naing Naing Aung Wai

Transformer moved before cutting out of 66 KV national grid



Electricians in works to move transformer to load centre of the township.

YEZAGYO, 20 Jan—With a view to ensuring maintenance of 66 KV national grid linking Kyunchaung sub-power station along Kyunchaung-Pakokku-Pakhangyi line, the 500 KVA transformer in the compound of Township Electrical Engineer Office was moved to the load

centre area by electricians supervised by Township Electrical Engineer U Hla Myo on 18 January.

The move of the transformer is aimed at supplying electricity to the local people at full capacity when the power grid is being cut off.

MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw

National Objectives of 67th 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

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

White Heart Blood Donor Association gives Hepatitis B vaccine

LAYMYETHNA, 20 Jan—White Heart Blood Donor Association donated hepatitis B vaccine at the hall of Basic Education High School in Laymyethna of Ayeyawady Region on 18 January.

Chairman and

responsible persons of the association, township level officials and townsenders totalling over 300 attended the ceremony.

The chairman of the association explained the purpose of donation and aim of giving vaccination

to members of Myat Karuna blood donors association.

They vaccinated 209 blood donors. It was sponsored by U Nay Win-Daw Khin Thin Lwin and family (Yangon).

MMAL-Thiha (Laymyethna)



TRAFFIC KNOWLEDGE

Traffic Police distribute pamphlets on traffic rules

NYAUNGLEBIN, 20 Jan—SIP San Yu of Nyaunglebin Township Traffic Police Corps No 3 and local policemen distributed pamphlets on traffic rules for vehicles and pedestrians in Nyaunglebin of Bago Region on 19 January

morning.

They gave talks on traffic rules and wearing of helmets for motorcycle riders.

The traffic police presented pamphlets to the local people.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



DEVELOPMENT

Meeting held to spend K 100 million fund

BHAMO, 20 Jan—K 100 million was allotted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to carrying out regional development tasks in Bhamo Township of Kachin State.

The Township Development Committee meeting was held at the hall of the town on 18 January.

Vice-chairman of the Township Development Work Committee U Tun Shein made a speech, and Secretary U Kyaw Swe explained 56 tasks of rural development in wards and villages of the township. The chairman of Township

Development Supportive Committee, secretary and officials present took part in the meeting.

The fund will be spent on 20 water supply tasks, two water tank construction tasks, 18 rural bridge construction tasks, two education buildings, nine school desk construction tasks, one toilet construction, construction of four health buildings tasks totalling 56.

The meeting decided to implement the projects of construction and maintenance tasks as of 20 January.—MMAL-Hsimeekhon Nan Yi

REGIONAL

Gov't downplays re-election of mayor against US base relocation



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's convention in Tokyo on 19 Jan, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 20 Jan — Cabinet ministers expressed confidence on Monday about making progress on the stalled relocation of a US Marine base in Okinawa Prefecture, despite Sunday's reelection of a mayor opposed to transferring the base to his city.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga described the outcome of the election as "very disappointing," but said Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine can do little to block the construction of a replacement facility for the base after the required local approval was given by Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima.

Although Nago resi-

dents delivered an effective "no" vote to the plan to move the Futenma Air Station to their city's coast, Suga said, "The central and local governments are on the same page that the plan is the only solution to removing the danger of keeping the Futenma base (in its current location in a densely populated area) while maintaining deterrence."

"We will continue to seek local support," the top government spokesman said at a Press conference.

In Sunday's election, a de facto local referendum on the Japan-US base transfer plan, Inamine secured a second term, defeating pro-relocation candidate

Bunshin Suematsu. The defeat of Suematsu, who was endorsed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, poses a potential setback for the plan, which has been stalled for more than a decade due to strong local opposition in Okinawa.

Under a 1996 bilateral agreement, the US Marines' Futenma Air Station will be relocated from Ginowan to an offshore airstrip to be built in Nago.

"We hope to make steady progress on the relocation plan in order to eliminate risks posed by Futenma," Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera told reporters. In Nago, however,

Inamine vowed to fight the relocation plan, saying that voters rejected the use of "intimidation" by the Abe government.

"I will follow through on my pledge to resist any attempts to build a military base in the sea or on land in Nago," Inamine said. He also criticized Gov. Nakaima for saying shortly after his reelection that the mayor cannot do anything about it.

On Sunday night, the governor said, "Nothing can be done (to block the construction) because (the required) approval has already been given" last month by Nakaima himself.

Kyodo News

Thai government considers state of emergency after weekend violence

BANGKOK, 20 Jan — Thai authorities are "very seriously" considering a state of emergency after a weekend of violence in the capital where protesters have been trying for more than two months to bring down the government, the security chief said on Monday. Though the size of the demonstrations has declined, protesters have managed to shut down some government offices.

"We're prepared to use the emergency decree... Everyone involved including the police, the military and the government is considering this option very seriously but has not yet come to an agreement," National Security Council chief Patantabutr told Reuters after a meeting with Yingluck.

"The protesters have said they will close various government offices. So far their closures have been

symbolic, they go to government offices and then they leave. But if their tactics change and they close banks or government offices permanently then the chance for unrest increases and we will have to invoke this law," he said.

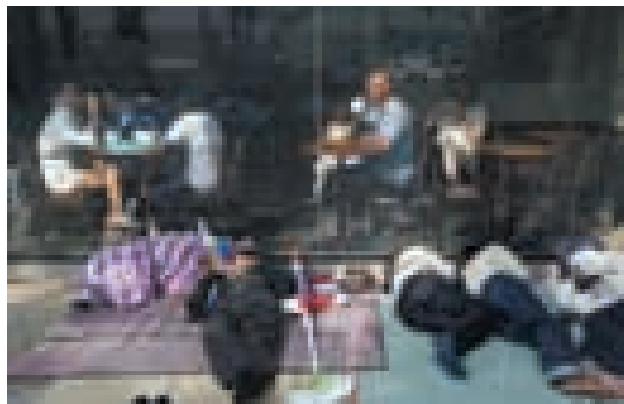
The emergency decree gives security agencies broad powers to impose curfews, detain suspects

without charge, censor media, ban political gatherings of more than five people and declare parts of the country off limits. One man was killed and dozens of people were wounded, some seriously, when grenades were thrown at anti-government protesters in the city centre on Friday and Sunday.

"I think these attacks have been designed to pro-

voke an army reaction," said Paul Chambers, director of research at the Institute of South East Asian Affairs in Chiang Mai, predicting a measured increase in the violence. That in turn could prompt the Election Commission to refuse to oversee the February 2 election called by Yingluck and which the main opposition has said it will boycott, he said.

Reuters



Anti-government protesters sleep in front of a coffee shop in central Bangkok on 20 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Tropical depression Agaton claims 40 lives in southern Philippines

MANILA, 20 Jan — Tropical depression Agaton, which inflicted southern and central Philippines, has killed 40 people, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) disclosed on Sunday. Five were reported missing, three in southern Province of Compostela Valley and one each from Zamboanga del Norte and Davao Oriental. Also 65 were injured from the calamity, said NDRRMC Executive Director and

concurrent Office of Civil Defence Administrator Eduardo del Rosario. A mong the 40 fatalities, nine died in Davao Oriental Province, eight were killed in neighboring Compostela Valley province, Del Rosario said.

The Province of Dinagat Islands had seven deaths, Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte tallied three fatalities apiece, Misamis Occidental had two deaths, while Davao del Norte, Zamboanga del Norte, and Mis-

amis Oriental had one each, he said. More than 587,115 persons have been affected in Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao region and Caraga. Of the number, 33,388 families or 161,808 persons are living in 436 evacuation centres. The initial cost of damage to infrastructure and agriculture came to 313.78 million pesos (6.97 million US dollars) in Northern Mindanao, Davao region and Caraga alone, he said.

Xinhua



A total of 22 Chinese teachers will be sent to schools in several Indian cities such as New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, etc, for teaching Chinese and to improve the educational exchanges between India and China.

XINHUA

8 killed, evacuees reach 60,000 as floods persist in Jakarta, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 20 Jan — Widespread flooding afflicting Indonesian capital of Jakarta killed eight people and forced over 60,000 others to escape the waters as of Monday, as heavy downpours keep deluging the city, official said.

The heavy rain overnight pushed more residents to wade through flooded streets, clutching their belongings, some other used rubber dinghies to make their way to safer evacuation-camps that are mainly housed in office buildings, school buildings, erected tents, and mosques, ac-

cording to Basuki Rahmat, head of management section at the Jakarta disaster agency office. "The number of those displaced is 63,958 people so far, they take shelters at 297 spots," Rahmat told Xinhua by phone.

Though the water began to recede slightly on Monday, heavy downpours was still on and off and the authorities have warned the residents to keep in vigilant as heavier rain is foreseen to keep deluging the city in days to come, he said.

"We have warned the people, particularly those in shelters to be on alert as the

meteorology agency foresees more heavier rain to come down this week," said Rahmat.

He said that eight people have so far died from drowning and being electrocuted. Jakarta has been suffering from the floods since 14 January, which put the city under murky and brown waters since then.

Officials said that the floods are yet to rise as strong as that of on 17 January, 2013, the highest in five years and paralyzed the government and business spheres.

Xinhua



Tourists pose for photos by the side of Yamzho Yumco Lake in Shannan Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Jan. 19, 2014. Yamzho Yumco Lake, considered as one of the three sacred lakes in Tibet, is a good choice of travel destination in winter. — XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIAN NAGA VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN NAGA VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARINE BLUE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARINE BLUE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TOKO KALUN KAISHA LTD. JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914

Road passengers up in first 4 days of "chunyun"

BEIJING, 20 Jan — Chinese passengers has made 324 million road trips in the first four days of "chunyun," a 40-day period around the Spring Festival, up 3.4 percent year on year, data from transport authority showed on Sunday. Road passengers, those on long-distance scheduled coaches, chartered buses or tour coaches, rose 4.5 percent year on year to 83.86 million on Sunday, according to the Ministry of Transport (MOT).

The ministry has forecast that Chinese passengers

will make 3.62 billion trips during this year's chunyun, with road trips reaching 3.2 billion. The Spring Festival, or lunar new year, is the country's most important traditional holiday for family reunions. Most people will go home for the festival, putting great pressure on the transportation system.

The coming lunar new year falls on 31 January. This year's chunyun, literally translated as "spring transportation", will run from 16 January to 24 February.

Xinhua

Cholera outbreak in Nigeria's northern state under control

LAGOS, 20 Jan — Nigeria's northwest Kano state government on Sunday said cholera outbreak, which killed at least 71 people in the state, has been under control.

The outbreak of the disease was completely under control with drastic reduction of victims across the state, said the Commissioner for Health, Abubakar Labaran.

Labaran stressed the commitment of the state government to enlighten the

populace on the importance of healthy growth of children under the age of five.

According to him, all was now set for the commencement of polio immunization and other child diseases in the state.

He told reporters that enough vaccines had already been distributed across the 44 local governments of the state.

The commissioner stressed the need for parents, religious leaders and other health providers to

redouble efforts towards public enlightenment on the importance of oral vaccine to children under five years old. An official from Nigeria's Centre for Disease Control has said that more than 2,000 cases had been recorded in the affected areas in the past two months.

Cholera is an acute intestinal infection that causes severe vomiting and diarrhea, which can lead to serious dehydration and prove fatal if not properly treated. —Xinhua



Kazakh herders fight for a sheep carcass during a traditional game at a winter cultural festival in Zhaotong, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region on Saturday. The festival, which lasts until the end of March, has already attracted many tourists.

XINHUA

Greek stores open on Sunday for first time in winter sales

ATHENS, 20 Jan — Greek retail stores opened on Sunday for the first time during winter sales to boost consumption, but only with tepid signs for revenues.

People poured into main shopping streets in central Athens and other major cities, peered window displays, but few were shopping despite 50 and 60 percent discounts.

For decades, stores in Greece remained closed on

Sundays, except for the two working Sundays before Christmas and New Year Eve holidays.

In November, the government introduced a pilot program to boost competitiveness and spur consumer spending in the recession-hit economy. Now Greeks are able to shop at stores seven Sundays during the year. "It is very pleasant to see so many people out in the streets having fun and

shopping. I think shop owners will also be content with the outcome, since there is traffic in their stores," said Elisavet Lazaratou, who was enjoying Sunday shopping with her husband in Ermou street near the parliament.

Anna Kotzampasi, an owner of a fashion boutique near Syntagma square, believes this programme will help the market.

"If this happens once a

month, for me it is not an issue. It is good for my profit. But, no more than that, as it is very tiring," she told Xinhua.

"In my opinion, this is an option for the people who cannot go shopping all the other days. In addition, on Sundays they hung out at coffee shops and eateries anyway, why not combine their shopping also?" she added.

But according to first

estimates, the numbers were not as expected and customers were quite reserved with their purchases during the premiere of Sunday shopping for 2014.

"For another time, Sunday revenue did not make an impression, as it didn't make a difference from the previous days. For their personal purchases, customers wait to get paid first from their work or get their pension at the end of

the month and then shop," Vassilis Korkidis, President of the National Confederation of Hellenic Commerce (ESEE), said.

The first week of winter sales, which began on Monday and last until the end of February, was at the same level as last year with encouraging signs of improvement. Although it's very soon to make conclusions, Korkidis added.

Xinhua

Vietnam to upgrade southern seaports to reach regional standard

HO CHI MINH CITY, 20 Jan — Vietnam will upgrade its southern seaport system into a regional entrepot in the near future, local Vietnam News daily reported Monday, quoting statement from Minister of Transport (MoT) Dinh La Thang.

In line with the approved master plan for development of Vietnamese sea ports to the year 2020 and a vision to 2030, the No. 5 seaport system that covers all ports in southern economic hub Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City and neighbor-

ing Ba Ria-Vung Tau and Dong Nai provinces, will be improved to reduce and eventually stop dependence on regional entrepot ports to ship Vietnamese commodities to overseas markets.

Focus will be made on upgrading the Cai Mep-Thi Vai Port in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province, which would reduce the use of seaports in downtown HCM City.

Currently, commodities were still being transported to old seaports in downtown HCM City, as there is not yet any department or organiza-

tion directly responsible for managing and operating the shipment process, according to the ministry.

To deal with the current situation, several measures are set forth, including a moratorium, until 2015, on issuing licenses for new container ports for the entire No 5 system, including the Cai Mep Thi Vai port.

Plans for the 2015-2018 period are also set forth, including increasing volume of imported products coming through the No. 5 seaport system, especially

through the Cai Mep Thi Vai Port, while limiting the number of foreign companies that can transport domestic goods to the Cai Mep Thi Vai Port. The ministry will cooperate with Japan's International Co-operation Agency (JICA) to revamp the national seaport authority by giving it new responsibilities and functions, including an investment management function based on real market demand as well as the operational capacities of seaports.

Xinhua



The bed of Poyang Lake, the largest freshwater lake in China, is exposed on Sunday because of the ongoing drought. The landmark tourist attraction of the lake is shui luo shi chu (literally meaning, when the water subsides, the rocks emerge), and can only be reached by boat on normal days. The low water level may threaten the lake's ecological system and the general economic development of the area. —XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

De Niro casts spotlight on works of his artist father at Sundance

PARK CITY, (Utah), 20 Jan — Robert De Niro may best be known as an Oscar-winning actor, but in a new documentary he takes on the role of a devoted son as he spotlights his own artist father, Robert Sr, for his influential but not well-known works in the New York City abstract expressionist art movement.

De Niro, 70, who won Oscars for his lead role in "Raging Bull" and his supporting turn in "The Godfather: Part II", attended the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Sunday to premiere "Remembering the Artist Robert De Niro, Sr," a HBO documentary about his father, who emerged alongside contemporaries including Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning.

Robert Sr grew up in a

conservative Italian-American family in New York and married fellow artist Virginia Admiral, with whom he had one child, De Niro. The marriage did not last very long and the couple made an amicable split.

Abstract expressionism came about in post-World War II and was the first notable American artistic movement to define a stylistic era. While Robert Sr's works emerged during that time period, his style was not described as abstract expressionist but instead as figurist, often depicting still life "in simple set-ups with no pretension," as described in the half-hour documentary.

Robert Sr strived to achieve the success of some of his contemporaries throughout his career and worked hard to hone his



Executive producer Jane Rosenthal (L) and actor Robert De Niro attend the premiere of the film "Remembering the Artist" at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on 19 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

own craft and style.

He became increasingly disconnected from the abstract expressionist movement, inspired more by early 20th century French artists such as George Roux, Pierre Bonnard and Henri Matisse. Robert Sr's works included vibrant and intense color palettes and fluid silhouettes.

"He was very clear about what he thought was art and what he liked, and

yet at the same time he was generous, people can appreciate things, it doesn't matter if the aesthetic can be different from yours," De Niro told Reuters at the film's premiere.

"He didn't feel that certain things art-wise were art. It was another thing that wasn't enough for him, and his own style as you see was always the same. It varied some but not a lot," he added.

Reuters

'Ride Along' rolls over 'Jack Ryan' to win US weekend box office

LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 20 Jan — "Ride Along," a buddy cop comedy starring Kevin Hart and Ice Cube, collected \$41.2 million (£25,086,768.56) in ticket sales to win the weekend box office race, leaving another new release, political thriller "Jack

Ryan: Shadow Recruit," in the dust.

Last week's box office winner, the Afghanistan war tale "Lone Survivor," was second with ticket sales of \$23.2 million, according to studio estimates provided by tracking firm Rentrak.

In a weekend crowded

with four new films, "The Nut Job," the first animated release from Open Road Films, collected \$20.6 million in ticket sales to claim third place.

Starring Chris Pine as the late author Tom Clancy's fictional CIA analyst, "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" took in \$17.2 million over the first three days of the Martin Luther King holiday weekend for the No 4 spot.

"Ride Along," which hip hop singer and star Ice Cube also produced, far surpassed Hollywood's \$28 million opening weekend forecast and was the biggest three-day King Day holiday weekend opening ever. While only 10 of 47 reviews were favourable, according to the site Rotten

Tomatoes, 94 percent of the audience surveyed on the site wanted to see it.

"The timing was really right on this one," said Nikki Rocco, president for domestic distribution at Universal Pictures which released the film, which cost about \$25 million.

Noting that there had not really been another comedy since "Anchorman 2," which opened a month ago, Rocco said the audience skewed surprisingly female - 57 percent - and that "Ride Along" had even turned into a bit of a date movie. Audiences graded it an A, according to CinemaScore which polls people who have seen films, boding well for the coming weeks, Rocco added.

Reuters



Cast member Kevin Hart and Eniko Parrish pose at the premiere of "Ride Along" at the TCL Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California on 13 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Bruce Springsteen grabs top spot in Britain's album chart

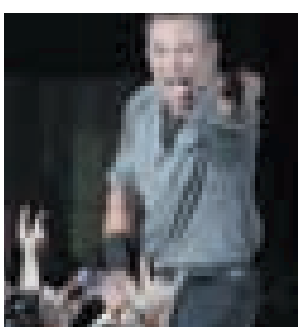
LONDON, 20 Jan — US singer Bruce Springsteen snatched top spot in Britain's album chart on Sunday for the 10th time with "High Hopes", pushing British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding's "Halcyon" into second place, the Official Charts Company said.

"High Hopes" is a follow-up to his 2012 album "Wrecking Ball", which also debuted at number one, and sees Rage Against The Machine guitarist Tom Mo-

rello join the Boss's regular backing group, the E Street Band.

In the singles chart, US singer-songwriter Pharrell Williams took top spot for a third week with "Happy", which has notched up more than half a million sales since its release in November.

The track, which features in the soundtrack to the animated film "Despicable Me 2", achieved sales of nearly 118,000 copies in



US singer Bruce Springsteen and the Street Band perform at the Rock in Rio Music Festival in Rio de Janeiro on 21 Sept, 2013 file photo. REUTERS

the past week, the Official Charts Company said, its best weekly performance to date.

Elyar Fox, an 18-year-old Londoner, went straight into the chart at number five with "Do It All Over Again".

The song was the first Top 40 hit from a singer who has been dubbed Britain's answer to Justin Bieber, the Official Charts Company said.

Reuters

Alia Bhatt: Will become a singer if I fail as an actress

MUMBAI, 20 Jan—Alia Bhatt, who has lent her voice to a song in her upcoming film Highway, says if she fails as an actress, she will turn to singing.

When director Imtiaz Ali asked her to croon a number in Highway, she jumped at the idea. "I am not a singer, I think I am a bathroom singer. When I was asked to sing I was excited and thought of trying it (singing) out. A R Rahman sir was very patient with me. If I fail as an actress, I will become a singer," Alia told reporters here last night at the film's promotional event.

When the team of Highway was travelling since it is a road movie, Alia would often sing Rahman's song Jiya Re Jiya. That's when Imtiaz thought of exploring her singing talent.

Music maestro A R Rahman told her to practice and that if she learns singing for two years, she could have her album. According to

Alia has crooned a song for Highway



Emma Watson not concerned about boyfriend's reputation

LOS ANGELES, 20 Jan—Harry Potter star Emma Watson is reportedly not worried about her new boyfriend Matthew Janney's reputation as a ladies man.

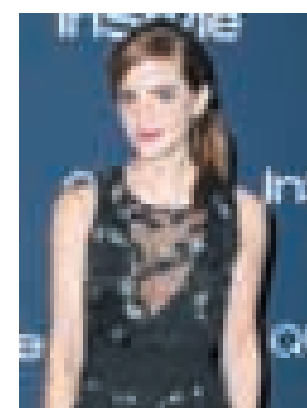
The 23-year-old actress started dating the rugby-playing British hunk since splitting with long term boyfriend Will Adamowicz, and is ignoring her friends' warnings that he is could break her heart,

reported Star magazine.

"They had instant chemistry. People have warned Emma about his past, but she doesn't care. She became infatuated with him immediately, and he loves her attention," a source said.

The couple were spotted kissing on a romantic break in the Caribbean earlier this month, and Coralie Day - Matthew's guardian, who has looked after him since the death of both his mother and father from cancer, leaving him orphaned at 16 - says she's 'thrilled' for them both.

"We are thrilled to bits that he is seeing Emma Watson. We are looking forward to meeting her soon. Hats off to her for finding such a wonderful young man. There is nothing bad anyone could say about Matt. He is absolutely lovely," she had said.—PTI



Emma Watson is smitten with her new boyfriend

SPORTS

Sharapova falls to Cibulkova at Melbourne Park

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan — Third seed Maria Sharapova was dumped out of the Australian Open on Monday with a 3-6, 6-4, 6-1



Maria Sharapova

fourth round loss to Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova on Rod Laver Arena.

The 2008 champion had to take a medical time-out between the second and third sets for treatment on an undisclosed injury. She was grimacing when bending over and grabbing her lower back during the final set.

Sharapova's demise comes a day after Serbia's Ana Ivanovic beat world number one and title favourite Serena Williams, also in the fourth round.

"I watched that match, it was a great match for Ana, but this was a little bit of a different story," Cibulkova said in a court-side interview.

"The most important thing was that I went on the court and I was 100 percent sure I could win this match. I wasn't doubting myself."

Sharapova took the first set 6-3 as both players struggled with their serve, but Cibulkova won the second after racing to a 5-0 lead, which the Russian pegged back, before

the diminutive Slovak finally held serve to send the match to a decider.

Sharapova then took the medical time-out but was unable to halt Cibulkova's momentum as the Slovak raced through to win the set and reach her first Australian Open quarter-final.

She will meet either eighth-seed Jelena Jankovic or 11th-seeded Romanian Simona Halep for a place in the last four.

"I just kept going. I knew what I had to do and I



Dominika Cibulkova

was doing exactly the right thing is to believe in yourself," Cibulkova added.

"The most important

Reuters

Moyes admits 'massive challenge' after Chelsea loss

LONDON, 20 Jan — Manchester United manager David Moyes was facing up to what he described as "a massive challenge" after the champions lost 3-1 at Chelsea in the Premier League on Sunday.

Chelsea fans chanted throughout the match for Moyes to stay in his job, piling pressure on the Scot whose team have slipped 14 points behind leaders Arsenal as the manager attempts to fill the large shoes of his predecessor Alex Ferguson.

"It's a massive challenge. I'd hoped we would be in a far better position but we're not," Moyes told reporters.

"So the challenge is there for me. But I think

that if you're a football person, it's a great one to have. I'm really looking forward to it."

Although United are 14 points adrift of leaders Arsenal after 22 matches, Moyes was not giving up hope of retaining the title.

"What we won't do is throw the towel in until we can't get there. The job is to try and finish first," he said, batting aside suggestions that United are in crisis lying seventh in the table.

"There's no clever answers except trying to win the next game," he said.

Moyes lamented his team's poor finishing after they wasted early chances and the careless defending



Manchester United manager David Moyes

that allowed Chelsea striker Samuel Eto'o to score a hat-trick. Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho sympathised with his opposite number, saying United started as the stronger side.

"It's hard for them to be playing so well as they were in the first 20 or 25 minutes and be losing," the Portuguese said.

But Mourinho said he thought United were now too far behind the league's three front-runners to

bridge the gap.

"I don't think David will be upset with me if I tell the reality, which is it's a 14 points difference (with Arsenal) and 13 and 12 (with Manchester City and Chelsea). Can they recover to one of these teams? They can," he said.

"But to recover to three of them, it needs three teams to have almost a collapse. I think for the title, it will be difficult for them."

Reuters

Azarenka safely into quarter-finals

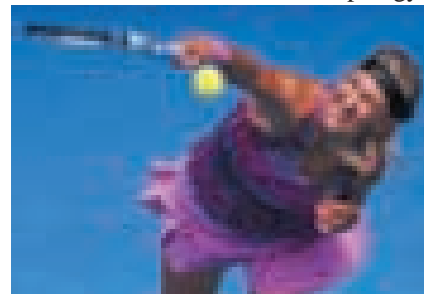
MELBOURNE, 20 Jan — Victoria Azarenka stayed on track for a third consecutive Australian Open title with a composed 6-3, 6-2 victory over 13th-seed Sloane Stephens in the fourth round on Monday.

With third seed Maria Sharapova and world number one Serena Williams both losing in the fourth round, Azarenka has firmed as favourite to retain her crown and become the first

woman to win three successive Melbourne Park titles since Martina Hingis (1997-99). Azarenka and Stephens had played a controversial match in the semi-finals last year and their clash on Monday had the potential for more when Stephens blasted a shot back at Azarenka that hit her in the upper thigh in the first set.

The Belarusian appeared to ignore Stephens' apology and repaid the

American with a similar shot shortly afterwards. Azarenka then controlled the match from the baseline and waited for the 20-year-old to make errors, wrapping up the



Victoria Azarenka

win in 91 minutes.—Reuters

Mourinho praises Eto'o and his tactics after hat-trick



Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho

LONDON, 20 Jan — Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho praised his hat-trick hero Samuel Eto'o, whose three goals buried Manchester United on Sunday, and gave himself some credit too for unexpectedly selecting the Cameroon striker. "Of course I love it when one of my players becomes a special player in the match," Mourinho told reporters after Chelsea's 3-1 win left the London side

just two points behind leaders Arsenal and United 14 points adrift of the top spot.

"It's a fantastic moment for Samuel. He scored a hat-trick and against Manchester United." Eto'o boosted his overall goal tally to eight for the season so far with two strikes in the first half and a third early in the second, showing the kind of lethal finishing that United sorely lacked despite creating a string of chances.

It was the first hat-trick from the 32-year-old since he moved to England last year from Russia's Anzhi Makhachkala where he was the world's highest paid player, according to media reports.

Mourinho, who has previously expressed frustration at the shortage of goals from Chelsea's strikers, said Spain international Fernando Torres faces "weeks" on the sidelines after hurting a knee ligament shortly after replacing Eto'o as a late substitute.

The Portuguese coach, who recorded his 100th Premier League win, said he selected Eto'o over Torres, who scored in both of Chelsea's previous two league games, because he felt the Cameroonian was more suited to the kind of tight game that United would play.—Reuters

Inspired Ivanovic stuns Serena, Djokovic cruises

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan — An inspired Ana Ivanovic blew the race for the Australian Open women's title wide open when she stunned overwhelming favourite Serena Williams in the fourth round at Melbourne Park on Sunday.

Novak Djokovic was for once forced to cede the spotlight to another Serbian but showed no signs of relinquishing his iron grip on the men's title and was merciless in his 6-3, 6-0,

6-2 flogging of Fabio Fognini. Third seed David Ferrer also advanced to the last eight and a meeting with Tomas Berdych and his stripy football shirt, while women's fourth seed Li Na and Flavia Pennetta set up a last eight clash of 31-year-olds.

Li and Pennetta had every reason to expect their path to the final to be blocked by world number one and top seed Williams until Ivanovic secured the biggest shock of the tournament with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory on Rod Laver Arena.

The Serbian's win instead sent her through to a quarter-final clash against Canadian teenager Eugenie Bouchard, who ended Australia's hopes of a home champion when she overcame Casey Dellacqua 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-0.

"I actually believed," said Ivanovic, whose mental toughness has been frequently questioned because of her failure to back up her 2008 French Open title.

"Going on to the court today, I really just tried to give my best.

"I tried to make it a good match. I was very competitive till the last moment and I'm just very thrilled."

Williams was riding high on a winning streak of 25 matches going back to the start of last year's US Open and had not lost a single set to Ivanovic in four previous meetings.

When the 32-year-old took the first set despite looking a little lethargic, she seemed to be on her way to a record 62nd victory at the Australian Open, where she is 51-1 after going 1-0 up in match.—Reuters



Ana Ivanovic of Serena

GENERAL

US envoy Kennedy expresses concern about Japanese dolphin hunt

TOKYO, 20 Jan — US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy has expressed concern on Twitter about dolphin hunting at a town in western Japan.

"Deeply concerned by inhumaneness of drive hunt dolphin killing. USG (the US government) opposes drive hunt fisheries," Kennedy tweeted on Saturday.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society said Friday that more than 250

bottlenose dolphins had been driven into a cove in the town of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture.

Taiji, a traditional whaling town, came into the spotlight through the Oscar-winning 2009 US documentary "The Cove," which depicted the slaughter of dolphins during a traditional hunt off the coast and spurred international controversy.

Kyodo News



Undated photo shows US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy who expressed concern on Twitter on 18 Jan, 2014, about dolphin hunting at a town in western Japan.

KYODO NEWS

NRA experts begin re-examination of fault situation at Tsuruga plant

TOKYO, 20 Jan — The Nuclear Regulation Authority's team of experts began a two-day reexamination of Japan Atomic Power Co's Tsuruga nuclear power plant on Monday, after the NRA found last May that a reactor there is sitting above an active fault. The move comes after Japan Atomic Power said in a report last July that the No 2 reactor at the plant in Fukui Prefecture, western Japan, is not located above an active fault, contradicting the earlier NRA assessment.

However, the visit by the experts is not expected to affect the NRA's stance that there is no possibility of the reactor resuming operation, since the Japan Atomic Power's report contained no new factors that might alter the NRA's opinion.

On Monday, the team including NRA commissioner Kunihiko Shimazaki was briefed by officials of Japan Atomic Power while inspecting facilities including a ditch about 300 metres north of the No 2 reactor.

In quake-prone Japan, nuclear power plant operators are not permitted to place reactors and other important safety facilities directly above active faults — currently defined as those that have moved in the last 120,000 to 130,000 years.

If the operator fails to overturn the NRA judgment that an active fault lies directly beneath the No 2 reactor, it cannot restart the reactor and may have to consider scrapping it.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(21-1-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am	3:00 pm
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	21. News
6:25 am	3:15 pm
2. Physical Exercises	22. Solo Favourites
6:40 am	3:40 pm
3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies	23. Teleplay (Health)
6:50 am	4:00 pm
4. Documentary	24. News
7:00 am	4:15 pm
5. News/Weather Report	25. Cultural Dances
7:25 am	4:25 pm
6. People Talks	26. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Physics)
7:35 am	5:00 pm
7. Documentary	27. News
8:00 am	5:15 pm
8. News/ International News	28. Business News
8:30 am	5:30 pm
9. Documentary	29. India Drama Series
9:00 am	6:00 pm
10. News/International News	30. News/Weather Report
9:30 am	6:20 pm
11. Business News	31. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
10:00 am	6:45 pm
12. News	32. TV Drama Series
10:15 am	7:00 pm
13. Documentary	33. News
10:45 am	7:15 pm
14. Documentary (Weather)	34. TV Drama Series
11:15 am	8:00 pm
15. Teleplay (Traffic)	35. News/International News/Weather Report
11:30 am	8:35 pm
16. Tamyethnar Takwetsar	36. Hit Songs of Stars
12:00 pm	8:45 pm
17. News/International News/Weather Report	37. Documentary
12:25 pm	9:00 pm
18. Myanmar Video	38. News
2:30 pm	39. Sing A Song
19. Traditional Boxing	40. TV Drama Series
2:45 pm	
20. Business News	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

21-1-14 07:00 am ~ 22-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Living with the Love of the Nature
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * My Tour Around Hopone City
- * World News
- * Myanmar Master Class "Still Life" (Fruit)
- * Local News
- * Choral Dance By Female Dancers
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan)(Vitis)
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * 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, Inle Lake
- * World News
- * Nang

Liverpool and Gerrard acknowledge failings

LONDON, 20 Jan — Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard has rarely suffered criticism in an illustrious career but accepted he deserved some flak for his below par performance on Saturday — even if manager Brendan Rodgers did not agree. Rodgers is attempting to transform the 33-year-old into a deep-lying midfielder but Gerrard was overrun in the role by Aston Villa's youthful and energetic lineup in Saturday's 2-2 English Premier League draw at Anfield.

The industrious midfielder, renowned for his sharp shooting and driving runs, was all at sea as the visitors belied their lowly league position by racing into a 2-0 lead by swiftly countering Liverpool

through the middle of the park.

Gerrard was switched back to a more attacking role with the introduction of defensive midfielder Lucas at halftime and secured a draw from the penalty spot in the second half after striker Luis Suarez was brought down in the area.

"I think because of the change, I expect people to talk about it," the skipper told the club's official website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

"I've played attacking midfield for more than 10 years, so for me to drop back and become more of a controlling player, people are naturally going to talk about it.

"It didn't work today. I hope that doesn't mean

it won't work moving forward in future fixtures. We'll have to wait and see what the manager decides to do." Rodgers remained steadfast in his belief that Gerrard could play the role, even though the failed experiment resulted in his side dropping eight points behind leaders Arsenal.

"Probably across the board we were not very good," the Liverpool manager was quoted as saying by British media on Monday. "Myself included.

"We never got the control in midfield against their diamond and could not build our play, so we needed to change the structure of the team.

"But there is absolutely no question Steven can play the role and I don't regard it

as a setback, not at all.

"It is a mark of his identity as a player that he could influence the game in that offensive area. It just shows his importance to the team, with the pass he played to put Luis in and his composure to take the penalty under pressure.

"The system is irrelevant. Our style will always be to control and dominate games and at times this season we have had to be flexible and adaptable in our play. You have to give credit to the players in that they did that and got something from the game."

The player that arguably had the greatest influence was Lucas, the only true defensive midfielder in the squad, but his match was reduced to a 20 minute



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard

cameo after he went off injured with a knee problem.

The Brazilian left Anfield on crutches, according to British media, meaning Gerrard is likely to continue in the role unless Rodgers can get reinforcements in the January transfer window.

Liverpool face second tier Bournemouth in FA Cup fourth round action on

Saturday before they host Everton in an eagerly anticipated Merseyside derby on 28 January.

Everton's possession game is likely to cause Liverpool problems if they persist with just Gerrard as the sole deep-lying midfielder.

"I, personally, struggled in there for 45 minutes," the skipper said.

Reuters

Coordination with experts ongoing to ensure effective taxation system promoting taxpayers' willingness to pay tax

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung responded to the question raised by U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency that coordination with experts is being undertaken to ensure an effective taxation system promoting the willingness of taxpayers to pay tax at the today's Pyithu Hlut-

taw session. Amendment and enactment of the laws, bylaws and regulations are high priorities and arrangements are being made to establish a data centre at Internal Revenue Department and to initiate a taxpayer identification numbering system used internationally, he added.

While answering the

two questions regarding rural electrification, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Tha Htwe called for coordination between the Department for Water Resources Utilization and consumers to scrutinize whether there is a balance between production and consumption of electricity and to address the prob-

lem of financial losses in sub-power stations. It is required to hold separate talks between the region government and the departments concerned for supply of electricity to villages within a two-mile radius of the power lines, he added.

He continued that rural electrification project for (See page 9)

Enactment of anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism bills urgently needed in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Although no immediate plan to provide allowances to respectable members of respective election subcommissions, arrangement is being made to coordinate with Hluttaw committees and departments concerned to enact a law for provision of decent allowances to them, said Member of Union Election

Commission U Myint Nating in his response to question to them **whether there is a plan or not to provide decent salary or allowance to respectable members of respective election subcommissions** raised by MP U Sai San Min of Shan State Constituency No (3) at Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

Deputy Minister for

Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun submitted **Anti-Terrorism Bill**, saying that Myanmar needs to enact a law to safeguard the interest of the State and people. He also stressed the importance of effective control, pragmatic implementation and transparency on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

He continued enactment of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism bills before February 2014 is urgently needed in Myanmar.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) submitted (See page 9)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 2/2014)

5th Waning of Pyatho, 1375 ME
(20 January 2014)

Appointment of member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

Under Sections 327 and 332 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Dr Thida Oo has been appointed as member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar, Thai soldiers meet

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan— Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received General Suravach Butrwong, Director of Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre from Royal Thai Armed Forces, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman here at 10 am today.

The meeting focused on further strengthening relations between the two armed forces.

It was also attended by senior military officers of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army). The delegation was accompanied by military officers of Royal Thai Armed Forces and Defence and Army Attache Colonel Salawin Utarak.—Myawady

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF on 27, 28 Jan



2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF in progress at National Planning and Economic Development Ministry.—MNA

Meeting on Development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014 held

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—A meeting on development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014 took place at National Library (Nay Pyi Taw), here, on 17 January, attended by Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu.

The Union Minister said that three topics—professional development towards digital library environment, preservation of library materials and community-based li-

brary activities—will be discussed at the Development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014 in Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 and 4 February. The conference will be held in accord with the theme: “Libraries for Society.”

Those interested are invited to attend the Development of ASEAN Library Conference-2014. Registration form and schedule for the confer-

ence are available at National Libraries (Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon).

Registration forms are to be sent back to the libraries not later than 24 January. For further information, dial 01-662470 (National Library in Yangon) and 067-408384 (Historical Research Department and National Library in Nay Pyi Taw) or Email: libraryforum2014@gmail.com.

MNA

Press Conference held in Dekkhinathiri Tsp



laysia third, Vietnam fourth and Myanmar fifth.—MNA

Officials exchange gifts at Press Conference on 7th ASEAN Para Games.—KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—A Press Conference on 7th ASEAN Para Games took place at Zabuthiri Hotel in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, today.

President of the Myanmar Paralympics Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and President of ASEAN Para Sports Federation Dato Zainal Abu Zarin explained Para Games of ASEAN and Myanmar and replied to questions of media men. With the theme of “Friendship, Equality, Unity”, Malaysia held the 1st ASEAN Para Games in 2001. At 7th ASEAN Para Games in Myanmar, Indonesia stood first, Thailand second, Ma-

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan —Leading Committee for holding 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF held its second meeting at Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here today.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Soe Thane stressed the need for discussing not only for the country but also for the region.

Union Minister U Hla Tun called for collaborative efforts for development of the country as it lagged behind other countries in terms

of capital and technology.

Participants of the meeting discussed the preparations for the 2nd conference. The 2nd conference will be held on 27 and 28 January at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2.

Development partner countries, non-governmental organizations, social organizations and UN agencies will participate in the conference.

The theme of the conference is “Accelerating Actions for Progress Through Enhancing Inclusive Coordination”.—MNA