

Myanmar, Japan to enhance communication network, market and financial affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—President U Thein Sein held talks with President of KDDI Corporation Takashi Tanaka of Japan at the hall of Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday morning.

They discussed co-operation between Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and KDDI Corporation in communication sector, conducting of training courses for human resource development so as to create job opportunities, enhancement of communication network, market and financial affairs, economic benefits in cooperation tasks and matters related to benefiting the State.

Also present at the call were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Myat Hein, Dr Kan Zaw and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi.

MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with President of KDDI Corporation Takashi Tanaka of Japan.—MNA

Myanmar's planned first stock exchange on track for October

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 13 Jan — With the announcement for service providers to seek licenses for underwriting, trading, brokerage and consultancy services, Myanmar's capital market plan is progressing on schedule to meet the target in October.

Speaking in defence of

the Yangon Stock Exchange (YEX), Deputy Finance Minister Maung Maung Thein refuted critics who said the first stock exchange in Myanmar is likely to fail, is only to showoff, and is politics aimed to be timed with 2015 general elections.

He pointed out that only nine of 198 countries in the world lack a stock ex-

change, adding six of nine are island states and the remaining three are Myanmar, North Korea and Brunei.

"We will be able to exit the list of countries with no stock exchange soon", the deputy minister said in fact it is too late to start the establishment of the YEX.

On criticism of possible failure, he asked how one would determine the success of the first stock exchange in Myanmar, citing the target, which is going to be met, in October one measure of success.

"Our aim is clear to lay a solid foundation for the next generation with a single step before stepping (further) forward", he said.

He also insisted it is not just to showoff.

Every democracy needs to have a stock exchange, he said.

As to politics and the 2015 general elections in late October or early November, he said the establishment is a business, not a

political decision.

During his talks on Yangon Stock Exchange & Career Opportunities at the Republic of The Union Of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the deputy minister, who is also the chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, said more talks to raise the public awareness of the stock market are planned to be held in Yangon and Mandalay.

Following the enactment of the Securities and Exchange Law at the end of August, Myanmar Economic Bank, owned by the Ministry of Finance and holding a controlling share of 51 percent, signed a joint venture agreement with Daiwa Institute of Research with a share of 30.25 percent and Japan Exchange Group with 18.75 percent to set up the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited last month.

GNLM

Physiotherapy council law (draft) to be forwarded to Health Ministry soon: MPA

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 13 Jan— The Myanmar Physiotherapists Association (MPA) has already drafted its physiotherapy council law that will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health after coordination on chapters has been made with legal experts, a source has reported.

The law also includes a chapter that can punish physiotherapists who fail to abide by it, said a spokesperson of the association,

adding the enactment of the law will help create a favourable condition for local physiotherapists.

The law aimed at giving better protection to professional physiotherapists can ban charlatans who do not follow prescribed rules, U Tin Myint of the association said.

"Nowadays, a majority of students come to choose this field as they can find more job opportunities (See page 2)



Deputy Finance Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein is pictured at talks to raise public awareness of a stock market in Myanmar on Saturday. The Yangon Stock Exchange is set to open in late 2015.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Sports Medical Course kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan —Athletes in today's sports training need international level sports facilities and medical assistance under skilled trainers, Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan told the opening ceremony of Sports Medical Course (Physiotherapy) course 1/2015 at the Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Centre on Monday.

He continued to say

that medical assistance is to be provided to the athletes for their recovery from injuries, systematic food service, betterment of physical building, and uplift of mentality.

Director Dr Daw Mya Lay Sein of Sports Medical Branch explained the purpose of training and subjects in the course.

Altogether 19 trainees are attending the course up to 16 January.

MNA

Myanmar moves to participate in OGP



Union Minister U Soe Thane highlights plan of Myanmar to join Open Government Partnership.—MNA

Kanbawza, CUB to disburse US\$80 million to local businesses



Executive Director Daw Nang Leng Kham of Kanbawza Bank Ltd and General Manager Mr Aaron Hung of CUB Bank sign agreement on monetary cooperation.—MNA

YANGON, 13 Jan — Kanbawza Bank and Cathay United Bank (CUB) signed an agreement on monetary cooperation at Sedona Hotel on Tuesday.

Executive Director Daw Nang Leng Kham of Kanbawza Bank Ltd and General Manager Mr Aaron Hung of CUB Bank signed the agreement. It

was also attended by Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win and Chairman of CUB Mr Tsu-Pei Chen.

According to the agreement, two banks will disburse US\$80 million to local private businesses.

Kanbawza Bank plans to disburse loans to local businesses in cooperation

with international banks, monetary and investment organizations.—MNA

Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein explains plan to conduct MPLCS.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan —To join the Open Government Partnership, a country must meet four requirements, namely fiscal transparency, access to information, public officials asset disclosure and citizen engagement alongside clean government and good governance, said U Soe Thane, Union Minister at President Office, at a coordination meeting on Tuesday.

“Our government is making strenuous efforts on all fronts of the reform process to shape a clean government and good governance, with noticeable achievements in place in a short time,” U Soe Thane said.

All the processes cannot be accomplished in a single day, with the union minister citing a saying that goes “A journey of a thousand steps begins with a single step”.

U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister, spoke of measures being taken for the implementation of e-government, which he said is an important factor for a country to be eligible for the membership of Open Government Partnership.

A leading committee and a working committee has been formed to ensure Myanmar's participation in OGP.—MNA

Myanmar, WB to conduct Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Myanmar plans to reduce a half of poverty rate for those who earn less than 2 US dollars of daily income from 1990 to 2015, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein told the ceremony to introduce Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey (MPLCS), jointly organized by Ministry of NPED and

World Bank, at the ministry, here, on Tuesday.

She noted that the ministry and UNDP cooperated in survey on Integrated Households Living Condition Assessment-IHLCA-I and II in 2009-2010 and could collect 32% and 26% of poverty rate in the nation. The deputy minister said that the World Bank will conduct the pilot survey for the poverty rate. Depending on the

pilot survey, the ministry and WB will conduct the IHLCA-III. WB Resident Representative Mr Abdolaye Seck explained ways to conduct the Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey and survey period.

The survey will be conducted at 3,648 households from 203 townships and 16 towns in regions and states from 20 January to 10 April 2015.—MNA

Members of Myanmar Physiotherapy Association (MPA) are seen at a meeting to elect executive members of the association for 2015-2018 at the Myanmar Medical Association's office in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



Physiotherapy council . . .

(from page 1)
both at home and abroad,” said a faculty member from the Universities of Medical Technology, which trains more than 100 students at bachelor degree courses each year.

Some professionals are interested in finding

work overseas, especially in Japan, Singapore and India, Jue Kyaw Wai Thet, a physiotherapist from Retired Service Personnel's Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, said.

The country has more than 1,300 physiotherapists and around 300-400

physiotherapists are appointed to local hospitals, U Tin Hlaing Soe, a spokesperson of the MPA said, adding this number is relatively low when compared with the country's population.

Established in 2013, the Myanmar Physiotherapy Association is trying to list as a member organiza-

tion of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) to promote the role of physiotherapists and the standards of their services.

There are more than 100 physiotherapy organizations and about 400,000 physiotherapists worldwide.

GNLM

Central Committee meets to celebrate 68th Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — The Central Committee for Organizing 68th Anniversary Union Day held a coordination meeting here on Tuesday, with an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

As chair of the central committee, the vice president said that respective committees and subcommittees are to work closely to ensure a successful observation of the 68th Anniversary of the Union Day,

which falls on 12 February every year.

He urged them to dutifully carry out their measures for security, information, dinner, messages of felicitations, billboards, reception, transportation, accommodation and communication.

Committees and subcommittees briefed the vice president on their preparatory measures for the successful celebration of the Union Day.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers speech at coordination meeting of Central Committee for Organizing 68th Anniversary Union Day.—MNA

Vice President says government prioritizes protection of farmer rights and promotion of their welfare

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — A work coordination meeting took place at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here on Tuesday to discuss how to protect the rights of farmers and promote their interests, with Vice President U Nyan Tun addressing the meeting.

In his speech, the vice president said that the government has given priority to promoting the socio-economic welfare of farmers in rural areas, with special emphasis on ensuring more job opportunities and increased incomes, as well as easy access to education, health, potable water, better transportation networks as part of measures designed

for rural development and poverty reduction.

The Protecting Rights and Enhancing Economic Welfares of Farmers law is central to speeding up the laying down of rules and regulations needed to carry out the processes.

The law focuses on the provision of agricultural loans, technical assistance for increased productivity, sales of agricultural products at reasonable prices, protection of the rights of small-holder farmers and promotion of their welfare, and aids to damages caused by natural disasters.

According to the vice president, the law was written with the participation of agriculturalists, legal



Vice President U Nyan Tun highlights protection of rights of farmers and promote their interests.—MNA

experts and departments of meetings and seminars. concerned through a series Vice President U Nyan

Tun urged departmental officials to pay complete attention to granting permits to farmers who really work on cultivable lands, pointing out the need for closer cooperation between organizations involved in the agricultural sector.

U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Agricul-

ture and Irrigation, briefed on rules and regulations concerned with protecting farmer rights and enhancing their welfare, followed by briefings on sector-wide approaches by union ministers, region/state chief ministers and social organizations.

MNA

Ethnic rights protection bill discussed before second debate in Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw, chairmen of lower house committee and ethnic affairs ministers discussed ethnic rights protection bill Tuesday.

In his opening speech at the meeting attended by 29 ethnic affairs ministers, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said the discussion will be helpful for national unity, reconciliation and peace-making efforts as the bill was drafted as per the Constitution.

The proposal for ethnic rights protection bill

was submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U T Khun Myat to the parliament and it was discussed by ethnic affairs ministers and legal experts from attorney-general office to draft a bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw has discussed the bill and was handed to Pyithu Hluttaw with suggestions. After the latter discussed it again, it is meant that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved. The final stage is to send the bill to the President.

If Pyithu Hluttaw did not accept the suggestions of Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will discuss it.

Thura U Shwe Mann



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann discusses national unity, reconciliation and peace-making process.

MNA

also received delegation of Czech Republic lead by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Martin Tlapa at the Hluttaw Building in the evening.—MNA

Union FM receives Executive Director of South Centre, Dy FM of Czech Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Mr Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre based in Geneva, Switzerland called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry, here, on Tuesday.

They discussed existing relations and possible areas for future cooperation

with the South Centre.

The union minister also received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Martin Tlapa and party at his office on Tuesday to exchange views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

MNA

Myawady District observes School Family Day 2015



Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Htut and member of the school board of trustees U Nyunt Sein of BEHS No 1 formally opened the festival.

The deputy commissioner made a speech. Township Education Officer Daw Aye Aye Myint and headmistress Daw Yin Yin Shein explained purpose of holding the school family day.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding teachers and students and certificates of honour to wellwishers.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

MYAWADY, 13 Jan— family day 2015 at the hall on 11 January. Myawady District in of No 1 Basic Education Deputy Commis- Kayin State held the school High School in Myawady sioner U Lwin Ko Oo,

Accident claims driver's life at Pinlaung junction

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A traffic accident happened at Pinlaung junction traffic light in Zeyathiri Township on Tuesday.

A Nissan diesel driven by Ye Min Tun (a) Moe Gyi of Tagagyi Vilage in Kyaukpadaung Township from Mandalay to Yangon hit a stationary truck at the traffic light between mile posts 251/4 and 251/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway and then hit the traffic light post again due to out of control. Driver Ye Min Tun died on the spot due to serious injuries.

Police Captain Ye Lwin and party of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police inspected the incident and cleared the traffic congestion. Yezin police station opened a



file over the traffic accident under the law. Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)

Chief Minister of Bago Region inspects development undertakings in Gyobingauk Tsp

BAGO, 13 Jan—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win inspected progress of buildings being constructed by Zwe Myanmar Company at People's Hospital in Gyobingauk Township, Bago Region, recently.

He viewed round the place where a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital will be built by Thaw Kabar construction and engineering company.

The chief minister attended the opening ceremony of Thabyeyoe Bridge constructed by Aroma Rose Co Ltd. He met local people at Thabyeyoe

Basic Education Primary School. In Shwepandaw village, he joined the ceremony to open the upgraded Shwepandaw Basic Education High School where the deputy speaker of region Hluttaw and officials cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The chief minister formally opened Alegon Bridge built in Aroma Rose Co Ltd in Gyobingauk. He viewed medical treatment being given by specialists from Thayawady People's Hospital to local people at KanU Mahasi meditation centre in KanU Village.

IPRD



Fishermen sell various species of fish at markets for food sufficiency

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan— Local fishermen led by senior fisherman U Tin Nyunt at Pein Lake in Letpadan Village in Lewe Township are easy to earn income in fish breeding.

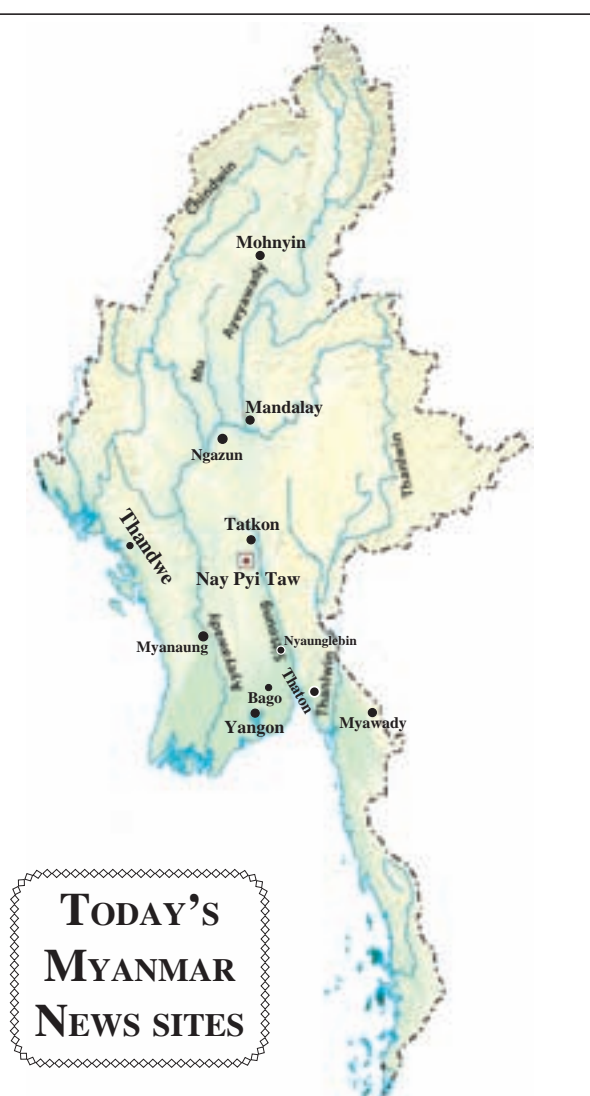
The fish breeders released species of fish into the lake in June and July. They can breed about 80,000 fingerlings in the

lake. They can catch fish at about seven months. Fishermen catch above one viss of fish only.

They caught about 5,500 viss of fish last year and estimated to get about 7,000 viss of fish this year.

They sell fish at markets both in urban and rural areas for public consumption.—*Township IPRD*

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES



LOCAL NEWS

Free medical services for eye patients in Thandwe, Rakhine State



THANDWE, 13 Jan—An eye specialist team led by Eye Surgeons Professor Dr. Kan Nyunt and Professor Dr. Ko Ko Tin provided free eye care services to patients with eye diseases at Sitagu Eye Hospital, Nanchaung village, Thandwe Township, Rakhine State.

The medical team comprising six eye surgeons and six nurses per-

formed free medical treatment to 1,318 patients and gave eye surgical operations to 187 patients with cataract. The patients come from Thandwe, Kyeindali, Gwa and Taungup townships.

The team was supported and aided by chairman of committee of Trustees of Sidagu Eye Hospital U Tin Lay and members.

Overall eye care ex-

penditure of the team was donated by well-wishers U Chit Khine-Daw Khin Soe Wai and family (Edin Group), U Kyi Lin-Daw San San Win and family, U Sone Han-Daw Tin Tin Htwe and family, U Thet Oo (or) U Maung Maung, U Pe Win, Daw Than Than and U Mg Mg-Daw Si Si Htay family from Yangon.

GNLM

7 miles long earthen road under construction in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 13 Jan—Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe and officials inspected construction of an earthen road linking Hlwapon, Thaya-aye and

Kyi-in villages in Tatkon Township on 12 January.

The inter-village road will be seven miles long and 12 feet wide.

Nay Pyi Taw Council

funded K88.315 million for construction of the road. Upon completion, the road will benefit over 7,900 people from three villages.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)



Talks on crime reduction given in Thaton Tsp

THATON, 13 Jan—With the aim of disseminating knowledge about policing tasks to the people and declining criminal cases in the township, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Kyaw Min and officials held an educative talks on combating trafficking in persons and reducing criminal cases at Basic Education Middle

School in Daebarrain Village in Thaton Township, Mon State, on 10 January.

The police force commander explained danger of trafficking in persons, and community policing for crime reduction as part of efforts to ensure peace and stability of township. The talk was attended by local people, totalling about 350 from nine village-tracts.—Thet Oo (Thaton)

Rural people consumes potable water thanks to tube-well

NGAZUN, 13 Jan—Ngazun Township, located in the central Myanmar, Mandalay Region, is difficult to get clean water for consumption. Thus, the government sinks tube-wells for enabling local people to have potable

water. Ngazun Township Department of Rural Development invited tenders for sinking tube-wells in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Tin and township level officials inspected

progress in sinking a tube-well in Myintha Village of Ngazun Township.

The department has sunk a four-inch diameter tube-well for supply of potable water to the local people.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Basic education schools in Tatkon Tsp to get seven buildings



TATKON, 13 Jan—No 2 Department of Basic Education allotted a fund for construction of seven school buildings in 2014-15 fiscal year at basic education schools in Tatkon Township.

School buildings are under construction as of September 2014 at Basic Education High School branch in

Magyibin Village, BEHS Branch in Dahatgon Village, Post-Primary Schools in Bayintnaung ward, Phetthantaung Village, Saya San Ward and Nyaunggaing village.

Upon completion, the schools can admit students with adequate numbers of seats for their convenient learning.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Bago Region WAO gets new office

BAGO, 13 Jan—Chief Minister of Bago Region on 9 January attended the opening ceremony of Bago Region Women's Affairs Organization on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Oktha Myothit, Bago.

Patron of the organization Daw Myint Myint Soe, Patron of Re-

gion WAO Daw Tint Maw and U Myo Swe of Myintmo Hlwan Company formally opened the new office.

The chief minister and wife planted a Gangaw (*Mesua ferrea*) sapling in commemoration of the opening ceremony.

IPRD

Divers retrieve crashed AirAsia jet's cockpit voice recorder

JAKARTA, 13 Jan — Divers retrieved the cockpit voice recorder from the wreck of an AirAsia passenger jet on Tuesday, an Indonesian investigator told *Reuters*, a key step towards determining the cause of the crash that killed 162 people.

Indonesia AirAsia's Flight QZ8501 lost contact with air traffic control in bad weather on 28 December, less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Indonesia's second-biggest city of Surabaya to Singapore. There were no survivors.

The cockpit voice recorder, which retains the last two hours of conversation between the pilots and with air traffic controllers, was found close to where the flight data recorder was recovered from the bottom of the Java Sea on Monday.

When asked if the so-called black box was found,

Santoso Sayogo, an investigator at the National Transportation Safety Committee, told *Reuters*: "We can confirm".

Together the black boxes, which are actually orange, contain a wealth of data that will be crucial for investigators piecing together the sequence of events that led to the Airbus A320-200 plunging into the sea.

The cockpit voice recorder was on board an Indonesian navy vessel and expected to be sent to the capital, Jakarta, for analysis, MetroTV said, quoting a transport official.

Investigators may need up to a month to get a complete reading of the data.

The AirAsia group's first fatal accident took place more than two weeks ago, but wind, high waves and strong currents have



Military policemen carry the flight data recorder of AirAsia QZ8501 at the airbase in Pangkalan Bun, Central Kalimantan on 12 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

slowed efforts to recover bodies and wreckage from the shallow waters off Borneo island.

Dozens of Indonesian

navy divers took advantage of calmer weather this week to retrieve the black boxes and now hope to find the fuselage of the Airbus.

Forty-eight bodies have been plucked from the Java Sea and brought to Surabaya for identification. Searchers believe more

bodies will be found in the plane's fuselage.

"Our main task is to find the victims," Fransiskus Bambang Soelistyo, head of the National Search and Rescue Agency, told reporters before heading to Surabaya to meet families of the victims.

"Even if both (black boxes) are found, it doesn't mean that our operation is over."

Relatives of the victims have urged the authorities to make finding the remains of their loved ones the priority.

"Even if the search has to last for a month, we are still hoping to find them," said Lioni, who lost four family members in the plane crash. "If they can find even one (of my family members), we would feel a little bit relieved."

Reuters

Japan calls for summit with S Korea without preconditions

TOKYO, 13 Jan — South Korea should not attach preconditions for holding a summit with Japan, top Japanese officials said on Tuesday.

The officials were responding to remarks on Monday by South Korean President Park Geun-hye that she is open to a summit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe but referred to the need to address the issue of former South Korean "comfort women" who worked in wartime Japanese military brothels, many of them against their will.

South Korea "should not attach preconditions

for a meeting between the leaders of neighboring countries," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

Citing the "comfort women" issue, Suga said, "Japan maintains the basic position that it should not be made into a political and diplomatic issue. We would like to explain this to South Korea."

Speaking to reporters separately, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Japan "considers South Korea the most important neighboring country" and that it hopes to "promote bilateral relations in a future-oriented fashion

and from a broader perspective." Kishida said Japan has made "maximum efforts" to address the "comfort women" issue, indicating Tokyo is unlikely to take further measures.

Japan has maintained that all compensation issues were settled under a 1965 bilateral treaty that normalized diplomatic ties. Despite that official position, Japan provided money in a form of atonement to former "comfort women" through the Asian Women's Fund, a pool of private donations set up at Tokyo's initiative in 1995 and run through 2007.

Kyodo News

AirAsia's final report to be released at least 1 year later

JAKARTA, 13 Jan — Final results of investigation on the crashed AirAsia QZ 8501 will be published at least one year later, an Indonesian official said here on Tuesday.

"A final report containing all the results of the probe into the crash will be

released one year later," Tang Kurniadi, Chairman of Indonesian Transport Safety Committee, told a Press conference in Pangkalan Bun city, central Kalimantan.

The formal investigation will commence after the release of a preliminary report, said Kurniadi, adding

that the preliminary factual report, which has no analysis, will be released within one month.

Tatang Kurniadi said a draft of the final report will be delivered to countries including France, Singapore and United States for evaluation.—*Xinhua*

S Korea, US to hold annual military exercise in early March

SEOUL, 13 Jan — South Korea and the United States plan to carry out their annual spring military exercise in early March, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Tuesday, citing a military source.

The Key Resolve command post exercise "is scheduled to take place in early March to check and boost their joint readiness posture," the source was quoted as saying.

Last year, Key Resolve took place between 24 February and 6 March.

The *Hankook Ilbo*, a local daily, reported earlier Tuesday that the two countries have agreed to delay the Key Resolve exercise

by about a week.

Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min Seok rejected speculation that the exercise was delayed to avoid provoking North Korea following Seoul's offer to Pyongyang to hold a new round of reunions of separated families around Lunar New Year's Day, which falls on 19 February.

"The schedule for the exercise was fixed a long time ago and has nothing to do with family reunions," Kim told reporters, without confirming the exact date of the exercise.

In a Press conference on Monday, South Korean President Park Geun-hye proposed to the North the

holding of a new round of family reunions.

In previous years, the official announcement of the date for the joint exercise has typically drawn a sharp response from North Korea.

Meanwhile, North Korea said last week it had proposed to the United States temporarily suspending its nuclear tests if Washington halts its joint military drills with South Korea.

In response to the North's offer, the two countries dismissed such a call, saying the joint exercises are defensive in nature.

Kyodo News

Philippines bars flying schools from training during Papal visit

MANILA, 13 Jan — The Philippine government said on Tuesday that flying schools across nation are barred from conducting training during Pope Francis' visit here.

Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)

Deputy Director General for Operations Rodante Joya said a notice to airmen was issued grounding the operations of these flying schools starting 6:00 am on 15 January to 11:00 am on 19 January.

The CAAP earlier also

issued notice to airmen that during the Papal visit, a no fly zone would be declared in certain areas from three nautical miles radius from surface up to 18,000 feet where the Pontiff will visit and hold activities.

Xinhua



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (C, front) cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the Chinese-built 338-megawatt Russei Chrum Krom River hydropower dam in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia, on 12 Jan, 2015. The hydroelectric dam, Cambodia's largest hydropower station so far, commenced operation on Monday after it had been constructed for nearly five years.—XINHUA

One dead, dozens injured after Washington subway filled with smoke

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — A woman died and more than 80 passengers were injured, two seriously, in the Washington subway system on Monday after smoke filled a train and station, US reports and the operator said.

The incident occurred in an area in the centre of the US capital close to a number of government

buildings and the Smithsonian museums. The Federal Investigation Bureau said there was no sign of foul play, according to *The Washington Post*.

According to the reports a Yellow Line train started to fill with smoke shortly after it left L'enfant Plaza for Pentagon around 3 pm. Passengers were advised to remain on the train

after the incident, but many of them had difficulty breathing, the reports said.

The operator of the subway, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, did not make public the estimated cause of the accident, simply saying the National Transportation Safety Board is conducting an investigation.

Kyodo News

Japan PM Abe to make Middle East trip from Friday

TOKYO, 13 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is scheduled to visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine between Friday and 21 January, the government said on Tuesday.

Abe will “forge new relations with Egypt, which holds the key to stability in the Middle East, and urge

Israel and Palestine to work for peace,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference.

The premier will also pledge strong support for Jordan, which is facing a mounting refugee problem amid the international fight against Islamic State mil-

itants, the top government spokesman said.

Abe will be making his first visit to Egypt since May 2007 and will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit Jordan, Israel and Palestine since Junichiro Koizumi did so in July 2006.

Kyodo News

Charlie Hebdo print run could hit three million after attack

PARIS, 13 Jan — Up to 3 million copies of *Charlie Hebdo* could hit newsstands this week, dwarfing its usual print run of 60,000, in response to soaring demand for the first edition of the satirical weekly since last week's deadly attacks by Islamist militants.

Seventeen people, including journalists and police, were killed in three days of violence that began on 7 January when militants burst into *Charlie Hebdo*'s office during a regular editorial meeting and shot dead five of its leading cartoonists. Liberation newspaper, now temporarily housing *Charlie Hebdo* operations, revealed the front page of the 14 January edition via Twitter late on Monday — an image of the Prophet Mohammad



A man touches the spray-painted shut mouth of a statue near a poster reading “I am Charlie” as he takes part in a solidarity march (Marche Republicaine) in the streets of Paris on 11 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

holding a sign saying “JE SUIS CHARLIE” (“I am Charlie”) below the headline “TOUT EST PARDONNE” (“All is forgiven”).

An initial batch of 1 million copies will be available on Wednesday and Thursday, said Michel Salion, a spokesman for MPL, which distributes *Charlie Hebdo*. A further 2 million could then be printed depending on demand.

“We have requests for 300,000 copies throughout the world — and demand keeps rising by the hour,” Salion said, adding that the newspaper usually had just 4,000 international clients.

“The million will go. As of Thursday, the decision will probably be taken to print extra copies ... So we'll have one million,

plus two if necessary.” On Sunday, at least 3.7 million people took part throughout France in marches of support for *Charlie Hebdo* and freedom of expression. World leaders linked arms to lead more than a million citizens through Paris in an unprecedented demonstration to pay tribute to the victims.

The new edition of *Charlie Hebdo*, known for its satirical attacks on Islam and other religions, will include cartoons featuring the Prophet Mohammad and also making fun of politicians and other religions, its lawyer, Richard Malka, told France Info radio earlier.

Salion said 60,000 copies of *Charlie Hebdo* were normally printed, with only 30,000 generally sold.

Reuters

Afghan policeman kills commander, district governor

LASHKAR GAH, 13 Jan — An Afghan policeman shot and killed his commanding officer and a district governor in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan, officials said on Tuesday, in an attack claimed by Taliban insurgents, who said the policeman had defected to their movement.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks to undermine the Afghan security forces and government after the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops 13 years after a US-led intervention force toppled a former Taliban government.

Sayed Murad Sadat, chief of Helmand's Nawzad district, and police commander Shamsullah were killed in the attack during a meeting on Monday, said Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar, deputy provin-

cial police chief.

“An investigation has already started to find out the reason for the shooting,” Rasoulyar said, adding the police officer was himself shot dead after the attack.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility on his official Twitter account.

“A police infiltrator killed all officials in Nawzad district of Helmand yesterday evening,” Mujahid said.

The Taliban also claimed responsibility for a car bomb that killed two people in the capital, Kabul, on Tuesday.

The magnetic bomb attached to a civilian vehicle detonated in front of a mosque in western Kabul, said Hashmat Stanekzai, a spokesman for Kabul's police chief.

Reuters

Ceasefire holds key to talks on Ukraine crisis, says Russia



Separatists from the Chechen “Death” battalion walk during a training exercise in the territory controlled by the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, eastern Ukraine, on 18 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

Moscow, 13 Jan — Talks on the Ukraine crisis can advance only when both sides fully observe a ceasefire in the country's east to open the way for the full implementation of a four-month-old peace deal, Russia said on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after meeting ministers from Germa-

ny, France and Ukraine in Berlin on Monday that all had agreed that only a strict ceasefire could pave the way for the countries' leaders to meet in the Kazakh capital Astana.

“The need for strict observance of the ceasefire was underlined,” Lavrov said in a statement, adding there would be another

meeting of the so-called Contact Group — Russia, Ukraine, Europe's OSCE security watchdog and rebels — to find ways to implement the ceasefire deal.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week that Europe could not consider lifting sanctions against Russia until all elements of the 12-point agreement signed in September in the Belarussian capital Minsk were fully implemented.

The conflict has pushed relations between Russia and the West to their lowest ebb since the Cold War ended.

Kiev and Moscow blame each other for the failure to implement the Minsk deal and end the conflict in east Ukraine, where more than 4,700 people have been killed since mid-April in fighting between the rebels and the Ukrainian army.

Lavrov's comments put an end to plans for talks in Astana on Thursday, to which Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had invited the Russian, French and German leaders.

“According to the ministers, this (work on implementing the deal) will allow plans for a successful summit in Astana to move forward. It was agreed that it was necessary to work more on this,” Lavrov said.

Lavrov also said there was a greater understanding that all parties in Ukraine should be involved in talks about constitutional change. Moscow has pressed hard for the self-declared separatist administrations in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk to have a say over the future of Ukraine.

Kiev does not recognize the local leaders in the two regions.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 14 January, 2015

Optimism is a reason for higher achievement

By Aung Khin

Optimism is linked to higher achievement. Pessimists have an underlying attitude that their experiences will usually or always be negative, whenever their efforts ended in failure. In many cases, pessimistic thinking is linked to depression.

Psychologists have remarked the more pessimistic someone is, the more likely they are to suffer from depression.

As a result, pessimism is also bad for health and makes people more liable to die of heart disease once they have it.

Optimism has a strong effect on physical and mental health. Therefore, optimists are generally positive thinkers. It is important to have thoughts with a positive content and attribute good and not bad events to one's self.

A good sense of humor is a necessity for a happy life as those with humorous sense can make bad things seem good.

Most people have a positive view of the world, but some have a more positive view than others. Most people believe they have far more control and more skills than they actually do have. For instance, the majority of drivers consider themselves more skilful than the average driver.

Pessimism is connected with a belief that an event is beyond control. Perceptions of helplessness and poor coping are also associated with the inability to attribute any real meaning or purpose to the conflict or problem situations. Such a perception is associated with a high distress factor, a predisposition to depression, and a wide diversity of health risks.

Taking control of how we respond to our

thoughts and what thoughts we focus on can make all the difference between happiness and unhappiness.

The most successful individuals from all walks of life have optimistic attitudes. Not only do optimists imagine a rosy future, they remember their successes much better than they recall their failures. They dwell on the pleasant. They skip over, although they don't forget, their weakness.

We can develop a habit of focusing on the negative through habit. Only by avoiding that can we possess the powers needed for the betterment in commerce, politics and society.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Faces on Facebook

By Myo Myint

At one time, the radio and the transistor were devices that entertained us and kept us in touch with the outside world. Then, the TV was initially introduced in developed countries during the 1940s and captivated people with not only sound but also sight. Now, it is joined by the Internet that not only informs, and entertains, but also allows us to keep connected with whoever we wish to be connected to, wherever they may be. The emergence of Facebook on the Internet in 2004, and later, the widespread use of mobile phones, have greatly assisted in keeping us connected not only with the people we know – our relatives, friends, colleagues and acquaintances, but also in making new friends from among the vast unknown, wherever we are, and where

ever they are. Whenever we access Facebook, new faces keep popping up daily on the screen requesting to be friends. This is because anyone who is at least 13 years and has a valid e-mail address can become a registered user. To give an idea of the number of users, there were 864 million daily active users on average for September 2014 according to Wikipedia.

Why is Facebook so popular with people of all ages including those over 65? Its use is so widespread, because as explained by Wikipedia, it can be used to exchange messages, post status updates and photos, share videos and receive notifications when others update their profiles. Facebook has come to serve as an alternative media for people of all walks of life, to inform and to be informed about such minor matters as where you

are at the moment to major events in the country.

Facebook has been created as a social media platform and true to its aim, it connects people and maintains friendships, and in some cases, it reconnects old friends. Since, apart from posting messages, one can also upload photographs and videos, it allows people to share one's memories, thoughts, and feelings as well as one's current activities. It also permits messages to be posted to specific persons. In addition, it enables Facebook users to share what they have come across in life and books, and through other media and websites, those that are entertaining, comical, unique, inspiring, instructional, sad, disturbing, etc. For those who enjoy playing games, it can also be used to play games with their cyberpals. Moreover, it is utilized to educate others regarding politics, health, morals, etc and it is used for positive actions, such as, to raise so-

cial awareness and responsibility, to give advice to those facing problems, to raise funds for the needy, to provide comfort and sympathy for those in distress, and to congratulate those who have achieved success. Furthermore, Facebook may also be used indirectly to promote oneself, such as, to boast about one's triumphs, or to flaunt one's latest acquisitions of persons and things. Besides, its popularity is exploited for commercial purposes, such as, to promote certain products, or to sell certain items.

In this Age of Globalization, people say that the world has shrunk to become a village. This may be true from technological, knowledge sharing, commercial, and travel perspectives. But from a social perspective, many people have become less connected to their roots. Probably due to increasing urbanization, industrialization and migration in search of better education and job opportunities, many people now live far away from their families and peers, and some are slowly drifting away from their relatives

and old friends. For the increasing number of people who have the financial means to own a cell phone and use the Internet, faces on Facebook, both old friends in the outside world, and new friends made on Facebook, and other similar social platforms, have become their cyberfriends to share their woes, wants, and wonderments and fill the social vacuum. The cyberfriends are close enough to be reached within seconds, but far enough to maintain privacy. This probably suits cyber-relationships, as it is difficult to harmonize one's free time with another person's free time in the extremely busy real world. On the other hand, the anonymous nature of some of the interactions may serve as a licence for people who do not agree with other persons to use hate speech, hurl verbal abuse, express bias opinions and make false accusations, which can sometimes be more painful than physical abuse. Similarly, not everyone who sees photographs of people posing in front of exciting places, lounging in luxurious ho-

tels, and enjoying exotic cuisine, finds them delightful, like the persons concerned. In fact, one Internet article says that in some people, it causes Facebook envy and negative effects of loss of self-esteem and dissatisfaction with their own lives, after seeing photographs of people travelling, or enjoying family happiness, on Facebook. So, people should be prepared for the barrage of negative comments and sarcastic reviews, and not just 'likes', when they boldly grace the cell phone screen like film or pop stars.

Nevertheless, few will disagree that apart from being useful in many ways, Facebook relieves us of boredom, and helps to kill time on slow moving buses, at boring meetings and during lonely hours. So, until another alluring social platform emerges to entertain us, do go on spending your time "rubbing the hand phone" as our young Myanmar people say and making more friends, but don't let it become an obsession and affect your other obligations and your sleep.

**Maubin (south) natural gas field produces more than 10 million cubic feet of natural gas**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Maubin (South) natural gas well No 1 launched its test production in April 2007 in Maubin (South) natural gas land, 1.5 miles south

Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo views production of natural gas in Maubin (South) natural gas field.—MNA

of Maubin, Ayeyawady Region.

At present, four wells produce 68 barrels of condensate and 10.803 million cubic feet of natural gas daily.

Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo together with officials of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise viewed production of 36 barrels of condensate and 4.3 million cubic feet

of natural gas from well No 5 drilled in December 2014. He also viewed boosting production of 28 barrels of condensate and 2.3 million cubic feet natural gas at No 7 well.

The deputy minister presented cash awards to workers and engineers. He then viewed drilling at No 9 well and preparations for drilling No 10 well.

MNA

NATIONAL

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Mr Andrew Patrick, British Ambassador to Myanmar and Mr Tom Dodd, Head of Asia and Pacific Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, on Tuesday discussed Myanmar's progress in preparations for upcoming election.

At the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, the UEC Chairman clarified the organizational setup of the commission, previous electoral experiences from 2010 general election and 2012 by-election

and planning a major strategy and process of compiling voter list for the 2015 elections.

He also replied to the queries raised by Mr Tom Dodd on commission's plan to expand its organizational setup for the 2015 election, preparations for successful holdings the election and collaboration process among international bodies.

The UEC has conducted voter education programmes to hold a free and fair general election and welcomes the observation of both local and foreign monitoring bodies, U Tin Aye said.—MNA

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye holds talks with foreign guests on preparations for 2015 elections.—MNA

UEC chairman, UK officials discuss preparations for Myanmar's upcoming election



Region/State governments to cooperate MIC in raising foreign direct investment



Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein discusses implementation of long-term foreign direct investment promotion plan in regions and states.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — While the government is implementing the national comprehensive development plan, region and state governments also draw development plans, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein told the investment promotion meeting at the Ministry of Energy, here, on Tuesday.

The union minister said that the plans of region and state need allotment of land plots, types of job, better management and skills with regard to the investments of the projects.

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung explained cooperation between the

commission and region and state governments in work process, rules and regulation and development of human resources for raising investment in the future, opening of branches of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration in regions and states.

Officials reported on investment policies, role of region and state governments after signing the ASEAN multi-investment agreement and investment agreements between two countries, and long-term foreign direct investment promotion plan.

Region and state ministers and officials discussed cooperation between the commission and region and states.—MNA

UN Special Rapporteur meets union ministers, attorney-general of the union, deputy minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan —Ms Yanghee Lee, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, called on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw

Nyunt, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat

Myat Ohn Khin at their ministries, here, on Tuesday.

They discussed efforts of Myanmar in raising human rights and protection, and matters related to remaining treaties on human rights.—MNA



UN Special Rapporteur Ms Yanghee Lee calls on Union Minister U Aung Min.—MNA

Ethnic affairs ministers issue a statement

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Ethnic affairs ministers issued a statement on Tuesday.

The statement said that ethnic affairs ministers are Hluttaw representatives directly elected by the respective ethnic people in accord with the 2008 Constitution which stipulates they are the ministers in states and regions.

Although they are the ministers in states and regions, they are the representatives of the ethnic people of the respective states and regions, the statement said.

They have attended the meeting at the invitation of President U Thein Sein at the Ngu Shwe Wah Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 January 2015 in the interests of the country and people, according to the statement.

The joint statement was signed by U Law Yin of Kayan National Race Minister (Shan State), U Win Myint of Inn National Race Minister (Shan State), U Sai Maung Hla of Shan National Race Minister (Mandalay Region), U Naing Chit Oo of Mon National Race Minister (Kayin State), U Yaw Wi of Lisu National Race Minister (Shan State), U Ah Si of Lisu National Race Minister (Kachin State), U Shar Mwe Lashen of Lahu National Race Minister (Shan State), U Saw Tun Aung Myint of Kayin National Race Minister (Yangon Region), U Khun

Pe Mya of Pa-O National Race Minister (Mon State), U Saw Aung Kyaw Thein of Kayin National Race Minister (Mon State), U Thet Win of Bamar National Race Minister (Mon State), U Zaw Aye Maung of Rakhine National Race Minister (Yangon Region), Daw Khin Pyone Yi of Shan National Race Minister (Kachin State), U Sein Oo of Bamar National Race Minister (Kayah State), U Khin Maung Swe of Bamar National Race Minister (Kachin State), U Gwam Rein Dee of Rawam National Race Minister (Kachin State), U Mahn Than Shwe of Kayin National Race Minister (Ayeyawady Region), U San Shwe of Shan National Race Minister (Sagaing Region), U Peter Thaug Sein of Akha National Race Minister (Shan State), U Ko Ko Naing of Chin National Race Minister (Rakhine State), U Khun Than Myint of Pa-O National Race Minister (Kayin State), U Nothan Cap of Chin National Race Minister (Sagaing Region), U Salai Hla Tun of Chin National Race Minister (Magway Region), U Saw Jubilee San Hla of Kayin National Race Minister (Bago Region), U Naing Win of Bamar National Race Minister (Shan State), U Duwa Zoke Dong of Kachin National Race Minister (Shan State) and U Ba Kyu of Rakhine National Race Minister (Ayeyawady Region).—MNA

Apparent Islamic State backers hack US military Twitter feed

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — The Twitter and YouTube accounts for the US military command that oversees operations in the Middle East were hacked on Monday by people claiming to be sympathetic towards the Islamic State militant group being targeted in American bombing raids.

“American soldiers, we are coming, watch your back, ISIS,” the hackers posted on the US Central Command Twitter feed, using an acronym for the hardline Islamist group, which has taken control of parts of Syria and Iraq.

US officials acknowledged that the incident in which the accounts were “compromised” for about 30 minutes was embarrassing but played down the impact. The FBI said it was investigating.

Pentagon spokesman Army Colonel Steve Warren said the Defence Department “views this as little more than a prank, or as vandalism.”



A computer screenshot shows the US Central Command Twitter feed after it was apparently hacked by people claiming to be Islamic State sympathizers on 12 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

“It’s inconvenient, it’s an annoyance but in no way is any sensitive or classified information compromised,” Warren told a press briefing.

Defence officials said in a statement that “operational military networks

were not compromised and there was no operational impact.”

Islamic State forces have been targeted in air strikes by the United States and international partners.

“In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious,

the Most Merciful, the CyberCaliphate continues its CyberJihad,” the Central Command Twitter feed said after being hacked.

The Twitter account published a list of generals and addresses associated with them, titled “Army

General Officer Public Roster (by rank) 2 January 2014.”

Subsequent posts read, “Pentagon Networks Hacked! China Scenarios” and “Pentagon Networks Hacked. Korean Scenarios.”

Central Command said it was notifying Pentagon and law enforcement authorities about the potential release of “personally identifiable information” and work to make sure the people “potentially affected” are notified quickly.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said during a press briefing that the hacking was “something that we take seriously.” But Earnest added, “There’s a pretty significant difference between what is a large data breach and the hacking of a Twitter account.”

Even as the hacking was taking place, President Barack Obama on Monday announced new proposals aimed at bolstering American cybersecurity after high-profile hacking inci-

dents including one against Sony Pictures Entertainment that US officials blamed on North Korea.

Several current and former US security and intelligence officials said until now they had never heard of the CyberCaliphate. Some of the officials expressed scepticism at the group’s skills and capabilities.

“Hacking a Twitter is about the equivalent of spray-painting a subway car,” a former senior US intelligence official said.

But the chairman of the US House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, Republican Michael McCaul of Texas, called the incident “severely disturbing.”

“Assaults from cyber-jihadists will become more common unless the administration develops a strategy for appropriately responding to these cyberattacks, including those like the North Korea attack against Sony,” McCaul said.—Reuters

Mexico to try wife of mayor linked to student disappearances

MEXICO CITY, 13 Jan — The wife of a Mexican politician suspected of helping to plot the apparent massacre of 43 trainee teachers in September will be tried for engaging in organized crime, the federal courts authority said on Monday.

The event rocked the government, which says the students were abducted by corrupt police in the southwestern city of Iguala on the night of 26 September, then probably incinerated by members of

local drug gang Guerreros Unidos.

The remains of only one of the 43 students have been identified, and the government blames former Iguala mayor Jose Luis Abarca and his wife Maria de los Angeles Pineda for masterminding their disappearance, along with the gang.

Later on Monday, security forces in Iguala clashed with students from the same teacher training college and other protesters trying to break into a

local military base, a police spokesman said. Four people were injured, media reports said.

The courts authority said it believed Pineda had been working with Guerreros Unidos since at least 2005, and accused her of engaging in crimes against health, which includes drug trafficking, and managing illicit funds.

Her lawyers could not immediately be reached for comment.

The statement made no specific reference to Iguala.

President Enrique Pena Nieto is facing his deepest crisis over the government’s handling of the investigation.

A federal judge found evidence that Pineda acted as a financial intermediary for Guerreros Unidos and helped protect the gang, the courts authority said.

Between 2009 and 2014, she took deposits probably originating with the drug gang worth about 13.7 million pesos (\$936,016) in four bank accounts, the court said. Pineda and Abarca fled Iguala a few days after the abduction of the students, and were captured in November by police.—Reuters

Obama, Netanyahu discuss Iranian nuclear programme

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Monday reassured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Washington’s commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb.

Obama made the pledge hours after US Secretary of State John Kerry expressed wishes to accelerate nuclear talks with Iran.

In a White House statement, Obama reiterated that nuclear talks with Iran focus on reaching a deal across the board that prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear bomb and obliges Iran to unequivocally guar-

antee the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme to the international community. “The president underscored the United States’ enduring commitment to the security of Israel and the importance of continuing close cooperation with Israel on this issue,” said the White House statement.

During his stay in India, Kerry told reporters that his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Geneva later this week is to review the past talks and to instruct their negotiation teams for discussions slated for Thursday through on Saturday.

The planned bilateral engagement would be followed by talks on Sunday between Iran and the six world powers of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Negotiators have so far failed to reach a comprehensive deal, under which Teheran would suspend its nuclear programme while the West would loosen or lift economic sanctions.

Israel has long been skeptical about the negotiations, arguing that Iran is adamant and that it is merely exploiting the temporary mitigation of US sanctions.

Xinhua

Maradona says got letter from Fidel Castro, halting death rumours

CARACAS, 13 Jan — Fidel Castro sent a letter to Diego Maradona, Venezuelan-based TV reported in an interview with the Argentine soccer great on Monday, quashing rumours that the former Cuban leader had died.

The elder Castro had not been heard from nor seen in public since his brother Raul’s historic US-Cuba rapprochement last month, and the silence

has re-ignited speculation about his health.

“Fidel is doing very well,” Maradona told the regional Telesur station, as he held up the letter. “Here’s the signature ... I’m showing it to you so you can show it to the world.”

Chatter about his demise has dogged Castro periodically since the 1959 Cuban revolution, but became more frequent in recent years because

of health problems that forced him to step down from power in favour of his younger brother.

The last public word from Fidel Castro was an 17 October column in state media.

Set up to counterbalance Western-based TV networks like CNN and the BBC, Telesur is financed by leftist governments in Latin America, Venezuela in particular.—Reuters

María de los Angeles Pineda Villa



Maria de los Angeles Pineda Villa, the wife of former mayor of Iguala, Jose Luis Abarca, is seen displayed on a television screen during a news conference, while she is transferred to a prison in Tepic, at Nayarit state, in Mexico City in this handout picture released on 5 Jan, 2015 by Mexico’s Attorney General’s Office (PGR).

REUTERS

Egypt's Sisi scores early success with smart cards for bread subsidies

CAIRO, 13 Jan — The successful roll-out so far of a new “smart card” system to distribute subsidized bread has been a major achievement for Egypt’s government, saving money while earning praise from families who no longer have to wake early to fight for loaves.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi appears to be succeeding where predecessors Hosni Mubarak and Mohamed Mursi both failed in the delicate task of reforming a system that has drained the state’s finances while angering the population.

While the government still has a long way to go to roll out the new system countrywide, success so far marks an important civilian

The system turned Egypt into the world’s biggest importer of wheat, draining the government’s foreign currency reserves: Cairo spends \$3 billion a year on imports for it.

Nor has it pleased the public. Bread has been sold on a “first come, first served” basis, forcing people to queue up for hours in the morning to get it before it runs out, and sometimes leading to violence.

Those who arrive at the bakery early sometimes buy extra bread to feed to their livestock. Meanwhile, those who arrive too late can get nothing. And bakers are widely accused of siphoning off flour to sell on the black market, profiting while run-



A woman carries bread at a bakery in Cairo, on 8 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

achievement for the president, a former army chief mainly known for security issues, including a harsh crackdown against Mursi’s Muslim Brotherhood followers. “In the time of Mubarak and Mursi, there was no organization at bakeries. People fought each other. Now we all take what we need and there’s bread for all,” said Bakhita Ibrahim, a Cairo resident at a bakery in the Sayyeda Zeinab district. For generations, Egypt’s government has fed the public by distributing subsidized flour to bakeries, which sell bread for as little as 5 piastres a loaf, less than one US cent.

ning up the government’s bills.

Under the new system, families are issued plastic cards allowing them to buy five loaves per family member per day. Buyers no longer have to queue. Bakeries are paid for the subsidized loaves they sell, rather than being given a fixed allotment of cheap flour, making it harder to siphon off subsidies. The cards have so far been introduced in 17 of Egypt’s 29 provinces and consumption in those areas is already down between 15 to 35 percent, Supplies Minister Khaled Hanafi, who has led the reforms, told Reuters.

Reuters

Islamic State hit with 27 air strikes — US military

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — The United States and its allies targeted Islamic State forces in 27 air strikes in Iraq and Syria in a 24-hour period, the Combined Joint Task Force said on Monday.

In Syria, the air raids, which ran from Sunday morning to Monday morning, hit Islamic State units and destroyed fighting positions and buildings near the city of Kobani while a strike

near Dawr az Zawr hit an oil refinery and another near Abu Kamal destroyed an excavator, a task force statement said. Sixteen strikes in Iraq destroyed fighting positions, vehicles, an artillery system, a rocket launcher and buildings. The targets were near the cities of Baiji, Taji, Al Qaim, Ramadi, Tal Afar, Al Asad, Sinjar and Mosul.

Reuters

Arab states vow to help Lebanon with refugee and security problems

BEIRUT, 13 Jan — An Arab delegation headed by Kuwaiti Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad as-Sabah vowed on Monday to help Lebanon with its Syrian refugee and security problems.

The delegation included the AL Secretary General Nabil al-Arabi and Mauritania’s Foreign Minister Ahmad Walad Takdi, who met with Speaker Nabih Berri.

And following the meeting Sabah stressed that “all Arab states are ready to support Lebanon.”

He said “the Arab summit in Kuwait and the Arab Ministerial Councils both concluded to support

Lebanon’s defence capabilities, its counter-terrorism efforts as well as to ease the burden of the Syrian refugee crisis.”

He stated “these decisions need commitment and follow through, especially Lebanon’s security and stability along with supporting it to face Israeli intentions.”

The delegation later met with Prime Minister Tammam Salam and Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil.

In a joint Press conference with Bassil, Sabah reiterated “the need to support Lebanon, and Arab states’ preparedness to offer all necessary aid.”

Bassil said that “the meeting was an opportu-



Kuwaiti Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad as-Sabah (2nd R) meets with Lebanon’s parliament speaker Nabih Berri (1st R) in Beirut, Lebanon, on 22 Dec, 2014. An Arab delegation headed by Kuwaiti Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad as-Sabah vowed Monday to help Lebanon with its Syrian refugee and security problems.—XINHUA

nity to discuss terrorism,” Arab states to preserve their diverse religious fabric.” —Xinhua

Paris attacks suspect entered Syria on 8 January, Turkey says

ISTANBUL, 13 Jan — The suspected female accomplice of Islamist militants behind attacks in Paris was in Turkey five days before the killings and crossed into Syria on 8 January, Turkish officials said on Monday.

France launched a search for 26-year-old Hayat Boumeddiene after police killed her partner Amedy Coulibaly while storming a Jewish supermarket where he had taken hostages. Authorities described her as armed and dangerous.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, in an interview on state-run Anatolian news agency’s website, said Boumeddiene had arrived in Istanbul from Madrid on 2 January. Turkey had received no request from Paris to deny her access.

“There is footage (of her) at the airport. Later on, she stayed at a hotel with another person and crossed into Syria on 8 January. We can tell that based on telephone records,” he said.

Those dates would put Boumeddiene in Turkey before the violence in Paris began, and leaving for Syria while the attackers were still hiding from police.

Coulibaly had said he was carrying out the attack in the name of Islamic State, a militant Islamist group that has seized swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria.

Seventeen people,

including journalists and policemen, were killed in three days of violence that began with the storming of the satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* on Wednesday, on 7 January, and ended with a hostage-taking at a kosher supermarket on Friday when four hostages were killed.

Three gunmen were killed and there was some confusion at first about whether Boumeddiene

had been present in the supermarket when police stormed it and had escaped.

Footage from security cameras posted on the HaberTurk news website showed a woman it identified as Boumeddiene walking with a man to passport control at Istanbul’s Sabiha Gokcen Airport after flying in from Madrid.

The woman is wearing a long dress and winter coat and her head is covered

with a white head scarf. Her companion has a short pony tail. She is seen briefly conversing with a Turkish immigration officer before the undated footage ends.

An official French police photograph shows Boumeddiene as a young woman with long dark hair hitched back over her ears. French media released photos purporting to be of a fully-veiled Boumeddiene, posing with a cross-bow, in what they said was a 2010 training session in the mountainous Cantal region.

French media described her as one of seven children whose mother died when she was young and whose delivery-man father struggled to keep working while looking after the family. As an adult, she lost her job as a cashier when she converted to Islam and started wearing the niqab.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, speaking at a Press conference in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said Turkey could not be blamed for allowing Boumeddiene to travel through its territory because it had not been asked to bar her.

“Is it Turkey’s fault that it has borders with Syria?” Davutoglu said, adding Turkey has kept its 900-km-long border with Syria open to allow in more than 1.6 million refugees since the conflict there began in 2011. —Reuters



Hayat Boumeddiene, the suspected female accomplice of Islamist militants behind attacks in Paris, is seen upon her arrival to Turkey in this still image taken from surveillance video at Sabiha Gokcen airport in Istanbul on 2 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

World lends helping hands to Australia's bushfire injured wildlife

SYDNEY, 13 Jan — A call by an Australian wildlife welfare body for locals to help in the recovery of animals injured in wildfires which ravaged parts of Australia last week has seen an unprecedented international response on Tuesday, thanks to social media.

The affected native koala bears which normally live in trees were first given drinks from water bottles by caring humans to keep them alive, but those rescued had badly burnt paws after clinging to burning branches.

The solution was simple. Treat the burns with medications, then place glove-like mittens over the burnt paws.

But such mittens are not commercially manufactured for mass bushfire burnings. Instead the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) relies on humans to knit the mittens and send them to a centralized depot.

Australians have long done so in such emergencies, including donating blankets to create pouches for baby kangaroos rescued from their dead mother's pouches.

A social media call-out for mittens was made last Thursday, but the response has astounded the IFAW.

Mittens have arrived from the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan and other parts of the world.

Josey Sharrad from the IFAW told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that the organization was astonished.

"What started off as a local campaign, just asking the Australian public has just absolutely gone global and viral," Sharrad said.

"It's truly phenomenal." The IFAW has been unable to count all of the donated mittens, but said they had thousands and did not need any more.

"It was absolutely overwhelming, we could not have planned for this and we are so touched by the kind heartedness of people all around the world," Sharrad said.

"Luckily we have a big stock room and we

will keep them here and send them out to people all around the country as and when they're needed."

A bushfire, that started on 2 January in Adelaide, has burnt through more than 12,500 hectares of land, destroying 27 homes and killing countless stock and wildlife.

Sharrad said koalas were especially at risk during a bushfire due to their slow movements.

She also called for pouches for other wildlife affected by the fires, saying, "There will be orphaned kangaroos and wallabies coming in and they need to be kept by wildlife rescuers in a very warm, pouch like environment."

Xinhua

Australian gov't announces that fourth vessel to join MH370 search in Indian Ocean

CANBERRA, 13 Jan — A new vessel has been brought in to help the international search for missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 — after a 10-month operation has so far found no remains of the aircraft.

Acting Australian Prime Minister Warren Truss said on Tuesday that the *Fugro Supporter* was on its way to the West Australian coast to join three other vessels in the search, after it had recently completed trials in Bali.

Fugro Equator, *Fugro Discovery* and *GO Phoenix* have already been tasked with the job of searching for remains of the missing *Boeing 777* which went down last March.

Speaking to the Australian Broadcasting Commission on Tuesday, Truss said the *Fugro Supporter* was expected to arrive in the search area in the southern Indian Ocean and join the operation in late January.

Truss insisted he was still confident the plane would be found, despite the time that has passed since the accident.

"It's a huge search area, it's in very deep water, it's a long way from the coast, but we're still optimistic that we're searching in the right place and

we've got good enough equipment to be able to identify this wreck," he told ABC Radio.

When asked what would happen if MH370 was not located when this phase of the search wrapped up in May, Truss said there would have to be a new "round of assessments".

"We're putting in the best effort and if it's possible to find it, I'm confident we can do it," he said.

The latest vessel, to be jointly funded by Australia and Malaysia, is equipped with a *Kongsberg HUGIN 4500* autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV).

"The AUV will be used to scan those portions of the search area that cannot be searched effectively by the equipment on other vessels," Truss said.

As of last Wednesday, over 14,000 square kilometres of the sea floor has been searched, with about 208,000 square kilometres surveyed.

With no significant interruptions, search crews still hope to have completed their effort by May.

Flight MH370 left Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing last March when it disappeared, with 239 people on board, including six Australians.

Xinhua

Cuba has freed all 53 prisoners as agreed in US deal — US officials

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — Cuba has completed the release of all 53 prisoners it had promised to free, the Obama administration said on Monday, a major step towards détente with Washington.

The release of the remaining detainees overcomes a big hurdle for historic talks next week aimed at normalizing ties after decades of hostility. The list of 53 is part of last month's breakthrough US-Cuba agreement and includes many known to international human rights groups as "prisoners of conscience."

The United States welcomed Cuba's action as a milestone, but senior US officials said Washington would keep pressing Havana to free more people they consider political prisoners.

Lifting the secrecy around the freed dissidents, the Obama administration provided the full list to congressional leaders. According to a copy obtained by *Reuters*, they include members of prominent Cuba protest groups including the Ladies in White.

There had been questions whether Havana

would release all those it had pledged to free as part of the deal that Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced on 17 December to restore diplomatic ties, which Washington severed more than 50 years ago.

The mystery that surrounded the 53 had played to Obama's critics who say he has not pressured Havana enough on human rights in return for normalizing ties.

The United States exchanged three convicted Cuban spies for an agent who had spied for the Americans. Washington

also received Alan Gross, a US aid worker jailed in Cuba.

Cuba informed the Obama administration over the weekend that the last of those on the list had been released, according to the officials, who spoke to *Reuters* on condition of anonymity.

But one of the officials said: "We're going to be wanting to raise the cases of different individuals who may be detained in Cuba for exercising their universal rights."

Cuba denies that it holds political prisoners.

Reuters

Three ice climbers die in 'catastrophic' fall in W Canada

VANCOUVER, 13 Jan — Three ice climbers were found dead in a wilderness region of British Columbia after likely falling about 2,000 feet (610 meters) in a "catastrophic" accident as they neared the top of their ascent, local police said on Monday.

The bodies of a man and a woman in their mid-30s from the Vancouver region and a female foreign national in her late 20s were recovered on Monday some 300 meters below Joffre peak, about a three-hour drive northeast of Vancouver, police said.

The foreign climber is believed to be from Germany,

based on reports from two skiers who were part of the climbing group, Whistler-Pemberton Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman Steve LeClair said.

The skiers found the body of one of the climbers on Sunday night and then alerted police that two others were missing.

"It looks like they made it almost to the top of the central couloir, and then fell approximately 2,000 vertical feet... It looks like a catastrophic slip and fall accident," LeClair said.

The climbers had been tied together with climbing ropes, LeClair said.

Reuters



Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela (C) presents a wreath during a rally in memory of the 17 persons that were killed during the three days of attack in France, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 12 Jan, 2015.

XINHUA

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**INVITATION TO OPEN
PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDING**

The Irrigation Department (ID), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, announces the PREQUALIFICATION of International Competitive Bidding for "Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID" under the Irrigation Development Project in Western Bago Region based on the Loan Agreement (Loan No.: MY-P7) signed on 5th September, 2014 between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry.

The procurement works shall consist of equipment supply, site assembling, test-run, training and commissioning for the construction machineries, Please note that Joint Ventures are acceptable.

Sr.No.	Bidding No.	Description	Qty;	Remarks
1.	ITP-ID-01	Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID	1 lot	

A complete set of prequalification documents is available in Myanmar kyat (50,000/-) from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 in the working days from 13th to 19th, January, 2015 at Procurement Director Office of Irrigation Department, Building No. (43), Nay Pyi Taw and closing date will be 27th, January, 2015 during office hours. Submission of the Documents later than closing date will not be considered.

Contact: Director, Procurement branch.
Telephone: +95-67-410019

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2015)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-133(14-15)	BOP Control Accumulator Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-134(14-15)	6" x 8" R HSB Pump without Motor (3) Lots	US\$
(3)	IFB-135(14-15)	6" x 8" R SB Pump without Motor (3) Lots	US\$
(4)	IFB-136(14-15)	Shore Water Pump with Motor (1000 gpm x 200 ft hd) (2) Lots	US\$
(5)	IFB-137(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (400 gpm x 400 ft hd, 100 HP) (1) Lot	US\$
(6)	IFB-138(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (250 gpm x 600 ft hd, 100 HP, 400 V) (1) Lot	US\$
(7)	IFB-139(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (200 gpm x 350 ft hd, 50 HP) (1) Lot	US\$
(8)	IFB-140(14-15)	Solid Control Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(9)	IFB-141(14-15)	Derrick Shaker Unit (Flow Line Mud Cleaner) FLC-504 (2) Sets	US\$
(10)	IFB-142(14-15)	Spares for Rotary Table Drive Group Ex GEFCO Drilling Rigs (4) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time – 9-2-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 12th January, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+95 67-411097/411206

Icebreaker Shirase docks at Antarctic base for 2nd straight year

TOKYO, 13 Jan — The Japanese icebreaker *Shirase* has docked near the Showa Base in Antarctica for the second year in a row after failing to do so the previous two years due to snow and thick ice, the science ministry said on Tuesday. The 12,650-ton vessel, which last year collided with a reef when leaving the base, made headway in roughly 6-metre-thick ice from 29 December and arrived at the docking point off the base Monday evening, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology said.—*Kyodo News*

USJ draws 10 million visitors since April with Harry Potter attraction

OSAKA, 13 Jan — Universal Studios Japan in Osaka said on Tuesday it has attracted more than 10 million visitors since last April, reflecting the popularity of a new attraction based on the Harry Potter film series. The number of visitors in the current business year through March is expected to exceed the previous record of around 11 million logged in fiscal 2011 shortly after the park's opening, according to USJ Co. The park operator has seen record visitors each month since the Harry Potter attraction was opened on 15 July.—*Kyodo News*

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF 254R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF 254R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

ပြင်ဆင်ဖတ်ရှုပါရန်

၁၃.၁.၂၀၁၅ ရက်နေ့ထုတ် The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတွင် INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (Tender No. 2(T) MPE/HSD(1)/2015-2016) ခေါင်းစဉ်ပါကြော်ငြာစာအား အောက်ပါအတိုင်း ပြင်ဆင်ဖတ်ရှုပါရန်

Tender Closing Date : 26 - 1 - 2015 at (12:00) noon.
Tender Opening Date : 26 - 1 - 2015 at (13:00) hrs.
Delivery Time : February 2015 to March 2015
Commencing Date : 15-1-2015

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th January, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Vietnam considers major bank mergers in 2015: central bank

HO CHI MINH CITY, 13 Jan — More than six to eight major banks in Vietnam would likely merge with each other in 2015 in an effort to strengthen the industry, according to sources with the State Bank of Vietnam, or the central bank. The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam, the country's biggest bank by market value, could merge with unlisted Saigon Bank for Industry and Trade, while the Hanoi-based Joint

Stock Commercial Bank for Industry and Trade (VietinBank) may join with unlisted OceanBank, local Tuoi Tre (Youth) daily reported on Tuesday, quoting central bank sources. The Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam could take similar steps with the Mekong Housing Bank, and VietinBank could also merge with the Petrolimex Bank. Other mergers would include the Maritime Bank with the Mekong Devel-

opment Bank, and the Sacombank with the Southern Bank, for which preparations began in 2014.

Vietnam is trying to clean up its finance sector which has 42 local banks, many of which are burdened with non-performing loans after a decade of rapid expansion, and many economists consider the sector as overcrowded, with too many small and under-capitalized operators, said the report.

Xinhua



Flames emanate from a vehicle during a protest in front of the 35th Military Zone in Chilpancingo, capital of Guerrero State, Mexico, on 12 Jan, 2015. According to local press, the parents of missing students, with support of the members of the State Coordinator of Education Workers of Guerrero (CETEG in Spanish), burnt an official vehicle in front of the main door of the 50th Infantry Battalion of the 35th Military Zone, demanding the presentation of results in the search for 43 missing students abducted in Guerrero State in September 2014.—XINHUA



Miss Universe contestants arrive in Miami, the major city in south-eastern Florida, in the United States. The 63th Miss Universe contest will be held in the city on 25 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

Golden Globes television audience dips to 19.3 million



Actor Eddie Redmayne poses with his award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama for 'The Theory of Everything' at the 16th annual InStyle and Warner Bros. party after the 72nd annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 11 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Stephen Colbert's 'Late Show' set for September debut, CBS says

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan — Stephen Colbert will debut as the new host of CBS Corp's "Late Show," on 8 September, the US broadcast television network said on Monday.

Colbert, 50, takes over the late-night TV talk show from David Letterman, who will retire after his final broadcast on 20 May.

"I have nine months to make a show, just like a baby. So first, I should find out how you make a baby," Colbert said in a statement.



Comedian Stephen Colbert (C) attends a reception for 2014 Kennedy Centre honorees at the White House in Washington on 7 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

The comedian is best known for playing a satirical conservative personality on Comedy Central's Emmy-winning faux news show "The Colbert Re-

port," which finished its nine-year run last month. He was named Letterman's successor in April last year.

Colbert has said he will drop the popular character

for the "Late Show," which goes head-to-head against Jimmy Fallon's "The Tonight Show" on NBC and ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Letterman's departure after 21 years as host of CBS's "Late Show" marks a generational break on network late-night television following Jay Leno's departure from "The Tonight Show" last year.

Fallon and Kimmel have departed from the traditional talk show model with gags and skits designed in part to court younger audiences and day-after views on video sharing websites like Google Inc's YouTube.

Reuters

LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan — The television audience for Sunday's 72nd Golden Globe Awards dipped to 19.3 million as comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the Hollywood awards show for the third and final time, NBC said on Monday.

The three-hour show, which Fey and Poehler helped reached a 10-year high last year, declined nearly 8 percent in total viewers compared with last year's 20.9 million viewers, and was down about 11 percent in the 18-49 age group advertisers covet most, according to data compiled Nielsen Media Research.

This is the final year Fey and Poehler planned on hosting the Golden Globes, the first major awards show leading up to the Academy

Awards on 22 February. The duo rose to prominence together on Comcast Corp-owned NBC comedy show "Saturday Night Live."

Their first time hosting in 2013 drew 19.7 million viewers.

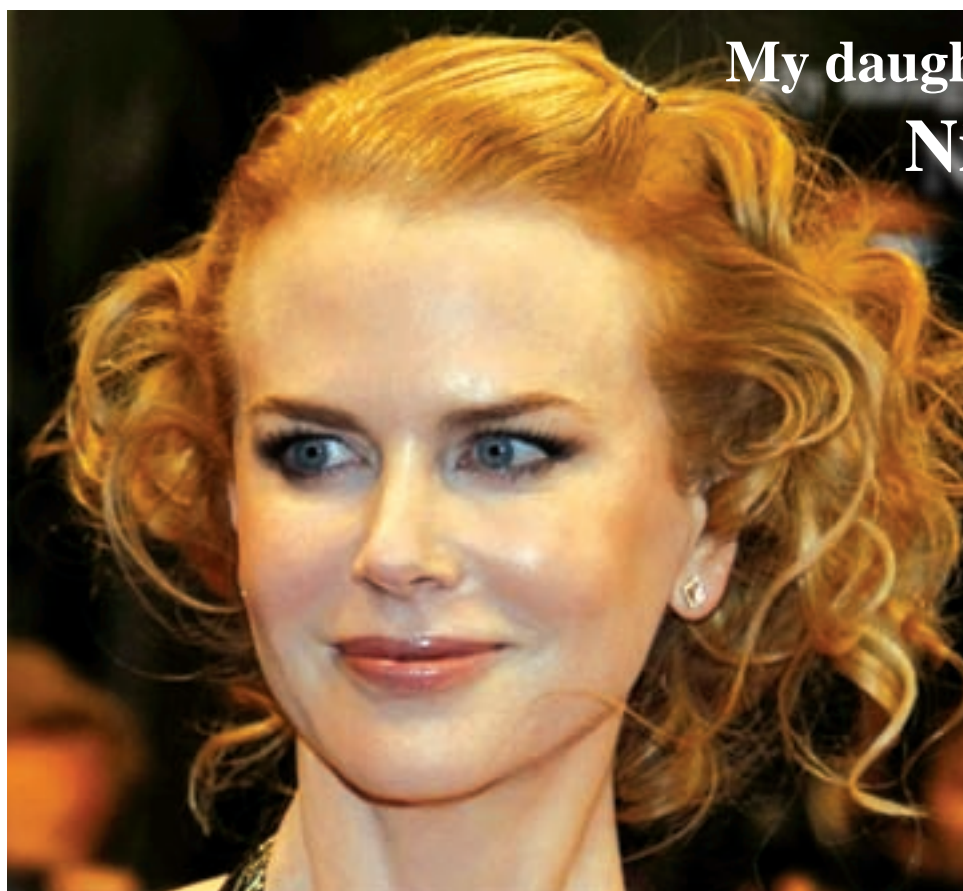
The night's big winners were coming-of-age chronicle "Boyhood," which won best drama picture, and Wes Anderson's period caper "The Grand Budapest Hotel," which won best comedy or musical. Fey and Poehler's brand of roasting celebrities with an impish smile helped prop up the show's appeal among younger viewers over prior host, acerbic comedian Ricky Gervais. The Golden Globe Awards are organized by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Reuters

I like Indian jewellery: Jennifer Aniston

NEW YORK, 13 Jan — 'Cake' star Jennifer Aniston has revealed that her eight-carat diamond ring from fiance Justin Theroux is not of her kind. Aniston, 45, who has been engaged to Theroux for two years, said she is not a diamond girl and might not have picked it for herself, reported the *New York Post*. "It's a rock, I know. He rocked it up. It took me a while to get used to it. I'm not a diamond girl. I'm more Indian jewelry and stuff," she said. Aniston said she considers Theroux a blessing sent to her by her first love, who died of a brain tumour when they were young.

"He would have been the one. But I was 25, and I was stupid. He must have sent me Justin to make up for it all," she said.—PTI



My daughters won't be actresses: Nicole Kidman

LONDON, 13 Jan — Nicole Kidman says she doesn't see her daughters becoming actresses. The Australian star, who won the Best Actress Oscar in 2002 for her role in 'The Hours', said whilst acting is her passion, she doesn't think her daughters Sunday Rose, six, and Faith Margaret, four, will follow in her footsteps, reported *Hello!* magazine.

"I think they would actually run the other way!" said Kidman when quizzed on whether her youngsters would be interested in acting. "(Acting) was just my desire and my motivation, and I don't see that in Sunday or Faith. They're like, 'Nope, we're not interested'," she said.

Kidman, 47, who also has two adopted children called Conor and Isabella from her 11-year marriage to Tom Cruise, said she has already heard Rose voice her desire for a multitude of other careers. "Sunday wants to be a vet right now. And a party planner. Then she says she wants to be a stay-at-home mom and have eight children. I think that's her way of saying to me, 'Stay at home!'," she added.—PTI

GENERAL

Murray and Dimitrov to play at Queen's

LONDON, 13 Jan — Andy Murray will warm up for this year's Wimbledon by playing in the Aegon Cham-



Andy Murray of Britain reacts after losing a point during his men's singles tennis match against Benoit Paire of France at the 2015 Hopman Cup in Perth on 5 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

pionships at Queen's Club, organizers said on Monday.

The British world number six, bidding to win the tournament for the fourth time, will be joined in the draw by defending champion Grigor Dimitrov.

"I've had some great moments on those grass courts," Murray said in a statement.

"It's where I won my first professional match and my first title in Britain. The year I won Wimbledon, it came a few weeks after winning at Queen's, and it's perfect preparation."

Reuters

Blood-red sea as underwater volcano erupts off Tonga, ash delays flights

SYDNEY, 13 Jan — An underwater volcano off Tonga was spewing ash high into the air on Tuesday, causing several carriers to suspend air travel to the South Pacific island nation and turning the surrounding ocean blood red, residents and officials said.

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano, located about 65 km (40 miles) north of the capital Nuku'alofa, was sending volcanic ash up to 4,500 meters (14,765 feet) into the air, the Wellington Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) said.

The volcano, which first erupted in 2009, had been

rumbling in recent weeks before exploding violently in the past few days, *The New Zealand Herald* newspaper reported.

An Air New Zealand flight between Auckland and Nuku'alofa on Monday was diverted to Samoa and later returned to New Zealand because of the volcano, the airline said in a statement.

A return service had been scheduled to fly on Tuesday, the airline said, but had been canceled because of volcanic activity. The volcano was not disrupting flights to other regions, it said.

Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14-1-2015, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Travelogue Programme
- 6:30 am**
 - Honour Song of Alinka Kyaw Swar Shwe Pyi Aye
- 6:50 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 7:35 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:25 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 9:10 am**
 - Musical Programme
- 9:20 am**
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 9:35 am**
 - ASEAN-China Cultural Show (Singapore)
- 9:50 am**
 - Myanmar Movie

Powell tries new regime to win elusive gold

KINGSTON, 13 Jan — Jamaica's Asafa Powell, who has struggled to produce form his best at major championships, believes a change in coach and a new approach to training will improve his fortunes.

The sprinter who held the 100m world record between 2005 and 2008 before compatriot Usain Bolt lowered it to 9.58 seconds believes he can rediscover his form and improve his personal best of 9.72.

"Anything is possible. Justin Gatlin surprised me last year... he ran his personal best times of (9.77 & 19.68) at age 32," said Powell, who ended 2014 as the fastest Jamaican with 9.87 seconds after serving a six-

month drug suspension for using the banned stimulant Oxilofrine.

"I think I'm capable of doing a lot more than most of the sprinters out there... My best is yet to come, so it's just to be patient," said Powell who is eyeing gold at this year's world championships in Beijing.

"I feel a lot stronger, I'm a lot more focussed and I think I'm smarter now, so I know what it takes to do it. It's just to put myself out there and do what I'm supposed to do," added the man who has run a world-record 84 times under 10 seconds. Powell's brother Donovan, a 100m quarter-finalist at the 1997 world championships, is backing his 32-year-old

sibling to add gold to his two bronze medals from 2007 and 2009.

"Nothing is impossible, 32 is the year you really get to put everything together," he told *Reuters*.

"We are doing different things... He's really working hard to achieve the 9.72 he ran a few years ago and I personally think if he keeps focussed and remains healthy, he can do it," he said.

The fifth fastest man in history is set to run three 60m indoors before bidding for the elusive 100m world title.

"The main focus is the trials first because that is like a world championships by itself and then the world championships in China," said Powell, in reference to



Asafa Powell of Jamaica runs on his way to winning his 100m heat round 1 during the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium on 4 Aug, 2012. —REUTERS

the glut of Jamaican sprinters with sub-10 credentials. They include Bolt, Yohan Blake, Nesta Carter, Kemar Bailey-Cole and Nickel Ashmeade.

"I'm just trying to stay healthy, put in all the hard work and make sure that I stay focussed and just win the gold (in Beijing)," Powell added. —*Reuters*

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-1-15 07:00 am~ 15-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
- * World News
- * Creations of a Designer
- * Local News
- * Chef Life : Thanakrit Chamnongbutr"
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Dobat"
- * World News
- * Writer
- * Local News
- * Insight Myanmar "Family Separation Prevention"
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * Writer "Chit Oo Nyo" (Part - II)
- * World News
- * The Eel Business
- * Local News
- * Myanma Traditional String Puppetry
- * World News
- * Human Right, Human Dignity "My Daughter"
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Ah Moon

Film series brings major art exhibitions to US theaters

NEW YORK, 13 Jan — Filmmakers are bringing major art exhibitions featuring the works of Henri Matisse, Vincent van Gogh and Rembrandt from museums around the globe to US theaters with a series of movies that will take audiences on a guided tour of the shows.

The first film, "Matisse from MoMA and Tate Modern," will be screened up to 350 selected theaters across the United States on Tuesday. It details the acclaimed "Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs," exhibition, which attracted more than 560,000 visitors to London's Tate Modern, making it the museum's most popular show ever.

With 100 works from private and public collections, drawings, textiles and stained glass made during

the final years of Matisse's life, the exhibition transferred to New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), where it will run through early February

Like performances by New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast live to movie theaters, the art films are designed to bring the exhibitions to a larger audience.

"For the 95 percent of our audience that can't get to the exhibition, we want to give them the next best thing," said Phil Grabsky of UK-based Seventh Art Productions, the producer of the "Exhibition on Screen" series.

"We also want to show them, behind the scenes, how these things are put together. It is fascinating to be with the curators when they are deciding how to hang the

works, what color the walls should be," he added in an interview.

The 80-minute film, directed by Grabsky, includes a tour of the exhibition, biographical information, commentary and interviews



An employee poses with paper cut outs from the "Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs" exhibition at the Tate Modern gallery in London, in this file photo taken on 14 April, 2014. —REUTERS

with the curators and a former assistant to Matisse.

It will be followed in the series by "Rembrandt from the National Gallery, London, & Rijksmuseum Amsterdam," which will be screened on 24 February,

and "Vincent van Gogh - A New Way of Seeing from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam," on 14 April.

Other films will focus on Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring," and treasures from the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague as well as Impressionist works from the Musée du Luxembourg in Paris, National Gallery in London and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Both of those films will be screened during the summer.

"We want to encourage people to go to the exhibition if they can. More to the point, we want to encourage people to go to their local gallery, no matter how big or small, and to look at any artwork," Grabsky added.

Reuters

Ronaldo wins another Ballon d'Or award



FIFA FIFPro WORLD XI AWARD
Winners of the FIFA FIFPro WORLD XI Award of the year 2014: Manuel Neuer, Sergio Ramos, Philipp Lahm, Toni Kroos and Andres Iniesta (first row L to R), Arjen Robben, Angel Di Maria, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo (back row L to R), pose with their trophies during the FIFA Ballon d'Or award ceremony at the Kongresshaus in Zurich, Switzerland on 12 Jan, 2015.—XINHUA

BERNE, 13 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo won the FIFA Ballon d'Or award for the second year running and the third overall on Monday and said he wanted to become "one of the greatest players of all time." The Real Madrid forward polled more than double the number of votes as his bitter rival Lionel Messi who only just edged Bayern Munich and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer into third place. Joachim Loew won the Coach of the Year of the award after leading Germany to the World Cup title in Brazil, finishing ahead of Real Madrid's Carlo Ancelotti and Atletico Madrid's Diego Simeone in the poll.

Colombia's James Rodriguez won the Puskas award for the best goal, a spectacular volley on the turn for Colombia in their World Cup match against Uruguay. Nadine Kessler of VfL Wolfsburg and Germany won the women's Player of the Year award. Ronaldo was forgiven for a disappointing World Cup, with Portugal going out in the first round. Instead, the voters — the coaches and captains of the 209 national teams plus one journalist for each country — were swayed by his prolific goal-scoring

and trophy-laden year with Real Madrid, where he has flourished under Ancelotti. "I never thought that I would bring this trophy back home on three occasions and I want to win it again. I want to become one of the greatest players of all time," Ronaldo told the audience after a ceremony which lasted nearly two hours. Ronaldo, who has made a point of displaying his rippling muscles in his goal celebrations, then bellowed "Sim" (yes) into the microphone, somewhat startling the ceremony presenter. The award has turned almost into a personal duel between Ronaldo — who topped the voting in 2008, 2013 and 2014 — and Messi.

Messi won four years in a row from 2009 to 2012, with Ronaldo finishing second on three occasions. Only Andres Iniesta, runner-up in 2010, has managed to break the duopoly. This year's race had turned into something of a numbers game between Ronaldo and Messi.

Ronaldo netted 51 goals in 47 appearances last season as Real secured a record-extending 10th Champions League title and won the King's Cup.—Reuters

Messi says he 'doesn't know' where he will be next year

ZURICH, 13 Jan — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi raised eyebrows when he said in passing on Monday that he did not know where he would be next year.

Messi was asked during a Press conference ahead of the Ballon D'Or Player of the Year ceremony if he wanted to finish his career at Barcelona or at Argentina's Newell's Old Boys in his hometown of Rosario.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen, whether I'd go to Newell's," he said. "I don't know where I'll be next year although I've always said I want to end my career at Barcelona but...nobody

knows what the future holds."

Messi said on Sunday night that he had denied asking for coach Luis Enrique to be replaced or that he is seeking an exit from his boyhood club. "I haven't asked for anything to stay here because I have never wanted to go anywhere else," Messi told Barca's TV channel after Sunday's 3-1 La Liga win over champions Atletico Madrid.

The Argentina and Barca captain was responding for the first time to widespread reports of a falling out with Luis Enrique, who took over from Messi's compatriot Gerardo Martino at the end of last season.—Xinhua

Nan Tae-Hee scores to give South Korea knockout berth



Kuwait's Fahed Al-Ebrahim (R) and South Korea's Lee Keun-ho jump for the ball as South Korea's Lee Myung-joo (C), Kuwait's Amer Almatoug Alfadhel and Kuwait's Sultan Alenezi (L) look on during their Asian Cup Group A soccer match at the Canberra stadium in Canberra on 13 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

CANBERRA, 13 Jan — South Korea defeated Kuwait 1-0 thanks to Nan Tae-Hee's sole goal of the game at the AFC Asian Cup's group match here on Tuesday.

South Korea had secured a place for the quarterfinals after snatching their second triumph in the group. The other team reaching the last eight is Australia as the hosts smashed Oman 4-0 in Sydney.

South Korea pitched seven new players in the starting lineup from the group opener in the match.

Nan's header in the 36th minute was decisive for the game after he received Cha Du-Ri's comfortable pass to the penalty

area from the right side.

"I hate to admit it but Kuwait were the better team in many aspects," South Korea's coach Uli Stielike said in his post-match press conference at Canberra Stadium.

"They battled hard for the ball and made better passes. We were quite lucky.

"We're going to have a lot of trouble if we played like we did today. Expectations at home are quite high, and I hope the players can overcome that pressure. They will need to work on their ball control and passes," added Stielike.

Stielike said he expected that Kuwait would play a similarly defence-oriented match as

what they had against Australia in the tournament opener last Friday. But Kuwait played an aggressive attack in the match. To him, the losers were actually the better team.

Australia's victory in Sydney means South Korea and the hosts both reached to the knockout stage irrespective of the result between the two teams. The clash between South Korea and Australia on 17 January will decide the leaders in Group A.

As Stielike revealed that midfielders Son Heung-min, Koo Ja-cheol and goalkeeper Kim Jin-hyeon all got flu and he hopes to see these sick players come back in action soon.

Xinhua

Del Potro wins comeback, ill Halep withdraws

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — Former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro made a successful return to the tennis circuit on Tuesday, winning his opening match at the Sydney International.

Playing for the first time in 11 months after undergoing surgery to his left wrist, the Argentine beat Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-3, 7-6(4).

"It's time to get back on the train again," del Potro told report-

ers. "This tournament is very special to me."

Del Potro won the Sydney International last year and is among dozens of competing players fine-tuning their preparations for the Australian Open, starting on Monday.

Romania's Simona Halep was among the high-profile entrants but she pulled out on Tuesday, saying she was suffering from gastroenteritis. The world number

three told organizers she was unable to take her place after falling ill in China, where she won the Shenzhen Open. "During the tournament in China I got this problem in my stomach," she said. "I didn't play for three days. I was waiting until today to see if I was ready to play again, but I feel like I cannot play."

"It's tough to play a tournament like this so unfortunately I decided to withdraw."—Reuters



Asian Cup Australia 2015

 DPR Korea	13:30 MST (14.1.2015)	 Saudi Arabia
 China PR	15:30 MST (14.1.2015)	 Uzbekistan

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

Kuwait	0-1	Korea Republic
Australia	4-0	Oman

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