

## Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker meets Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Affairs of Britain

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec— A delegation led by Rt. Hon. Mr Hugo George William Swire, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the Britain, called on U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw at the Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Building here this afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on related to international parliamentary tasks, works in Myanmar parliament and promoting cooperation between parliaments of the

two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw, Chairman of Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Win Sein, Secretary of Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe, Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin, Member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Than Tun and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa having a conversation with Rt. Hon. Mr Hugo George William Swire, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of Britain.—MNA

## ASEAN-India car rally can promote tourism



Myanmar team waves the national flag as they leave Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — After a stopover in Nay Pyi Taw for the night, the ASEAN-India Car Rally-2012 started their remaining Myanmar leg early this morning when Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan fagged off the convoy.

Athletes and staff of the Ministry of Sports waved the miniature flags of ASEAN countries and the car rally as Indian-made Mahindra XUV 500 sports utility vehicles of the participants made their way into the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

The car rally was organized by ASEAN and Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India to mark the 20th year of the Asean-India relations, and the convoy passes through nine countries covering a 7,816km stretch, in 23 days starting from Nov 26.

Meanwhile, the countries where the convoy wind through got the good chance to promote their respective tourism industry, letting the convoy drive past their tourist attractions and showing their hospitality.

Participants of the car rally had visited tourists attractions in the countries they travelled before they reached Myanmar. Though they experienced some challenges, they enjoyed wonderful trip as the arrangements for the car rally and accommodation for the participants were very systematic in other countries, said Hsu Pan Htwar, an actress and one of the participants from Myanmar. Myanmar team won the Friendship Award during the trip in Indonesia,

she added as she looked with pride at what the Myanmar team had achieved.

“The car rally also promotes the tourism in the countries we travelled. For example, we visited Angkor Wat in Cambodia,” said Wai Lu Kyaw, an actor, one of the participants of Myanmar.

“But when we are driving in Myanmar, we

feel that we are showing bad condition of roads in Myanmar to other participants,” says Wai Lu Kyaw, as he stands near his Mahindra vehicle before checking in the Zabuthiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, “we should drive to tourist attractions in Myanmar including Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda and Bagan to promote tourism of our country.”

“The car rally does not mean just driving across countries,” he added.

Myanmar sent eight representatives including four celebrities and media representatives to the car rally which will be flagged down in Delhi on 20 December by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the presence of ten Heads of State from the ASEAN countries.

(By A M Soe)

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### Information Team

#### Press Release (12/2012)

14 December 2012

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### Releasing medical records of four children with suspected health problems caused by acid

1. According to the request of Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Investigation Commission formed regarding Lapadaungtaung Copper Mining Project in Salingyi Township of Monywa District of Sagaing Region, four children with suspected health problems due to the exposure to acid were sent to Yangon Children's Hospital and medical check-ups were made.

2. The four children arrived at Yangon Children's Hospital on 11 December 2012, and received necessary medical check-ups by specialists. Their medical records revealed as follow:-

No.	Name	Age	remarks/diseases
(a)	Ma Yun Wadi	one year and ten months	Cerebral Palsy
(b)	Mg Kaung Htet Zaw	eight years	Cerebral Palsy
(c)	Ma San Yu Maw	two years and four months	Cerebral Palsy
(d)	Ma Zin Mar Swe	16 years	Brain Tumour surgery was given five years ago. Loss of vision occurred gradually.

3. According the aforementioned examination results, there is no symptoms of exposing to acid, it is learnt.

LOCAL NEWS

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Tun Lwin Oo of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport on expiry of one year probationary period.

AFC qualifier back home



YANGON, 13 Dec — Myanmar U-19 women's football team comprising seven-member coach/manager team and 23 players led by Daw Myat Myat Oo that was qualified for AFC Championship-2013 arrived back, here, on 11 December by air. They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and executives,

Yadanarbon FC owner Dr Sai Sam Tun and responsible persons.

Myanmar stood first in Group B, beating Vietnam 2-1 and India 8-0, and making a one-all draw with China Taipei. At the play-off stage, Myanmar beat Thailand by one goal to nil.

At the final stage, Myanmar will meet Asian football giants—Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, Republic of

Korea and China.

Kyemon

Electricity within reach of locals



MYITNGE, 13 Dec — Under the rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme, installation of transformer and power lines and setting up of pylons are being carried out by staff of the ministry of electric power with the contribution of the State at Uyindaw village-tract in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region recently.

So far, 90 per cent of the project for supplying electricity to 555 houses in

the village-tract has been completed. "Electricity will be available at the village soon", a committee member said.

Plans are underway for availability of electricity at all remaining houses in the village-tract. — Kyemon

At the upgrading ceremony, school children entertained those present with songs and dances.

After the ceremony, those present viewed round wall posters, library and art room.

Kyemon

Yamethin sees newly-upgraded high school



YAMETHIN, 13 Dec — The upgrading ceremony of Myoma Basic Education High School (Branch) of Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region was held at the school on 5 December.

The branch of the school was upgraded into high school.

Region Hluttaw representative UKyaw Myint, district education officer U Myint Thein and local U Poh Kwan formally opened the ceremony, and Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Bo Ni unveiled the signboard that reads "Myoma Basic Education High School".

MWEA Chairperson and party leaves for Bangladesh

YANGON, 13 Dec — At the invitation of Washington-based Asia Foundation of the USA, a five-member Myanmar delegation led by Chairperson of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association Daw Wah Wah

Tun left, here, by air on 8 December to attend the South Asia Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium to be held in Dhaka of Bangladesh and to sign an Memorandum of Understanding with Asia Women University.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Founder and Patron of the association Advisor to Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association Daw Yee Yee Myint and executives.—MNA

Myitha river crossing bridge: east and west meets in Gangaw

KALAY, 13 Dec — Myitha suspension bridge links east Gangaw and west Gangaw which are separated by Myitha river. Thanks to the new bridge, locals from villages in west Gangaw and national races from Chin State (South) will be able to visit east Gangaw by bikes.

Myoma ward administrator gave an account of the bridge, an important

infrastructure for regional development that it was the third time for construction of the river crossing bridge. The previous bridges had collapsed in overflow of Myitha river. The present bridge was higher than previous ones. Construction works started at the early of 2012. It is 700 feet long and eight feet wide. The bridge thought with the

collaborative efforts of the State, township development affairs committee and local people. With the emergence of the new bridge, flower, onion, garlic and other agriculture produce will be able to be transported to other part of the region via Gangaw, thereby contributing towards socio-economic status of local people. — Kyemon

Illegal teak, stimulant tablets seized in Ottwin Township

OTTWIN, 13 Dec — According to a tip-off, a team of police members led by Sub-inspector Aung Kyaw

Moe seized 0.8576 ton of teak worth K 144,368 and three WY brand stimulant tablets and K 45500 while conducting a search of a vehicle driven by Kyaw Kyaw Thein (37 years) of Nantthamyine street in Padameya Myothit, Yangon together with Aung Myo Zaw (17 years) of Wedaunkkan

village in Mingaladon near Bokan village in Ottwin Township on 8 December.

Ottwin Police Station filed lawsuits against U Tin Maung Nyunt of Mingyinyo Ward in Toungoo for illegal possession of teak, and the driver and the conductor for possession of stimulant tablets.— Kyemon

Japanese donor contributes to construction of new school building in Meiktla

MEIKTILA, 13 Dec — The opening of new school building for Basic Education Primary School No (131) in Inbinwa village of Yeway village-tract in Meiktla Township took place at the school on 9 December. The new school building was built with the contribution of wellwisher Mr. Takao Yamamoto of Japan.

The Japanese wellwisher donated K 4.5 million for construction of

new building plus school furniture, tubewell and water tank. The wellwisher had already spent more than K 50 million on social and education sectors in Meiktla including construction of eight primary schools and school for the blind, and clothing and cash assistance for Nyaungkai Orphanage. He vowed to more make donations for primary schools in the township.

Kyemon



Philanthropic efforts of Save the Aged in Nyaungdon

NYAUNGDON, 13 Dec — A group of doctors from Save the Aged gave health care services to the elderly

and made cash donations at Ward-9 in Nyaungdon recently. They provided primary school children with

light refreshment at Myaynu BEPS in the township and presented cash donation for the school.—Kyemon

## WORLD



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a state-of-the-nation address to the Federal Assembly at the Kremlin in Moscow, on 12 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

## Putin says coming years to be turning point for Russia

MOSCOW, 13 Dec—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said the upcoming years would become a turning point for Russia and the whole world.

“The forthcoming years are decisive and will become a turning point not only for Russia, but also for the world, as competition for natural and human resources has been increasing,” Putin said in a state-of-the-nation address to the legislature.

In such a scenario, Putin said, the will of the nation, its internal energy, will help Russia to take a lead

in the world. Meanwhile, the president said only a breakthrough in the new technological level will make it possible to ensure growing consumption nowadays.

This is Putin’s first address of its kind after he returned to the Kremlin following a four-year interval, during which he served as prime minister.

The president is also expected to present his vision of Russia’s future development and the mechanisms needed to attain the goals concerning both domestic and foreign policies.—Xinhua

## Syria fires Scud missiles at rebels—US, NATO officials

MARRAKECH, (MOROCCO) 13 Dec—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s forces have fired Scud-style ballistic missiles against rebels in recent days, US and NATO officials said on Wednesday, in what US officials described as an escalation in the 20-month civil war.

The United States, European powers and Arab states bestowed their official blessing on Syria’s newly-formed opposition coalition on Wednesday, despite increasing signs of Western unease at the rise of militant Islamists in the rebel ranks.

Rebels battled Assad’s troops on the outskirts of his Damascus power base.

Their advances in the past two weeks have prompted their international allies to talk of the 20-month-old conflict finally entering a decisive phase.

In Damascus, a massive car bomb and two other explosions hit the main gate of the Interior Ministry. Lebanon’s al-Manar television, which supports Assad’s Hezbollah allies, said four people had been killed.

“Allied intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets have detected the launch of a number of unguided, short-range ballistic missiles inside Syria this week,” said a NATO official in Brussels.—Reuters



A crowd gathers around wrecked vehicles after a bomb explosion in a minibus at the Mazeh 86 area in Damascus in this on 12 Dec, 2012 handout photograph released by Syria’s national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

## Four Libyan policemen wounded in blast

BENGHAZI, (Libya) 13 Dec—A bomb exploded in front of a police station in Libya’s eastern city of Benghazi on Wednesday, wounding four officers, the force said.

Libya’s government is struggling to contain fighters and militias who gained power during the revolt that started in Benghazi and went on to oust Muammar Gaddafi last year.

A police official said it looked like the bomb had been buried in the ground

outside the police station in the al-Fuyahat area of the city and went off when a car approached.

“The two policemen inside the car were severely injured, and two others who were standing at the entrance of the building were also wounded,” the official said.

The US ambassador to Libya, Christopher Stevens, was killed in the city after Islamist gunmen attacked the US consulate and a safe house refuge in September, in the worst of a string of attacks

on international convoys and official buildings. The head of police in Benghazi was killed in front of his home last month.—Reuters

People stand near a police car, which is destroyed after an explosion in front of a police station in Benghazi on 12 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



## UN nuclear agency “ready” to go to Iran’s Parchin site

VIENNA, 13 Dec—UN nuclear inspectors travelling to Iran would be prepared to go to its disputed Parchin military complex if the Islamic state were to allow a visit during talks in Teheran this week, the head of their delegation said on Wednesday.



Herman Nackaerts, head of a delegation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), speaks to media at the airport in Vienna on his way to Iran on 12 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) believes Iran has conducted explosives tests with possible nuclear applications at Parchin, a sprawling facility southeast of the Iranian capital, and has repeatedly asked for access.

Western diplomats say Iran has carried out extensive work at Parchin over the past year—including demolition of buildings and removal of soil—to cleanse it of any traces of illicit activity. But the IAEA says a visit would still be “useful”.

Iran denies Western

Teheran—the first such meeting between the IAEA and Iran since August—could indicate whether Iran is more willing to address international concerns over its nuclear programme after US President Barack Obama’s re-election.

The stakes are high: Israel—widely believed to be the Middle East’s only nuclear-armed power—has threatened military action if diplomacy fails to prevent its arch-enemy acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran says it would hit back hard if attacked.

IAEA Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts said the aim was to reach a long-sought framework agreement on how to resolve outstanding issues “related to possible military dimensions” to Iran’s nuclear programme.

“We also hope that Iran will allow us to go to the site of Parchin,” Nackaerts told journalists at Vienna

airport before departing for Teheran. “If Iran would grant us access, we would welcome that chance and we are ready to go.”

Some members of his team—which included senior experts on Iran and nuclear weapons—carried metal cases apparently with the equipment they would need to inspect a site like Parchin. Typically, they would take earth and other samples there.

But Iranian atomic energy chief Fereydoon Abbasi-Davani gave no sign of any green light to go to Parchin. The IAEA officials “will come to Teheran and they will have discussions with our representatives here”, he told Iran’s *Mehr News Agency*.

Western diplomats say they are not optimistic about a breakthrough in this week’s discussions, since a series of meetings since January have failed to make any progress.—Reuters

## US defence chief in Kabul for talks on future US presence

KABUL, 13 Dec—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta arrived on an unannounced visit to Kabul on Wednesday for talks with military commanders ahead of a decision on how large a US military presence to keep in the country after the NATO mission ends in 2014.

Panetta has not disclosed how large a force he thinks will be needed, but one US official has told *Reuters* that figures as low as 6,000 US troops were under consideration.

“The size of that enduring presence is something that the president is going to be considering over these next few weeks,” Panetta told troops in Kuwait before boarding his flight to Kabul.

Panetta told reporters travelling with him that he would meet the top US commander in Afghanistan,

accusations of a covert bid to develop the means and technologies needed to build nuclear arms. It says Parchin is a conventional military site and has dismissed allegations of “sanitisation” there.

Thursday’s talks in



US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta walks to his plane after visiting troops at Kuwait’s Ali Al Salem Air Base on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

General John Allen, to discuss options being prepared for Obama’s consideration. Obama, he said, would hopefully come to a decision “in the next few weeks”.

Obama, fresh from a re-election victory, has made clear his intention to end the 11-year-old war and bring the vast majority US forces home by the end of 2014.

There are 68,000 US troops in the country, a figure expected to gradually decline over the next two years, despite concerns that the Taliban remains a resilient enemy.

A report released by the Pentagon this week noted a slight rise in Taliban attacks between April and September this year, compared with

2011.

At the same time, it said the insurgency’s refuges in Pakistan, endemic corruption and the limited capacity of the Afghan state were the greatest risks to Afghanistan’s long-term stability.

Panetta, on his fifth trip to Afghanistan since becoming defence secretary last year, said he would meet President Hamid Karzai.

He expressed optimism in the growing capabilities of Afghan security forces, despite concerns in the United States that few units can fully operate without US military support.

Panetta also noted that the number of so-called insider attacks against US forces by Afghan security forces had declined, from a high of about 12 in August to two in November.—Reuters

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## US military's secret mini-shuttle lifts off from Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, 13 Dec—An unmanned *Atlas 5* rocket carrying a small robotic space shuttle lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on Tuesday for the third flight in a classified military test programme.

The 196-foot (60-metre) rocket blasted off at 1:03 pm ET (1603 GMT) carrying the military's original *X-37B* experimental space plane, also known as an Orbital Test Vehicle, or OTV.

The unmanned, reusable space shuttle, one of two operated by the US Air Force, spent 224 days circling Earth during its debut mission in 2010. A sister ship blasted off in 2011 and landed itself after 469 days in space, completing the second orbital test flight.

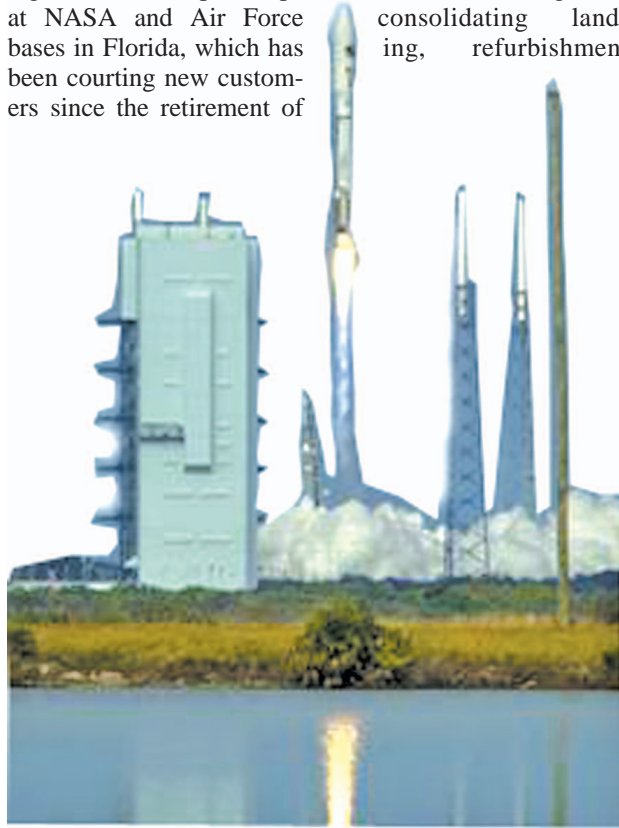
The military is not saying how long the third *X-37B* mission will last, nor what the vehicle will be doing in orbit.

"The focus of the programme remains on testing vehicle capabilities and proving the utility and cost-effectiveness of a reusable spacecraft," Air Force spokeswoman Tracy Bunko wrote in an email to *Reuters*.

While launching from Florida, the military has been landing the robotic space planes at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The agency is considering landing and refurbishing its *X-37B* spaceships at NASA and Air Force bases in Florida, which has been courting new customers since the retirement of

NASA's space shuttles last year.

"We are investigating the possibility of using the former shuttle infrastructure for *X-37B* OTV landing operations and are looking into consolidating landing, refurbishment



A United Launch Alliance *Atlas 5* rocket carrying the US military's *X-37B* spacecraft lifts off from launch complex 41 in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Microsoft ups Surface production, to sell in more stores Tech

SEATTLE, 13 Dec—Microsoft Corp has stepped up manufacturing of the Surface tablet, its new device designed to counter Apple Inc's iPad, and will introduce it to third-party retailers this week.

The moves suggest Microsoft is seeing some demand for its first own-brand computer in the crucial holiday shopping season, although it has yet to divulge any sales figures.

"The public reaction to Surface has been exciting to see," said Panos Panay, general manager of Microsoft's Surface project, which forms part of the company's Windows unit.

"We've increased production and are expanding the ways in which customers can interact with, experience and purchase Surface," said Panay, but gave no details of how many extra units were being produced.

Panay did not mention names of retailers that will sell the Surface, but separately office equipment retailer Staples Inc said it would stock the tablet from Wednesday.

He said the Surface would also be on sale at retailers in Australia from mid-December, with more

Australia, China, France, the UK and Germany.

The only Surface model available now — officially called Surface with Windows RT — runs a version of Windows created to work on the low-power chips designed by ARM Holdings, which dominate smartphones and tablets but are incompatible with old Windows applications.

It starts at \$499 for the 32 gigabyte version plus \$120 for a thin cover that doubles as a keyboard.

A larger, heavier tablet — called Surface with Windows 8 Pro — will be introduced in January, running on an Intel Corp chip that works with all Microsoft's Windows and Office applications. Microsoft plans to price the new Surface from \$899 for a 64 gigabyte version.

The world's largest software company also said it would keep its chain of 'pop-up' holiday stores open into the new year and will convert them into permanent retail outlets or what it called "specialty store locations".—*Reuters*



Sales staff demonstrate the Microsoft Surface during the opening of Microsoft's retail store in New York's Times Square on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

## Science

and launch operations at Kennedy Space Centre or Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in an effort to save money," Bunko wrote.

"Those investigations are in an early state, and any specifics will not be known for some time," she added.

The vehicles, which were built by Boeing, are about one-fourth the size of a NASA shuttle and use solar panels to generate power, rather than chemical fuel cells that limited the space shuttles' time in orbit.

Neither NASA nor the Air Force has plans to upgrade the *X-37B* to carry people.

The *OTV-3* flight had been delayed several months pending the results of an investigation into an upper-stage engine problem during an 4 October *Delta 4* flight to put a Global Positioning System satellite into orbit.

The *Delta 4* upper-stage is similar to one used on *Atlas* rockets. Both vehicles are built and flown by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

*Reuters*



A man walks past an advertisement board of Panasonic outside an electronic shop in Tokyo on 3 February, 2012.—REUTERS

Panasonic may sell Sanyo digital camera business Tech

TOKYO, 13 Dec—Panasonic Corp may sell its Sanyo digital camera business to Japanese private equity fund Advantage Partners by the end of March, a source familiar with the plan said.

A final decision on the sale will be made by the end of the year, the source said on condition he was not identified.

Advantage Partners will pay several hundreds of millions of yen for the business, which makes digital cameras for other companies, including Olympus Corp, the *Nikkei* business daily reported earlier.

Panasonic declined to comment saying it had not announced the plan.

The Japanese company aims to sell 110 billion yen

(\$1.34 billion) of assets, including buildings and land by the end of March to boost free cashflow to 200 billion yen for the business year. The company expects an annual net loss of close to \$10 billion as it writes off billions in deferred tax assets and goodwill.

Panasonic acquired rival Sanyo, a leading maker of lithium ion batteries and solar panels, in 2010. Sales of compact digital cameras are under pressure from increasingly powerful smartphones. Panasonic's shares gained as much as 4 percent in early trading in Tokyo, compared with a 0.5 percent rise in the benchmark *Nikkei 225* index. (\$1 = 82.3900 Japanese yen)

*Reuters*

## Autonomy spurs questions on looming accounting overhaul



A HP Invent logo is pictured in front of Hewlett-Packard international offices in Meyrin near Geneva on 4 Aug, 2009.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 13 Dec—The scandal at Autonomy, a UK software group bought last year by Hewlett-Packard Co, has some accountants wondering about the wisdom of new, global standards in the pipeline that would change how companies account for revenue.

"Revenue recognition" is the most common type of corporate book-cooking. The Autonomy scandal, though still murky, allegedly involves a great deal of overstated revenue, or how much money was coming into the company from customers. That allegation has been leveled by HP, which

said last month it overpaid for Autonomy and accused it of "serious accounting improprieties." Autonomy has rejected such allegations and said HP is looking for "scapegoats."

The dispute comes as accounting standard setters grapple with new standards for recognizing revenue. Some accountants fear these standards, set for completion by mid-2013, could mean a step backward in fighting accounting abuses.

The goal of the new, global approach is ambitious. If completed as planned, the standards would for the first time put

companies in the United States and in more than 100 other countries under the same revenue accounting rules. Inconsistency on this is widespread now and often a source of disagreements.

But critics said the new standards would discard decades of detailed US accounting rules in favour of broader, principles-based international norms. That, they said, would be a mistake. "The US system was replete with details, replete with examples, and replete with precedent," said Tom Selling, author of the Accounting Onion blog.

Throwing away that level of detail would give corporate managers more room to manipulate revenues and profits, he said.

One of the most far-reaching accounting changes in decades, the new revenue standard is a combined effort of the US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the London-based International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

*Reuters*

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH



Digital Sky Technologies CEO Yuri Milner attends the eG8 forum in Paris on 25 May, 2011.—REUTERS

## Russian billionaire invests in US genetics company

### 23andMe Business

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Dec—Russian billionaire Yuri Milner, best-known for investments linking consumers to the Internet, is placing a bet on genetics.

Milner, who backed companies ranging from Facebook Inc to gaming company Zynga Inc, has led a \$50 million funding round into 23andMe, a Mountain View, California, company that helps people decipher their genetic makeup.

His investment could shine a spotlight on biotechnology startups, which have taken a backseat in visibility to sectors like cloud computing and Internet services targeted at consumers.

23andMe, named for the 23 pairs of chromosomes that make up each person's genome, also announced a price drop for its saliva-based test, to \$99 from

\$299. For that price, consumers learn specifics about ancestry and genetic traits, including the possible conditions and diseases to which they may have a genetic propensity.

Existing investors joining the funding round include Anne Wojcicki, 23andMe's chief executive; Sergey Brin, Wojcicki's husband and co-founder of Google Inc; New Enterprise Associates; Google Ventures; and MPM Capital.

The company's last funding round was about \$31 million, raised two years ago. Since its founding in 2006, 23andMe has raised about \$68 million.

Biotechnology has fostered some hefty investment exits recently. On Monday, Amgen Inc said it would pay \$415 million for Iceland-based Decode Genetics.

Reuters

## Lilly likens Alzheimer's race to 1920s insulin quest Health

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—Drugmaker Eli Lilly & Co is confident it will do for Alzheimer's patients what it did almost a century ago for diabetics — find a breakthrough treatment, even though skeptics say it could take years.

"We are on the cusp here of writing medical history again as a company, this time in Alzheimer's disease," Jan Lundberg, Lilly's research

chief, said in an interview.

Just as the Indianapolis-based company made history in the 1920s by producing the first insulin when type 1 diabetes was a virtual death sentence, Lundberg said he is optimistic that the drugs Lilly is currently testing could significantly slow the ultimately fatal memory-robbing disease.

"It is no longer a question of 'if' we will get

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—The Federal Reserve is expected to announce a fresh round of bond buying on Wednesday as part of its efforts to support a fragile economic recovery threatened by political wrangling over the government's budget.

The central bank looks certain both to extend its purchases of mortgage-backed debt and replace another expiring stimulus programme with a new bout of money creation.

Policy makers are also likely to repeat a pledge to keep buying bonds until the labour market outlook improves substantially. A drop in the jobless rate to 7.7 percent in November from 7.9 percent in October was driven by workers exiting the labour force, a fact certain to disappoint the Fed.

"The economic environment seems ripe for those at the Fed who support continued accommodation," said Victor Li, professor at the Villanova School of Business and a former St Louis Fed economist.

As its last programme of Treasury purchases, known as Operation Twist, draws to a close, officials look set to replace it with a fresh \$45 billion per month in buying. Unlike those in Twist, which were funded by sales and redemptions of short-term debt, the new Treasury purchases will further expand the Fed's \$2.8 trillion balance sheet.

Economists also expect the central bank to continue buying \$40 billion per month in mortgage-backed securities as announced in September, keeping the monthly pace of total asset

purchases at \$85 billion — a figure the Fed highlighted in its last policy statement.

"We want to see continued improvement in labour markets in the near term, and monetary policy should encourage faster economic growth to achieve that objective,"

Eric Rosengren, the dovish president of the Boston Federal Reserve Bank, said last week. The central bank will announce its decision around 12:30 pm (1730 GMT), and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke will discuss it at a news conference at 2:15 pm (1915 GMT).—Reuters



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks to the Economic Club of New York in New York, on 20 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## Industrial output soars 8.2 percent in October, inflation jumps Business



Labourers work inside an iron factory on the outskirts of Jammu on 12 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec—A big surge in manufacturing output pushed India's industrial growth to its highest in more than a year in October, a sign that Asia's third largest economy may have turned a corner that strengthens the RBI's case against a rate cut.

The Reserve Bank of India has kept interest rates on hold since April because of stubborn inflation, defying

calls from business and politicians for help in fighting a slump that has dragged the economy toward its slowest growth in a decade. The index of industrial production (IIP) grew 8.2 percent annually in October, data released by the Central Statistics Office showed on Wednesday, well above the 4.5 percent forecast by a Reuters poll.

October factory and mine output showed the strongest growth since June 2011, after IIP growth spent most of this year close to, or below zero percent. However, the industrial index is a volatile indicator that often lurches violently.

Economists said the rebound was largely due to a low base a year earlier, when religious festivals closed factories.

"We should be careful in not over-interpreting this number. With some shifting of

festivals in October and more number of working days, we should see some payback in November," said A Prasanna, an economist with ICICI Securities.

"That said, there are enough signs of optimism. A lot of supply side issues that were there last year, seem to have gone away."

India's year-on-year rate of GDP growth has been below 6 percent for the past three quarters, damagingly sluggish for a country that aspires to at least 8.5 percent annual expansion to provide jobs for its burgeoning population.

This year's sharp slowdown prompted Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in September to push through some of the boldest reform measures of his eight-year tenure despite political opposition, trying to jolt the economy back to more rapid growth.—Reuters

## ENBD aims to double small business lending in 2013 Business

DUBAI, 13 Dec—Emirates NBD ENBD.DU expects lending to small businesses to double and top 1 billion dirhams (\$272 million) next year as Dubai's largest bank diversifies away from corporate and personal financing.

Suvo Sarkar, ENBD's head retail banking, said on Tuesday the lender has a quarter of the market in lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the United Arab Emirates.

"This year the size of

our lending to SMEs doubled from last year and we expect them to double in 2013 from 2012. I would say this will exceed 1 billion dirhams 2013," he told Reuters.

Banks in the United Arab Emirates are increasingly focusing on small business lending following restrictions from the central bank on personal loans for individuals.

Corporate lending in the country has suffered during the past three years as companies grappled with

debt.

"SMEs are expected to contribute more than 40 percent of the country's GDP in 2013," Sarkar said.

Emirates NBD, formed by the 2007 merger of Emirates Bank and National Bank of Dubai and which acquired Dubai Bank in 2010, will see revenue propped up by lending to SMEs, he said.

"We are seeing lot of action in food and beverage, travel and tourism, oil field services and construction."

Reuters



Eli Lilly's research chief Dr Jan Lundberg PhD is shown in this undated handout photo supplied by Lilly on 7 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

a successful medicine for this devastating disease on the market, but when," said Lundberg, 59.

To be sure, companies often tout drugs in the pipeline that never make it to market. Lundberg's degree of confidence is striking given that Lilly's most closely watched experimental drug, solanezumab, failed two big late-stage studies earlier this year. Analysts said the drug still has a slight chance of approval because it delayed memory loss in Alzheimer's patients with mild symptoms — something no other drug has ever done.

Lilly desperately needs new big-selling medicines to replace lost sales of several of its biggest products that now face competition from cheaper generics. A successful Alzheimer's drug could bring in billions of dollars each year.

Reuters

## WORLD

## Venezuelan president Chavez's recovery 'complex and difficult': VP

CARACAS, 13 Dec—The recovery of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez will be "complex and difficult" following a fourth round of cancer surgery, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on Wednesday.

"Certainly, the surgery was complex, difficult and delicate, which indicates to us that the post-surgery process will also be complex and difficult," Maduro said.

On Tuesday, Chavez underwent more than six hours of surgery at the Medical-Surgical Research

Centre in Havana, Cuba, after doctors detected a recurrence of cancerous cells in his body.

In a national radio and television broadcast, Maduro, who Chavez named as his successor prior to leaving for Cuba, said President Chavez faced a "difficult" recovery from cancer surgery, and that senior officials were in permanent contact with Chavez's medical team in Havana.

Maduro said he will continuously inform Venezuelans of Chavez's

recovery process. Cilia Flores, Venezuela's Attorney General, and Jorge Arreaza, Science and Technology Minister and the president's son-in-law, travelled to Cuba to remain by Chavez's side, said Maduro.

During the broadcast from the government palace in the capital Caracas, Maduro was accompanied by Rafael Ramirez, Energy and Petroleum Minister, and National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello, who had been in Cuba for the surgery.

Xinhua



Image provided by Presidency of Venezuela shows Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro (C) delivering a message in a national radio and television broadcast about the health of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez and his recuperation process in Miraflores Palace in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 12 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

## Nine Iraqis killed in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 13 Dec—Nine people were killed and seven wounded in separate bomb and gunfire attacks, mainly targeting security members, in central and northern Iraq on Wednesday, the police said.

In Iraq's northern city of Mosul, some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, two off-duty policemen were shot dead by gunmen at a marketplace in the city's northern district of al-Hadbaa, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Separately, gunmen stopped a bus carrying passengers in western Mosul and shot dead a young man aboard, but a police force arrived and exchanged fire with the attackers who killed one of the policemen before they fled the scene, the source said.

In central Iraq, two roadside bombs struck a car carrying three soldiers in Abu Ghraib area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, killing two soldiers and wounding the third, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua.

In a separate incident, another roadside bomb explosion near a police patrol in Abu Ghraib killed a policeman and wounded two others, the source said.

Also in the area, a roadside bomb went off near a civilian car wounding four people aboard, two of whom were off-duty soldiers, the source added.

Insurgent attacks continue in the once volatile Sunni Arab area in west of Baghdad that stretches through Anbar Province to Iraq's western borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Reuters

Xinhua

## Philippine, US military to sign pacts on terrorism, disaster response

MANILA, 13 Dec—Top military leaders from the US and the Philippines will meet here on Thursday to discuss security issues and sign five agreements relating to the fight against terrorism and disaster response.

Philippine Armed Forces Spokesman Col Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said on Wednesday that US Pacific Command Chief

Adm Samuel Locklear and Philippine Armed Forces Chief Gen Jessie Dellosa will hold meeting at the military's general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

"(They) will reaffirm their commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries' armed forces," Burgos said in a briefing.

Col Nilo Perfecto, chief

of the international affairs division in the Armed Forces, said Locklear and Dellosa will sign five documents on various issues. These issues include changing the composition of the Mutual Defence Board, technology transfer and the creation of counter-terrorism working group and humanitarian and disaster response working group.—Xinhua



Delegates attend the 18th Ministerial Conference of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) themed on economic cooperation in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 12 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

## US targets entity, persons linked to Mexican drug lord

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—The US government on Wednesday blacklisted one entity and three individuals linked to Juan Jose Esparragoza Moreno, a leader of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel.

The Department of Treasury targeted Desarrollos Everest, SA de CV, a real estate development company based in Culiacan, Mexico, alleging it is co-owned by Maria Guadalupe Gastelum Payan, a wife of Moreno who had been added to the black list for her role in her husband's illicit business.

Residencial del Lago, a residential community in Culiacan owned by the company, was targeted as well. The Treasury also moved against Jorge Enrique Esquer, Julio Cesar Estrada Gutierrez, and Carlos Alberto Leon Santiesteban, all Mexican nationals, for their involvement in businesses targeted by Washington.

The action bars American citizens from doing business with the designees and freezes all of their assets under US jurisdiction.

"Since July, OFAC

(Office of Foreign Assets Control) has exposed numerous entities in Esparragoza Moreno's corporate network, including gas station companies and real estate development firms operating in the Mexican states of Sinaloa and Jalisco," said Adam Szubin, director of the Treasury's OFAC.

"As we continue to target this organization, we expect to severely disrupt its operations," he said in a statement.

US presidents identified Moreno and the Sinaloa cartel as significant foreign narcotics traffickers in 2003 and 2009 respectively.

Moreno, who has been active in drug trafficking since the 1970s, is wanted in both the US and Mexico, and the US State Department is offering a reward of 5 million dollars for information leading to his arrest, while Mexican authorities are offering 30 million pesos (2.4 million US dollars) for information leading to his capture. Internationally, the Treasury has designated more than 1,200 businesses and individuals linked to 97 drug kingpins since June 2000.—Xinhua

## Man charged over threat to Northern Ireland first minister



Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader Peter Robinson arrives at Hillsborough Castle near Belfast, Northern Ireland on 26 Jan, 2010.

REUTERS

BELFAST, 13 Dec—A man was charged on Wednesday night with threatening to kill Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson, as loyalist protests passed off peacefully for the second day in a row following a recent wave of violence across the province.

Loyalists have rioted for seven of the last 10 days, and made an attack on police, since a decision by nationalist city councillors earlier this month to remove the British flag from Belfast City Hall, for the first time in a century.

The 34-year-old was charged with making threats to kill and improper

use of a public electronic communications network, a spokeswoman for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said.

The threat was made indirectly by phone against Robinson, who leads the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), to a third-party, police said. He is expected to appear before a court on Thursday.

Threats were also made on Tuesday against two other DUP members—British member of parliament Jeffrey Donaldson and Edwin Poots, a member of Northern Ireland's parliament—by militant Irish nationalists.

Police have not disclosed

whether the threats against Robinson were made from a dissident or a loyalist source.

So far police have arrested 40 people in connection with the most widespread pro-British street violence for years and 29 police officers have been injured.

A policewoman escaped injury when a loyalist mob attacked her car on Monday and threw in a petrol bomb while she was still in the vehicle.

Reuters



Rescuers work at the gold mine hit by a landslide in West Java's Sukabumi Regency, Indonesia, on 12 Dec, 2012. One gold miner was killed and 20 others were missing on Monday after they were buried in a landslide caused by heavy rain in western Indonesia, a rescue official said on Tuesday.—XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

## Schoolgirls under training for Inter-School Band Contest



MAWLAMYINE, 13 Dec—Students from Basic Education High School No 8 are under training as of 1 November so as to take part in the Inter-School Band Contest to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

They are now being trained at Yamanya Sports Ground in Phettan Ward of Mawlamyine in Mon State.

The Band of Myanmar Police Force Headquarters provides training to the schoolgirls with the assistance

of physical training teachers. Altogether with the Band, a total of 272 students from Mon State will take part in the 12 sports events together with those of 12 region and state teams.

Myanmar Alinn

## Winners awarded in Great Wall National Badminton Championship

YANGON, 13 Dec—The prize distribution of the 13<sup>th</sup> Great Wall National Badminton Championship 2012 was held at the National Badminton Gymnasium in Lanmadaw Township on 9 December.

Vice-President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Mya Thaug and U Ba Hlaing, executives and the secretary presented

prizes to winners in the open men's single event, open women's single event, open men's doubles event, open women's doubles event and senior mixed doubles event.

Deputy Director U Zaw Win of Sports and Physical Education Department and President of the federation U Maung Maung Swe gave prizes to winners in the senior men's doubles event

and women's doubles event, senior men's single event and women's event.

Later, Managing Director U Maung Maung Swe of Great Wall Asia Construction Co President Myanmar Badminton Federation presented K 20 million as training cost to the training committee of the federation.

Myanmar Alinn

## 241 grams of heroin seized in Kawlin

MONYWA, 13 Dec—A combined squad led by IP Yan Naing Tun and party of Monywa Anti-Drug Special Squad of Sagaing Region, policemen led by SIP Tin Naing Win of Kawlin Township Police Force and SIP Tin Moe together with

witnesses searched two women carrying a plastic basket near the toll gate in Wayonton Ward of Kawlin on 28 November. The authorities seized 241.5 grams of what suspected to be heroin in 16 soap boxes worth K 24,150,000 from the women.

Kawlin Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Ma Thida Win, 36, of Kyawzeya Ward in Kawlin and Ma Khin Htay, 45, of Ward 7 in Lashio under Section 15/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Alinn

## 13 oxen seized before smuggling in Katha Township

KATHA, 13 Dec—A combined team led by SIP Htay Win of Katha Police Station, acting on a tip-off, intercepted cow smugglers on the bank of Ayeyawady River near Nalelin Village of Katha Township of Sagaing Region on 10 November evening.

After conducting investigation, they saw loading of 13 oxen onboard Pyae Phyo Kyaw motorboat at the alluvial land, east of Kappaleik Village, five miles north to Katha Police Station at 9 pm.

According to the

inspection, the authorities seized 13 oxen to be smuggled into China.

SIP Htay Win of the squad opened files of lawsuit against the oxen smugglers.

Katha Police Station arrested oxen smugglers Myo Win Oo, 34, of Ward 9, Aung Min Soe, 18, Hla Min Tun, 16, Aung Naing Min, 19, of Ward 6, Maung Htoo, 35, of Thabyehla Village and motorboat owner Nyunt Hlaing, 35, and seized 13 oxen and one motorboat under the law.

Myanmar Alinn

## Myittha clinch title in Region Chief Minister's Cup Soccer

MANDALAY, 13 Dec—The final match and prize presentation of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-Township U-25 Men's Football Tournament 2012 was held at Bahtoo Stadium in Chanayethazan Township on 7 December.

In the final match, Chanmyathazi Township and Myittha Township could not break the deadlock of 1-1 draw till the final whistle. In

the extra time, they could not score any decisive goal each other. With this, the match entered the penalty decision.

After that, Myittha Township team emerged champion with a 10-9 victory over its opponent.

Region Auditor-General U Kyaw Win, Region Minister for National Race Affairs U Sai Maung Hla and Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Aung Htay Kyaw presented

prizes to winners and winning teams in respective positions.

Region Minister for Electric and Industry Dr Myint Kyu gave fairplay award to Amarapura Township, and Mandalay Mayor Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun, the championship trophy and cash award to Myittha Township and Chanmyathazi Township respectively.

Myanmar Alinn

## Two unlicensed luxury cars, one motorcycle seized in Mawlamyine

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—According to the campaign to seize illegal luxury cars and motorcycles, the combined team made a surprise seizure of the cars and motorcycles driven from Mawlamyine to Yangon under the supervision of the Commander of Mon State and Mawlamyine

District Police Forces.

From 18 to 23 November, SIP Maung Maung Htwe and party of Mawlamyine Traffic Police Force seized one unlicensed motorcycle driven by Thant Zin, 26 near the roundabout in Mandalay Ward, one luxury car from Lu Thant, 38 of Shjwenatha

Bus Line of Bilin Township and another luxury car of Nay Zar, 34 near Nagayon Buddha Image on detour in Hline Ward in Mawlamyine.

Thus, Mawlamyine Daingwunkwin police station opened files of lawsuit against them.

Myanmar Alinn

## Stimulant tablets worth K 800 million seized

HSIPAW, 13 Dec—Members of Lashio Anti-Drug Special Squad led by Police Captain Ye Naing of Shan State (North) while discharging duty of drug elimination near Hopeik Village leading to Hsenwi at 9.30 am on 8 December searched the van driven by Ku Hsin Tauk, 26, son of U Ko Chwin Yin of Ward 4 in Tamoenye of Kutkai Township and Ma Myin Ku Phein, 35, daughter of U Myin Chi Cho of Tamoenye in Kutkai Township.

The authorities seized



398,000 WY brand stimulant tablets in 119 packets in paper boxes covered with mustard leaves, weighing 35.82 kilos worth K 800

million.

Lashio Police Station No 1 opened a file of lawsuit against the drug possessors.

Myanmar Alinn

## Bogyoke Statue committee formed

TAUNG DWINGYI, 13 Dec—A ceremony to constitute Bogyoke Aung San Bronze Statue committee was held at Sasana

Beikman in Taungdwingyi of Magway Region on 6 December afternoon. Those present elected U Soe Min as Chairman, U Aung Thet as Secretary and 15 executives of the bronze

statue committee.

The committee will solicit donations and seek advices from wellwishers, intellectuals, intelligentsia and legal advisers for the statue.—Myanmar Alinn

## Farmland management law, rules discussed

HSIPAW, 13 Dec—The multiplier course on farmland law and vacant, virgin and fallow land management law and rules was opened at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Hsipaw on 30 November with a view to broadening the horizons of the local farmers for land management and their rights of applications.

On the occasion, Hsipaw Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw and

Head of Kyaukme District Settlement and Land Records Department U Soe Tint explained the purpose of conducting the multiplier course. After that, Head of Township SLRD U Aung Pyo Thaw gave lectures on farmland management law and rules to the trainees.

Myanmar Alinn



Secretary of Track and Field Committee of Ministry of Construction Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Aye accepts championship shield handed over by Construction Ministry that emerged champion in senior class of 45<sup>th</sup> Inter-Department Track and Field Contest 2012 held on 9 December.

MYANMA ALINN

The moral instructions lie in the books.

## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 14 December, 2012

## Regional development

The concept of regional development is based on the development of specific regions. It is generally undertaken where regional differences exist and where a particular is to be developed. The major objective of the regional development is to remove regional disparities in respect of economic and social development and bring out the region at par with other regions of the country. It is a significant means to remove regional backwardness, meet regional aspirations and demands, make optimum and judicious use of regional resources, solve regional problems and involve local people in plan formulation and implementation.

It may also help in conserving the environment and cultural heritage of a particular region. Development of a country is directly related with the development of that country's main region or state. And the development of a state is the development of townships in that state while the development of a town is the development of wards and villages in that town. So, the development of these villages and wards has a direct relation with the higher individual income of people in that villages and wards.

Enjoying higher individual income is a key to the development of whole country. So, higher individual incomes rely on economic freedom, transactional costs and share percentage on GDP. Citizens should have economic freedom in doing their businesses. Unnecessary transactional costs need reducing. People should have rights to enjoy a particular share percentage on natural resources in the country.

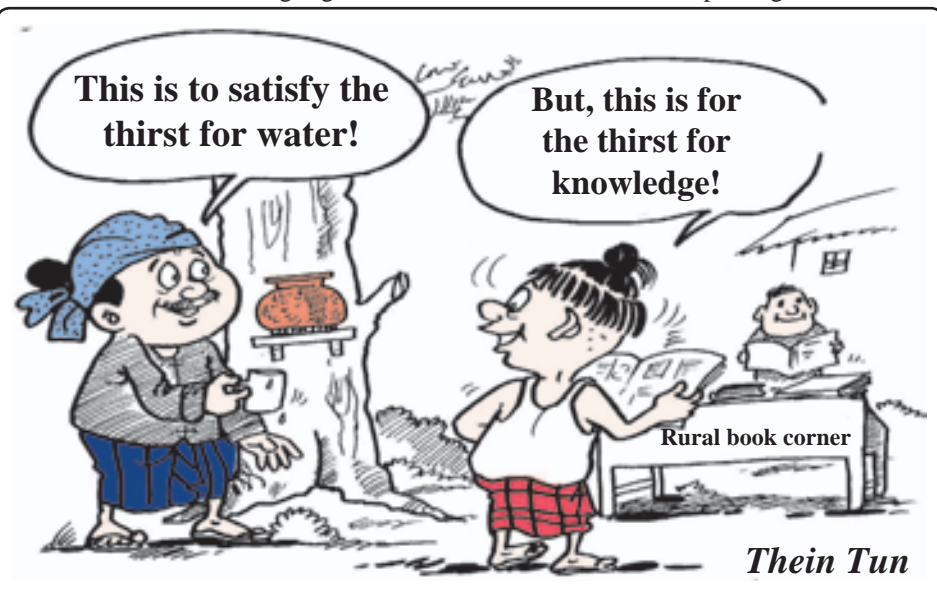
## Coordination meeting for smooth running of trade and finance held

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—“The Ministry is making reforms for economic development and smooth running of trade and finance, at the Ministry yesterday morning.”

In his speech, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein said that ministries' undertakings need to be correct as being the undertakings of the government. The reforms

are to be in accord with the laws, rules and regulations. There are variances in the amount of CIF and fines based on special and regular car imports. Departmental heads and officials held discussions on classification of car brands in importing cars.—MNA

are to be in accord with the laws, rules and regulations. There are variances in the amount of CIF and fines based on special and regular car imports. Departmental heads and officials held discussions on classification of car brands in importing cars.—MNA



Thein Tun

## OPINION

## Trust in reform

Min Bahtoo



(Continued from 7-12-2012)

## What is trust?

As enthusiasm and plans of political leadership of developed and developing countries are unpredictable, the people have to question themselves whether representatives they elect would leave them in uncertainties or would be reliable after winning the election. It makes clear that trust is one component in legitimacy and sustainability of a political system.

If any extent of doubt is favourable for the strong democracy, why is the trust such important for the good governance? How could individual public office holder and the political structure like the government sow the seed of trust for development? How does the trust interrelate with new social, political and economic requirements demanded by the globalization? We need to know satisfactory definition of trust and kinds of trust.

The trust is an interpersonal and inter-organizational structure. The trust is established when different individuals

or organizations holding different views build up a relationship and this relationship bears expected outcomes. Dynamics of a trusted individual or organization raise no concern and need monitoring. So, the trust could drastically cut effort and cost in social, economic and political engagements. The actual trust could foster healthier inter-personal and inter-organizational re-relationship.

Mainly, there are two kinds of trust: political trust and social trust. Support for the government and policies of the government and for commitment, capacity, fairness and honesty of a political leader could engender the political trust. Being sure by the public that the public office holders would definitely answer to their demands and perform duties even if they are not regularly monitored is the political trust. It is goal-oriented trust. So, the political trust depends on unspoken popular sentiment towards the government and its mechanism. The political trust could exist not only for the political system and the political institution but also for the individual politician. The political trust in the organization is macro-trust and case-oriented. The political trust in the individual is micro-trust and is based on personality cult.

The political trust is inspired by motivation. The stimulated political trust can be divided into reasoning-flavoured partisan and instilled public morals.

Political trust can not flourish and practical in a political vacuum with no goal and no motivation. Here, there is no difference between mutual trusts among members of civil society, otherwise known as social trust, and political trust in nature. Having connectivity and mutual trusts among the public allow to ensure social trust in the society. If people are not willing to participate in social activities, it is believed that people lack positive attitude towards government mechanism. Social capital is also of importance in earning the significant public trust on the government, not regarding the government's performance.

Although political trust and social trust are intertwined, there arise different views on it. There are many questions whether the reinforcements of social capital and social trust can allow political trust and whether the governments that earned politically public trust allow social activities, improving social capital; and how to integrate social trust with political trust to be able to establish sustainable and effective political system. Climate of opinion will

produce a flood of answers. Enhancement in social trust can improve political contributions, thereby assisting in political trust and democratization process. Everyone has to accept this point in general.

In fact, today's governments in the world are using various stimulus measures to overwhelm the public through power and earn more public trust socially with the use of political, economic and social tools. Tasks of cracking down on factors that can lead to loss of trust politically and transforming administrative structure concerning the public such as separation of power to the grassroots, utilization of technology that can bolster up the information and services, formulation of advantageous economic policies, fight against corruption and curbing crimes are being carried out. Simultaneously, more accepting the advices of civil societies who establish mutual trust with the people and creating more flexible and workable configuration for them are being carried out. It is very important for countries in crisis and in the post-crisis era to strive for earning trust politically and socially.

(To be continued every Friday)

Trs: HKA+YM

## Experts meet to adopt framework for accommodation provision

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Expert Group Meeting on Options for Housing Sector kicked off at Kumudra Hotel here yesterday morning under Housing Advisor (UN-Habitat) Programme.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint speaking on the occasion said the meeting is meant

to contribute to adoption of framework for accommodation supply compatible with the policies of national level comprehensive development scheme before national level housing policy could be adopted on a nationwide scale, stressing the importance of housing sector for economic

performance of a nation. Also present on the occasion were departmental heads, personnel from UN-Habitat, representatives from region/state governments, and Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Development Affairs Committees and invited scholars.

MNA

## Silver Tiger Luxury showroom opens

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Silver Shine International Co Ltd of Myanmar and Alvogen IP Co of US signed MoU on technical cooperation in advanced pharmaceuticals production at Sedona Hotel yesterday afternoon. It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, UMFCI Vice-President

Dr Maung Maung Lay and officials from Silver Shine International Co., Ltd and Alvogen IP. Managing Director U Pe Hlaing of Silver Shine International Co., Ltd and Asia Pacific Regional Director Mr Peter Keil signed the MoU and exchanged the notes. A ceremony to open Silver

Tiger Luxury followed at U Wisara Road in Kamayut Township. Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Soe Min and Managing Director of Silver Tiger Co Ltd U Tin Latt opened the showroom and the region chief minister unveiled the signboard of the showroom.—MNA



## ARTICLE

## The Festivals of Nat-taw

The 9th month of Myanmar lunar calendar called Nat-taw is the second month of Myanmar cold season “Hei man” in Pali meaning winter. Though it is pronounced “Na daw” its spelling has two words “Nat” and “Taw”. “Nat” is a derivative from Pali word “Natha” meaning “a resplendent being worthy of veneration” and “Taw” means royal or respectable. Nat generally applies to all spiritual beings, devas, gods, goddesses, and all spirits. Who deserve worship by human beings for their favour.

So Nat-taw means the month for worshipping nat-spirits.

If the climate is normal, Nat-taw is a chilly month, misty and fragrant with the scent of wild flowers particularly Thazin orchid [*Bulbophyllum auricomum*] the designated flower of this month and enlisted in the category of royal flowers in the monarchic days. Dhanu is its astrological name with the symbol of an archer holding a bow and an arrow. As nat worship or animism predated Buddhism and Myanmar Buddhism tolerates all faiths and beliefs, nat worship stays and co-exists with Buddhism till today. Nat shrines in the inner and outer compounds of Shwezigon Pagoda at old Bagana bear strong evidences to the nat worship and nat festivals of the Myanmar people since old days.

**The Maha Giri Nats**

The two brick niches at the old Tharapa Gate of old Bagan have the idols of two Maha Giri Nat spirits—the Elder Brother in the right and Younger Sister in the left niche. They tell their tragic story that happened in their birth place Tagaung, up country.

Maung Tint Dei a mighty blacksmith with his apprentices was producing all kinds of iron weapons and implements. The king of Tagaung was worried that one day the mighty blacksmith would rebel against him. He sent his warriors to arrest Maung Tint Dei who fled and remained in hiding. The king raised Tint Dei’s beautiful younger sister to his queen and told her to bring him her elder brother as he would appoint him interior minister. The queen made her brother come to

court. The king appointed him the interior minister. But soon after, the king tried him to the trunk of a Saga Tree (Champac Tree) and burnt him alive to death. Upon hearing the horrible news, the queen came out and jumped into the fire to die with her elder brother. Because of their violent deaths, their spirits lived at that Tree and they molested any being that came under the Tree. The king ordered his men to uproot the Tree and float it down the Ayeyawaddy River. The Champac Tree stranded at the Jetty of Bagan. King Theyligyaung of Bagan [344-387 A.D.] had a dream in which the two nat spirits appeared telling their tragic story and

hne Festival at their courts. Hindu Brahmanism and Vedic culture came to Myanmar before Buddhism. Mon kingdoms in lower Myanmar came into contact with Hindu religion and culture much earlier than kingdoms in upper Myanmar. Therefore Hindu deities, Vishnu, Siva, Brahma, Saka, Ganesha etc were worshipped by both royalty and the people. In late Toungoo Dynasty kings Tabinshwehti and Bayint Naung adopted Mon culture in court ceremonies. Hence Ganesha [Maha Peinhne] worship became an annual festival in Nat-taw together with local nat spirits festivals. Besides, Brahmin priests were raja gurus who conducted all royal

nationalities of other faiths joyously participate in them.

**Elephant trapping and honouring the pen and sword Festivals**

In the days of Myanmar national kings, it was in the month of Nat-taw that the festival of trapping wild elephants and the festival of conferring titles, awards and fiefs were held. Trapping wild elephants and taming them for royal and public service was an important skilful profession as well as a princely pastime. Myanmar kings were fond of elephant catching and taming. Toungoo kings Tabin Shwe Hti and Hanthawaddy King Bayint Naung and prince Min Ye Kyaw Swa were noted elephant catchers and tamers. Festivals and ceremonies were held on such occasions in Nat-taw.

Also at the palace, in this month, the king held a special audience to honour those who had literary accomplishments and those who had performed outstanding military exploits. This audience was known as the Festival of Hpyin Htat Mingalar [the ceremony of conferring titles and awards and Hpyin cloths and gowns on the deserving men of letters and men of swords. The king honoured men of letters and men of might by giving them title, promotion, dress, insignias, gifts, house, fief, house of special favours.

**The Sarsodaw Festival of today in Nat-taw**

It originated during the Japanese occupation of the second world war. In Myanmar Era, 1306 (1944) a group of Myanmar writers led by Dr Ba Han the then prominent author held a meeting at Kungyan Kon town to discuss the holding and observing of U Ponnya Day. U Ponnya was the reputed playwright of late Konboun period, whose literary talent was likened to that of William Shakespeare. That meeting decided to hold U Ponnya Day which was commemorated on the 13th waxing moon of Kason [May] of that year. The holding of U Ponnya Day paved the way for Writers’ Day later. In that year, on the second waning moon of that month, the then Minister for Education, Health and Municipality U Hla Min convened a meeting at his office. Eleven eminent writers including the late

**Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja  
Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt**

requesting the king to give them a place to rest. The king ordered his men to cut the Champac trunk into two pieces to be carved Images of the Brother and Sister and enshrined them on the summit of Popa Mountain range. Giving them the title Min Maha Giri [Royal Nats of Great Mountain] and made a yearly festival in Nat-taw month. The court and the public paid honour and tribute to the Images in the shrine. The two nat spirits offered their service of guarding the capital city against all enemies. Hence their Images were enshrined at the Tharapa Gate. As nat idol shrine was forbidden to keep in household, a green coconut with offerings was kept at every house to propitiate them as Eintwin nats [The guardian Spirits of the house]. Since then a yearly festival is held on Mt. Popa in 9th month which thus came to be called Nat-taw month.

Successive Myanmar kings could not and would not stamp out nat spirit worship. They only forbid sacrifice of lives, animals and offering of intoxicants. Therefore Myanmar people offer green coconut, flowers, rice and sweet cakes to Maha Giri nat spirits. It is believed that green coconut has healing effect upon fire burns.

**Ganesha or Maha Peinhne Festival**

In lower Myanmar, Mon kings held Maha Pein-

ceremonies and festivals. Thus the elephant headed deity, Ganesha of Hindu origin became Maha Peinhne deity in Myanmar. It is also believed that Ganesha showers upon his worshippers such kind of favours as power, might, health, longevity, prosperity, good rain, good harvest and protection from all dangers which ruling class covet most. So all Myanmar national kings annually held Ganesha festival at their courts in the month of Nat-taw.

In “Loka Byu Ha Kyan” [A Treatise on Court Festivals and Ceremonies] compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana, of Inyone town, Maha Peinhne festival of Nat-taw is described in full account. The idol of Maha Peinhne housed in a shrine inside the palace city was put on a specially made coach pulled to their Majesties on the first waxing moon of Nat-taw for royal worship and offerings. On the first waning moon the coach made a round of houses of nobility and aristocracy to receive pujas and offerings. Eight Brahmin Priests on the coach facing eight cardinal points incanted mantras invoking Ganesha god, praying for favour and blessings. Fruits, flowers, sweet cakes, milk, butter and honey were offered. Believers gathered to rejoice in the event.

Maha Peinhne festivals are held till today in Myanmar where there are Hindu communities and all

**A TRIBUTE TO LITERATI**

- \* Mya Zedi Stone Inscription of Bagan Era,  
The cradle of Myanmar language and literature,  
Stands as an established literary identity;  
And axiom that reveals a long history.
- \* From Bagan to the late Konbaung Period,  
Men of letters loved and cherished their works  
Rich with high morals and aesthetic values  
Mature and resplendent in native hues.
- \* Struggling through ups and downs of colonial era,  
Literati kept the flame of literature  
Always burning and rekindled the nationalism  
That made sword and pen united with patriotism.
- \* Myanmar literature played a contributory role  
In the freedom struggle against the foe  
Stimulated patriotic forces to fight the colonialists  
Also waged a just war against the fascists.
- \* National literature, like a tree in full bloom  
Literary works saw a great boom.  
Vital element for flourishing of culture  
Shouldn't fail to carry on with it for ever.
- \* Myanmar literature reflects people's morale and morality  
Promotes the language and religion of the community  
Literati have done service in successive periods  
With the influence of literary works.
- \* Annual Sarsodaw Day ceremonies are organized  
To uphold the fine traditions with pen's might.  
Veteran writers bequeath new ideas to new generations  
Who will bring brighter future to our nation.

Maung Swe Ngae

Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin were invited. The minister requested the meeting to choose a day to honour men of letters. Journalist U Chit Maung proposed the 1st waxing moon day of Nat-taw to be designated as Sarsodaw Day [the Writers’ Day] as Myanmar kings used to honour every year in Nat-taw men of letters and men of might by conferring titles and awards, thus following a historic precedent. The chairman of Writers’ Association Thuriya U Thein Maung seconded the proposal and the meeting unanimously agreed. So emerged the Writers’ Day on the 1st waxing moon of Nat-taw.

There is another story of Writers’ Day recounted by some eye witnessess of those days. According to it there were two groups of Myanmar writers—one group belonged to University Campus, the other group, professional writers outside the academic campus.

When prominent writers from abroad such as Rabindranath Tagore of Nobel Prize fame and H.G Wells of world renown novelist and all-round writer came to visit Myanmar, both groups got a chance

to gather to receive their foreign guests. In 1939 H.G Wells was received at the University Boat Club near Inya Lake and honoured with tea party headed by Dr Htin Aung of English Department of Yangon University. Representatives of the two groups were present.

In the parley with the guest writer, Myanmar writers told him about Myanmar nationalist movement and the guest writer promised to write about it to inform the world when returned home. The two groups agreed to form a writers’ association.

In 1942 April, a meeting was held on the second floor of the Scott Market [Bogyoke Market] for the formation of Myanmar Writers’ Association and holding of Writers’ Day (Sarsodaw Day). Among Writers attending this meeting were U Kaung, Maha Swe, Shwe U Daung, Kyipwayey U Hla, Dagon Nat Shin, Zawana, Journalgyaw U Chit Maung, Thin Kha and Journalist U Thein Maung. Journalgyaw U Chit Maung’s proposal for the first waxing moon of Nat-taw to be Writers’ Day was unanimously agreed.

(See page 10)

## The Festivals of Nat-taw

(from page 9)

For the holding of the first Writers' Day, a leading committee was formed with six members namely Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing, U Pe Maung Tin, Dr Ba Han, U Lin, Deedok U Ba Cho and Pathamakyaw U Kyee Pe. The 15-member Executive Committee included U Tin, U Ba Nyunt, Myoma Saya Hein, U Kaung, U Thein Han, U E Maung, Dr Htin Aung, U Than Tint, U Po Chain, U Htun Pe, U Thein Maung, Thakhin Tin Maung Gyi, U Htun Myint, Daw Chit and Daw Yee Kyein. With due celebration, the first Writers' Day was observed on the first waxing moon day of Nat-taw. The then Adipadi Government of Myanmar headed by Dr Ba Maw contributed K 10000 to the E.C. Committee for the Writers' Day. In the afternoon at Myaing Theatre at Kandawgyi Lake, Bahan, Yangon, the ceremony was held where some veteran writers and school masters by turn spoke about Myanmar literati of historic fame such as Anunta Suriya, Shin Maha Thilawuntha, Shin Maha Rathathaya, Nat Shin Naung, Nawadei, Letwei Thondara, U Paw U, Ma

Mya Galay, Hlaing Hteik Khaung Tin, Achoke Tan Saya Pe, U Ponnya, U Kyin U etc. Some recited their poems. At the gathering of writers, literary topics were discussed and Myanmar traditional refreshments were served. At Myaing Theatre U Ponnya's play *Wizaya pyazat* was staged in which some writers enacted amateurishly.

In the post independence time Myanmar Writers' Day is observed and commemorated without fail. Successive Myanmar governments, whether civil or military gave whole hearted support for celebrating Myanmar Writers' Day. The Government raised the Day to the state level by awarding titles to distinguished writers, paying homage and support to veteran writers of 80 and above in age, giving prizes to writers of literary competitions under different genres and categories. Since 1993, many private wellwishers and NGOs began to patronize writers by awarding cash and kind to their prize winning literary works. On the independence day every year, the Government issues announcement of recipients of state award

of titles and honours under different genres—Buddha Sasana promotion, excellent performance in the field of administration, social welfare works, sciences, Arts, technology, invention, etc. Writers of live long standing are awarded by the President of the State the title "Sithu".

The present government has declared that mass media including writers was the fourth column, after the three columns of the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary upon which Myanmar Parliament is built for the just and efficient running of democracy in the Myanmar Union.

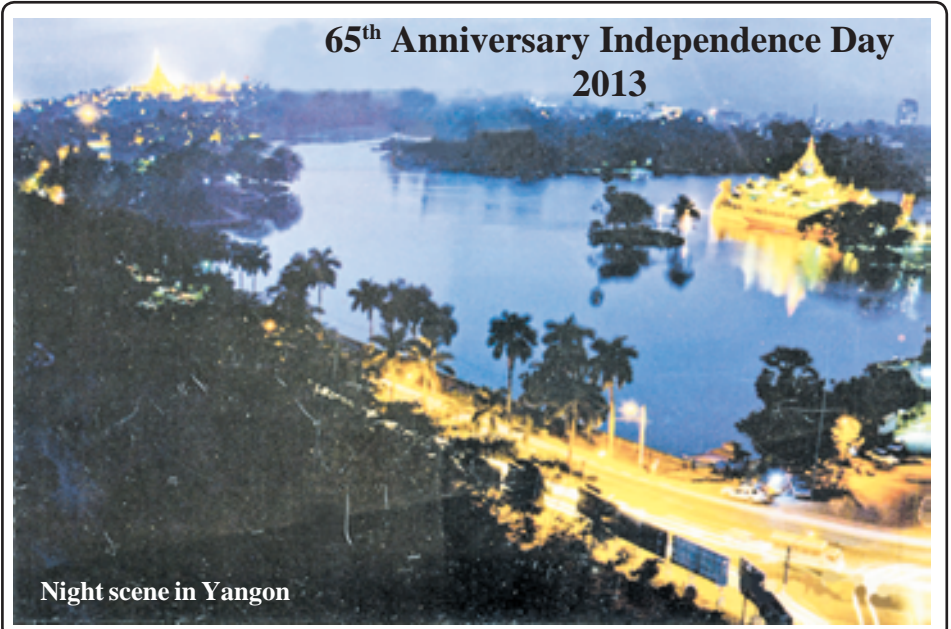
In the months following the Writers' Day, writers are invited by township writers' associations to give talks to the public or to hold discussions with the audience. The themes and topics are quite extensive these days—from literary to educational, domestic and international affairs. Myanmar communities abroad also invite Myanmar writers to give them talks in their respective residing countries.

Nat-taw is not only the month of nat spirit festivals but it also is the month of the festivals of literary activities.

## National Objectives of 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day for 2013

1. All the national people to live together in the Union through thick and thin
2. All the national people to constantly safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
3. All the national people to participate in the tasks for bringing about genuine, eternal peace putting an end to the armed conflicts
4. To make relentless efforts, in building a modern, developed and democratic nation, in order to better serve public interest, to ensure poverty reduction and bring about righteous legislative, administrative and judicial pillars

### 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day 2013



Night scene in Yangon

## Europe nears deal to make ECB chief bank watchdog



Spain's Economy Minister Luis de Guindos listens to Austria's Finance Minister Maria Fekter (R) during an European Union finance ministers meeting in Brussels on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 13 Dec—European governments neared a deal on Wednesday to give the European Central Bank new powers to supervise banks across the bloc after Germany signalled a readiness to compromise on the scope of the ambitious financial reform.

Last week German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble had clashed openly with his French counterpart Pierre Moscovici over key elements of the plan, but with time running out to meet a year-end deadline, they narrowed their

differences, raising hopes of a breakthrough.

Agreement on a common bank supervisor is a crucial first step towards a broader "banking union", or common euro zone approach to dealing with failing banks that in recent years have dragged down countries like Ireland and Spain.

"We think that we have a good chance to reach a deal today," Schaeuble told journalists ahead of a meeting in Brussels with his European Union peers.

"My intention is that we find a solution to the

banking union on time before Christmas."

Moscovici told his colleagues in the meeting that "all the parameters" for an agreement were in place.

Even if the bloc is able to settle most of its differences on Wednesday, other difficult issues remain.

At a summit in June, EU leaders pledged that once a common bank supervisor was in place, the bloc's rescue mechanism would have the power to directly recapitalize struggling institutions. Countries like France, Italy and Spain are keen for those powers to be in place as soon as possible.

But Germany, worried it could be forced to foot the bill for struggling banks across the bloc, is not in a rush.

In introductory remarks

at the meeting, Schaeuble tried to kill any discussion about bank recapitalisations and said it could take more than a year for the new supervisor to be fully up and running. In the longer-term, there is disagreement over how the burden of winding down failed banks should be shared. A compromise document put forward by rotating EU President Cyprus, and obtained by *Reuters* on Tuesday, won broad backing at the meeting from the ECB and member states.

In recent weeks, Germany had argued against giving the ECB supervisory responsibility for all 6,000 European banks, concerned the new system could become unmanageable.

*Reuters*

## Medical treatments given to monks at Mandalay General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—A team led by Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing of Mandalay Region Government encouraged the injured monks and people at

Mandalay General Hospital yesterday afternoon and gave medical treatments to them.

Till 12 December, 18 monks and three

## U Tikkhañana, who sustains burns in Letpadaungtaung incident, leaves for Bangkok to receive medical treatment Government sends 1 million baht to Bangkok General Hospital in advance

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—U Tikkhañana, aged 64 from Khawthandi Village Tawya Monastery of Mintaingbin Village in Monywa, who sustained burns in the Letpadaungtaung incident was transferred to Yangon General Hospital from Mandalay General Hospital on 10 December.

He is not in a critical condition. The monk left Yangon General Hospital

of his own accord this morning to receive medical treatment in Bangkok of Thailand. Due to his financial problem, the government remitted 1 million baht to Bangkok General Hospital in advance.

The monk together with his cousin Medical Superintendent Dr U Win of Mandalay General Hospital left for Thailand by air this evening.—MNA

people were receiving treatment in Mandalay General Hospital and ten monks in Kandawnadi Hospital. Today, three monks have discharged

from Mandalay General Hospital and returned home as they recovered from their injuries. So, there are 15 monks and three persons in Mandalay People's Hospital and ten monks, in Kandawnadi Hospital.

MNA

REGIONAL

One cop killed in attack by leftist rebels

Philippine in W Philippines

MANILA, 13 Dec—A policeman died while another was wounded after the leftist New People's Army rebels raided on Wednesday a police station in Roxas town at the Western Philippine Province of Palawan.

Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command chief Lt Gen Juancho Sabban said the rebels posed as soldiers, allowing them to enter the station and launch an attack around 10 am, local time.

Sabban said two policemen tried to fight back but were shot by the rebels. Senior Police Officer 3 Mancito Rabang died while Senior Police Officer 2 Pablo Acosta was injured.

The rebels seized eight high-powered firearms and fled aboard a van. Authorities discovered the vehicle later in an area not far from the police station.

Sabban said government troops, backed by helicopter

gunships, have been deployed to track down the fleeing rebels. This is the second time this week that NPA rebels launched an attack in Palawan.

Last Tuesday, the NPA rebels burned the backhoe owned by the Citi Mining Corporation in Sofronio Espanola town. The rebels allegedly burned the backhoe to punish the company officials who refused to pay revolutionary tax.—Xinhua



A couple pose for photos as they wait to solemnize their marriage at the Singapore Registry of Marriage, on 12 Dec, 2012. A total of 541 couples applied to solemnize their marriage in Singapore on 12 Dec, 2012, hoping that the "triple 12 day" will bring them good luck. XINHUA



A remote emission test equipment is seen on the street in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, on 12 Dec, 2012. Two vehicles with the test system have been put into operation in Lanzhou recently. The system could collect and analyse emission data from a vehicle and record the vehicle number through a remote sensing equipment without interrupting the traffic. XINHUA

Pakistan extends Afghan refugee stay for six months

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 13 Dec—Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Wednesday announced a six month extension in the legal stay of Afghan refugees in the country, the PM office said.

Pakistan had issued Proof of Registration (PoR) Cards to Afghan refugees which was to be expired on 31 Dec, 2012.

There are still 1.6 million registered Afghans in Pakistan, the UN refugee agency said. Pakistani officials said that some 1 million unregistered Afghan refugees also live in the country.

"Prime Minister

Raja Pervez Ashraf has extended by six months the Pakistan, Afghanistan and UNHCR tripartite agreement on repatriation of Afghan Refugees which was scheduled to expire on 31 Dec, 2012," a statement from the PM office said.

This decision was made at a high level meeting held in the Prime Minister's Secretariat on a presentation made on Management and Repatriation Strategy/Policy for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

The prime minister also decided to constitute a committee held by Minister for States and Frontier

Regions Engr. Shaukatullah to monitor the repatriation of Afghan refugees, the statements said.

The meeting was informed that only 0.2 million Afghan refugees could be repatriated by the end of 2012 and there were still 1.6 million registered and 1 million unregistered Afghans residing in Pakistan.

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Interior Rehman A Malik, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamir Zaman Kaira, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan and other senior officials.—Xinhua

Five children killed in wall collapse in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec—

In a tragic incident, five children were killed and one more sustained serious injuries in a wall collapse in the Indian capital on Wednesday, a senior police official said.

"The incident happened when at Dallupura village near Mayur Vihar in the east of the national capital around 10 am when the six children were playing in a vacant plot. An under-construction boundary wall collapsed and all the six children got trapped under the debris on the plot," the official said.

Fire brigade officials and local people rushed all the victims to a nearby hospital where five children were declared dead while another is battling for his life, he said, unwilling to be named.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official added.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Philippines seeks Indonesian help to find missing fishermen

MANILA, 13 Dec—The Philippine government has coordinated with Indonesia in search and rescue operations for some missing fishermen who could have been drifted to its waters during the height of Typhoon Bopha (local name: Pablo) last week, a military official said on Wednesday.

Navy Capt Robert Empedrad, commander of Task Force Maritime Search and Rescue, said that Indonesia has sent a ship to an area where Filipino fishermen could have drifted and Jakarta also approved a Philippine reconnaissance flight.

"When we assessed the situation, there's a possibility that some of our missing fishermen are drifted to Indonesian waters," Empedrad said in a briefing.

Some fishermen reportedly went missing about 100 nautical miles east of Bislig in southern

Philippine province of Surigao del Sur, he said.

Empedrad said there were 35 survivors that his task force has rescued from the waters since the weather disturbance hit central and southern parts of the country.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Executive Director Benito Ramos, in the same briefing, said that of the 890 people who were missing, 313 of them were fishermen.

He added that the official number of deaths recorded by the agency now stands at 740, or 26 higher than the previous day.

Most of the fatalities or 683 are from Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental, the two hardest-hit provinces. Bopha also displaced nearly 6 million people and damaged about 14 billion pesos (341.96 million US dollars) worth of crops, infrastructure and property. Xinhua

Malaysia

Malaysia's Sabah state to woo more Chinese tourists

KOTA KINABALU, 13 Dec—Malaysia's Sabah state is attracting more Chinese tourists who prefer places of natural beauty to crowded cities following the local government's efforts to boost tourism.

The Sabah state, a part of East Malaysia on the Borneo Island, is famous for its beautiful beaches, tropical islands, rainforests and the Mount Kinabalu, one of the highest in Southeast Asia. It is often referred to as "Land Below the Wind" by seafarers in the past to describe lands south of the Typhoon belt.

It remained much unknown to Chinese tourists when Zhang Haixiang's Shenzhen Junjie International Travel Service began to introduce it to the Chinese market.

"By that time, Hong Kong and Shenzhen were the only two Chinese cities that had direct flights to Sabah," he told Xinhua.

Things changed quickly. Chinese tourists arrival in Sabah has experienced double-digit growth in the

past two years, according to Allen Chia, senior research manager of Sabah Tourism Board.

More than 160,000 Chinese tourists arrived in Sabah during the first 10 months of 2012, more than the total number of last year, Chia said.

Now, apart from the chartered flights from various Chinese cities to bring in tourists, local players like AirAsia have introduced commercial flights between Chinese cities and Kota Kinabalu, the capital city of Sabah.

Sabah, together with other famous tourism attractions in the region such as Bali, Indonesia and the Maldives, are becoming appealing to more Chinese tourists as many of them are turning to vacation-style travel after getting tired of sight-seeing tours, Zhang said.

Zhang's company has brought 50 newly-wed couples from all across China for honey moon in Sabah, where the bride and the bridegroom choose to

wear Malay costumes.

Sabah, the second largest state in Malaysia with a moderate population of 3 million, heavily relies on tourism as a major contributor to the economy. It didn't take too long before the state government realized the opportunity from the Chinese market. Xinhua



Afghans receive winter relief supplies donated by German government for displaced people in Kabul, Afghanistan on 12 Dec, 2012. More than 800 displaced families received winter relief supplies on Wednesday.—XINHUA

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (018)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2012 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 ORINET OVERSEAS  
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) 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: G. LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.  
Phone No: 256924/256914**

**Ministry of Information**

Information and Public Relations Department

Invitation for open tender of

**Information and Public Relations  
Department to buy Equipment**

1. Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information will buy the following working equipment.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Nikon 18to200mm lens EDDX VR II       | 2 items  |
| 2. Nikon SB700 Speed Light Flash Gun     | 2 items  |
| 3. Nikon Super Wide Lens 10 to 24mm      | 1 item   |
| 4. Nikon Battery Packs ENEL 3e           | 8 items  |
| 5. CF Memory Card( small card) 4 GB      | 10 items |
| 6. SD Memory Card(small card) 4 GB       | 10 items |
| 7. Aluminium Ladder (three steps)        | 2 items  |
| 8. Aluminium Ladder (two steps)          | 2 items  |
| 9. Sony External Flash HVL-F20 AM        | 1 item   |
| 10. Card Reader All in one               | 4 items  |
| 11. Sony Lens DT 18 to 250 mm            | 30 items |
| 12. Nikon Digital Camera D7000 Only Body | 2 items  |

2. The open tender applications are to be taken out from the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during the period from 12-12-2012 to 20-12-2012 during the office days.

3. The open tender applications are to be submitted in front of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 21-12-2012. The tenders submitted after the designated date will not be considered.

4. The form of open tender and detailed information may be enquired at the following address.

Procurement Committee  
Ministry of Information  
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw  
Tel: 412327, 412323

**Donate  
Blood**

*Olympique Lyon's Michel Bastos celebrates his goal against AS Nancy Lorraine during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Stade Gerland in Lyon on 12 Dec, 2012.*

REUTERS

**Govt launches probe into Wal-Mart lobbying report**

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec—

The government announced an inquiry into lobbying practices by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT.N) on Wednesday after a report that the giant retailer had pressed U.S. lawmakers to help gain access to foreign markets.

Wal-Mart disclosed in a report to the U.S. Senate that it had paid \$25 million over four years to lobby American lawmakers to help gain access to overseas markets, including India.

The report spurred opposition lawmakers, who oppose Wal-Mart's entry into India, to call for an inquiry into whether any money was spent in India, even though the disclosure filing only referred to lobbying activities in the United States. "The government has decided to have a probe by a retired judge into the media reports pertaining to Wal-Mart's lobbying," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kamal Nath told parlia-

ment.

Government officials have said privately there is nothing to investigate since Wal-Mart's lobbying activities in the United States were not illegal.

Wal-Mart has said allegations it had lobbied in India were "entirely false".

The government wants to resolve the matter as quickly as possible so that parliament can pass important financial bills before the winter session ends on December 20. Wal-Mart has found itself entangled in a fight between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's fragile minority government and political opponents determined to thwart supermarket reform which, they say, will destroy the livelihoods of millions of small store owners. Opposition parties have sought to portray Singh's government as the pawn of powerful foreign companies ahead of national elections due in 2014.—Reuters

**Former Brazil coach Dunga joins Internacional**

*Brazil's coach Dunga reacts during the 2010 World Cup quarter-final soccer match against Netherlands in Port Elizabeth on 2 July, 2010.*

REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 Dec—Dunga took charge of Porto Alegre club Internacional on Wednesday, his first coaching job since leading Brazil at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"To work with me, you have to be committed, you have to have the will to win," he told reporters after being presented by the club with which he started and

ended his playing career

"I never left Inter, I was always here as a fan. Inter opened their doors to me when I was 14 years old and now I'm ready to pay them back."

Dunga's four years with Brazil between 2006 and 2010 are his only previous experience as a senior coach. He succeeded Carlos Alberto Parreira after the 2006 World Cup and won the Copa America one year later, followed by the Confederations Cup in 2009.

Under his leadership Brazil developed a physical, counter-attacking-based game which was unpopular with many fans and their World Cup campaign ended with a 2-1 quarter-final defeat by the Netherlands.

Dunga also alienated the media with what they called his siege mentality.

"Inter have a strong tradition," he said. "Inter fans will accept everything, except when players don't give everything for 90 minutes.

"The worst defeat of all is when you get home and think you could have done better. Everybody has to be committed."

As a player, Dunga was a feisty, defensive midfielder with a spiky haircut and almost permanent snarl who played in three World Cups. He captained the side who won the tournament in 1994 and led them to second place four years later.

His club career took him to Corinthians, Vasco da Gama and Santos in his homeland, Pisa, Fiorentina and Pescara in Italy, VfB Stuttgart in Germany and Japan's Jubilo Iwata.

Inter won the Club World Cup in 2006, beating Barcelona in the final, and are twice South American champions and three-times Brazilian championship winners.

They finished 10th in this year's Brazilian championship. Dunga replaced Fernandao, a player in the 2006 team who was fired as coach in November.

Reuters

**Bastos grabs late point for Lyon**

PARIS, 13 Dec—Michel Bastos rescued a point for Ligue 1 leaders Olympique Lyon as they were held to a disappointing 1-1 home draw against struggling Nancy on Wednesday.

The Brazilian winger, who earned his side a 1-0 win at neighbours St Etienne last weekend, fired home from just outside the box with six minutes to go to cancel out Jordan Loties' opener.

Lyon stay top on 35 points from 17 games, three ahead of Paris St Germain after the capital side hammered Valenciennes 4-0 away on Tuesday. The two sides will clash at Parc des Princes on Sunday. Olympique Marseille are third, level on points with PSG but behind on goal difference, after they won 2-1 at Bastia.

Lyon, who were missing suspended Maxime Gonalons and the injured Clement Grenier and Yoann Gourcuff in the midfield,

struggled to create clear-cut chances and mainly relied on long-range efforts in the first half. France striker Bafetimbi Gomis, whose recent run of scoring form lifted Lyon to top spot, failed to convert a pass from Bastos six minutes before the break.

Lisandro Lopez came off the bench after the interval but the Argentine striker, returning from four weeks out injured, could not boost his side. Lyon eventually conceded in the 74th minute when goalkeeper Remy Vercoutre parried Salif Sane's header only to see the ball rebound off Loties' stomach and roll into the net.

Bastos quickly levelled with his fifth goal in eight appearances. "We left a lot of energy in the derby (at St Etienne) and our minds were already turned to Paris," coach Remi Garde told reporters before criticising the referee after they were denied a penalty early in the

second half.

"I think it's the turning point in the game because we have never lost after taking the lead at home," he said. "I admit my team did not play at their usual level but we were not the only ones to be poor tonight." Nancy moved up to 19th after a fifth draw in a row. In Bastia, where the game was played behind closed doors, Mathieu Valbuena deservedly put Marseille ahead with a superb volley from just inside the box in the 15th minute.

Andre Ayew doubled the lead from the penalty spot on 70 minutes after goalkeeper Landry Bonnefoi had fouled his younger brother Jordan. Anthony Modeste scored a late goal but Bastia did not go on to worry the visitors, who clinched their sixth away league win and also welcomed back striker Andre-Pierre Gignac six weeks after he suffered a broken foot.—Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Charlie Sheen unhappy with no thank you from Lindsay Lohan



Lindsay Lohan

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec—Charlie Sheen is unhappy that Lindsay Lohan never thanked him for giving her a reported \$100,000.

The Anger Management star generously helped out his Scary Movie 5 co-star

when he heard she was having financial difficulties after not being paid for one of her projects but Charlie admitted he is unimpressed that the 26-year-old actress accepted money from him but didn't acknowledge it.

He told Entertainment Tonight: "She got shorted and I found out, so I said: 'Here'. I'm still waiting for a text to say 'Thank you'. Anything you know?"

Meanwhile it has been revealed Lindsay is struggling to pay her rent and has been scraping together all the money she can in order to pay \$8,000 per month for her Beverly Hills mansion in Los Angeles.

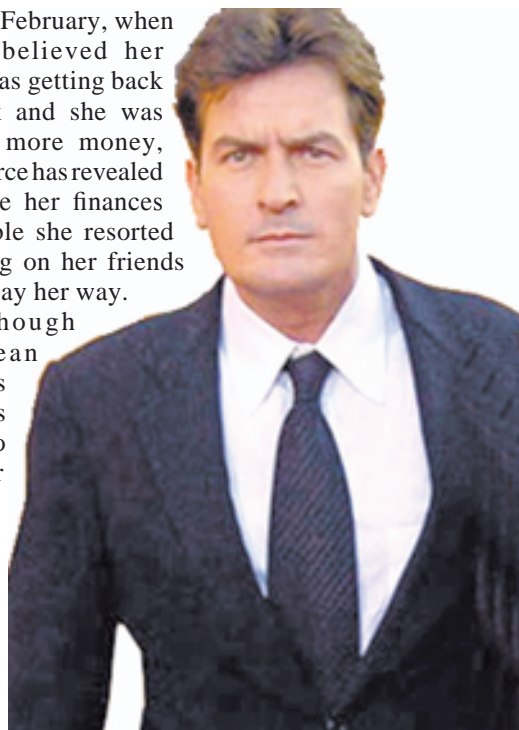
Lindsay signed the contract for the luxury

home in February, when it was believed her career was getting back on track and she was earning more money, but a source has revealed that once her finances hit trouble she resorted to calling on her friends to help pay her way.

Although the Mean Girls actress tried to break her lease in order to move out earlier and not pay rent the

owners have warned her the penalty would cost more than if she was to stay and pay, resulting in Lindsay telling friends she plans to move to New York next February once her contract has ended.

Earlier this month



Charlie Sheen

Lindsay's bank accounts were seized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) after she failed to pay her tax debts, with the government previously claiming she owes \$233,904 for 2009 and 2010.—PTI

Legendary sitarist, composer Ravi Shankar dead at 92

LOS ANGELES, 13 Dec—Sitarist and composer Ravi Shankar, who helped introduce the sitar to the Western world through his collaborations with The Beatles, died in Southern California on Tuesday, his family said. He was 92.

Shankar, a three-time Grammy winner with legendary appearances at the 1967 Monterey Festival and at Woodstock, had been in fragile health for several years and last Thursday underwent surgery, his family said in a statement.

"Although it is a time for sorrow and sadness, it is also a time for all of us to give thanks and to be grateful that we were able to have him as a part of our lives," the family said. "He will live forever in our hearts and in his music."

In India, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's office posted a Twitter message calling Shankar a "national treasure and global ambassador of India's

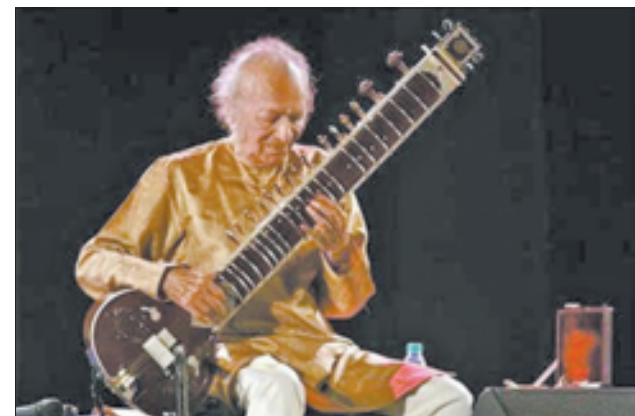
cultural heritage."

"An era has passed away with ... Ravi Shankar. The nation joins me to pay tributes to his unsurpassable genius, his art and his humility," Singh added.

Shankar had suffered from upper respiratory and heart issues over the past year and underwent heart-valve replacement surgery last week at a hospital in San Diego, south of Los Angeles.

The surgery was successful but he was unable to recover. "Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the surgeons and doctors taking care of him, his body was not able to withstand the strain of the surgery. We were at his side when he passed away," his wife Sukanya and daughter Anoushka said.

Shankar lived in both India and the United States. He is also survived by his daughter, Grammy-winning singer Norah Jones, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.—Reuters



Sitar player Ravi Shankar performs in Kolkata on 7 February, 2009.—REUTERS

Actress Jennifer Lawrence named 'most desirable' woman

Jennifer Lawrence



LOS ANGELES, 13 Dec—Jennifer Lawrence, you are the world's most desirable woman, according

to an international poll released on Tuesday by the website AskMen.

"The Hunger Games" star rose to the top of the list from No 47 last year on the heels of the box-office smash while buffing her credibility as a quirky, sex-mad young widow in the independent film "Silver Linings Playbook," AskMen editor in chief James Bassil said.

"Overall, there's a sense that she's a little more authentic than other actors," Bassil said, adding that the public still knows too little about the 22-year-old actress to form a negative opinion.

"She's fresh because we haven't seen her all over the gossip pages for the past three or four years," Bassil said.

Lawrence bumped last year's winner, Sofia

Vergara of "Modern Family" fame, down to No 12, while reality star Kim Kardashian plummeted to No 98.

The poll surveyed 2.4 million readers asking them to vote on which celebrity they would choose as a prospective partner, according to the website, which is a unit of News Corp. The top 99 are then compiled into the annual poll.

Rounding out the top five were actress Mila Kunis, model Kate Upton, R&B star Rihanna and "Crazy, Stupid, Love" actress Emma Stone.

Bassil said that lots of publicity often correlates to higher desirability ranking from men, but too many headlines can leave men looking elsewhere.

The most notable drop was socialite Kardashian, who fell 90 places from last year's No 8 ranking.

"Kim Kardashian is petering off and basically dropping off the list at this point even as she's become more visible," Bassil said.

Youth also appears to have taken a backseat in men's tastes as this year's rankings feature a handful of women over 40.

"We've seen that increasingly over the past two or three years," Bassil said. "Like most things in life, attractiveness is ex-

tending into middle age ... Who knows? In 20 years we could see 60-year-olds on the list."

Those over the age of 40 on the list include US First Lady Michelle Obama, 48; comedienne Sarah Silverman, 42; actress Lucy Liu, 44; and British actress Rachel Weisz, 42.

Reuters

Hugh Jackman changes mind, wants James Bond role after all

LONDON, 13 Dec—X-Men star Hugh Jackman says he will take on the role of James Bond when Daniel Craig gives up.

The 44-year-old actor said that he would like to play the iconic British secret agent in the future. Jackman, who plays ex-convict Jean Valjean in Les



X-Men star Hugh Jackman

Miserables, previously turned down the role of Bond but said he has some regrets over his decision,

Sun reported. Jackman joked that he will wait until Craig becomes too old to play the spy.

"I will just wait. The thing about Daniel is that he is, what, 62 now, isn't he? He is falling apart at the seams. So I just keep telling him, 'I'm ready, whenever you want to let him go'. The good thing is I also have a British passport," he said.

Jackman, who turned down the lead in 2006's Casino Royale to focus on the X-Men franchise, said, "At the time it was wrong for me but when I saw Daniel in the movie I thought I should have been more interested, because it was great. But I am great mates with Daniel and, you know, no-one could have played Bond better." he added.—Reuters

## Benzema limps out of Real's Cup match at Celta

MADRID, 13 Dec—France forward Karim Benzema was forced off in the first half of Real Madrid's King's Cup match at Celta Vigo on Wednesday, apparently with a foot problem.

Benzema's injury in the last-16 first leg adds to Real's problems in the forward line because Argentine Gonzalo Higuain, the La Liga club's only other recognised striker, is already sidelined.



**Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates his goal during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Real Valladolid at Zorrilla Stadium in Valladolid on 8 December, 2012.**

REUTERS

Benzema was replaced by midfielder Jose Callejon in the 33rd minute as Real, the 2011 winners, seek a place in the last eight, where they will play Valencia or Osasuna.—Reuters

## L'Equipe hands France's top awards to Serena and Bolt

PARIS, 13 Dec—Jamaica sprinter Usain Bolt, who retained his three Olympic titles at the London Games, was named sportsman of the year by French daily *L'Equipe* on Wednesday while American tennis player Serena Williams took the

great season. I worked a lot to win again. It has been a real pleasure and an honour to defend my titles," Bolt told the new *L'Equipe* 21 TV channel.



**Jamaica's double Olympic champion sprinter Usain Bolt strikes a pose while inaugurating a Puma store in Barcelona on 23 November, 2012.**

REUTERS

women's prize. Bolt had already received the main French sports award in 2008, after he won the 100 metres, the 200m and the 4x100m relay at the Beijing Olympics, and in 2009. "It has been a

2016 Olympics. Serena Williams, who finished the year third in the WTA rankings despite winning Wimbledon, singles and doubles gold at the Olympics and the US Open, took the women's award for the first time.

The 31-year-old was handed the trophy by the former world number one Martina Hingis.—Reuters

## Messi keeps on scoring as Real lose 2-1 at Celta

MADRID, 13 Dec—The apparently unstoppable Lionel Messi extended his record goals tally for 2012 to 88 when he scored twice to earn holders Barcelona a 2-0 win at second division Cordoba in their King's Cup last-16 first leg on Wednesday.

Real Madrid, the 2011 winners, fell two goals behind at La Liga rivals Celta Vigo but Cristiano Ronaldo's late strike to make it 2-1 put the 2011 winners in a reasonably strong position ahead of next week's second leg at their Bernabeu stadium.

Messi's Argentine

compatriot, Athletic Bilbao coach Marcelo Bielsa, had a wretched night when his side were dumped out by third tier Basque neighbours Eibar on away goals in their postponed last-32 second leg.

Mikel Arruabarrena's 72nd-minute penalty for Eibar at the San Mames sent the Segunda B side through after the second leg ended 1-1.

Eibar, who held Bilbao to a 0-0 draw in the first leg, will play Malaga in the last 16, with a quarter-final against Barca or Cordoba the prize for the winners.

Reuters

## Soccer

LONDON, 13 Dec—Arsene Wenger appeared a man in denial after his hapless Arsenal side were knocked out of the League Cup by a fourth tier English club who avoided relegation to non-league football by only six points last season.

Before an Arsenal side close to full strength had been humiliatingly defeated on penalties by Bradford City on Tuesday, Wenger complained that the dressing room facilities were not what his team were accustomed to.

Arsenal then played like a team who did not fancy any aspect of a freezing midweek night in the north of England against committed opponents who fully deserved their victory after the sides were locked at 1-1 following extra time.

Asked afterwards if he was embarrassed on an evening when his team, who with the exception of Santi Cazorla and Jack Wilshere created pretty patterns but failed to generate any real urgency or penetration, Wenger apparently saw no fault with his players.



**Arsenal's manager Arsene Wenger reacts ahead of their English League Cup soccer match against Bradford City in Bradford, northern England on 11 Dec, 2012.**

REUTERS

"You feel embarrassed when you don't give everything. I feel the team did fight and will be more disappointed and frustrated," he told Sky Sports.

"I cannot fault the effort. We have put the effort in (and) have given absolutely everything until the

last minute. It was a typical English Cup game and Bradford got on top of us in the end. We missed three penalties — that's a lot to take."

English bookmakers reacted with a far less charitable verdict, giving odds of 4/1 that Wenger will be the next Premier League manager to lose his job. William Hill quoted odds of 4/6 that Arsenal, who have not won a trophy since the 2005 FA Cup, will not win another under Wenger.

Wenger, who a decade ago used the League Cup as a proving ground for his seemingly unlimited pool of youthful talent, took advantage of playing their next league game on Monday to play eight of the team who beat West Bromwich Albion last Saturday.

Reuters

## Vidic poised for Man United return against Sunderland

MANCHESTER, 13 Dec—Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic has a chance of making his return from injury against Sunderland at Old Trafford on Saturday, manager Alex Ferguson said.

The Serbian international's availability is a timely boost for Ferguson because Jonny Evans suffered a hamstring injury in last weekend's Manchester derby win.

Vidic, who was not risked in the game against City despite United's well documented defensive frailties, has been restricted to five matches this season and underwent knee surgery in September.

"It would have been

crazy to play him against City, but against Sunderland — definitely," Ferguson was quoted as saying in *The Daily Mirror* on Wednesday.

"Evans had a hamstring problem. He got it in the first half in a challenge from (Mario) Balotelli but he played on while I had Chris Smalling warming up," Ferguson told United's website ([www.manutd.com](http://www.manutd.com)) after Sunday's match.

United have used several different central defensive pairings this season and conceded 23 goals in 16 Premier League games but they still top the table and have opened up a six-point lead over champions City.



Sunderland should be lifted by Tuesday's 3-0 win over Reading but defenders Danny Rose and Phil Bardley suffered injuries along with midfielder Adam Johnson.

The victory lifted the Black Cats up to 15th but they remain just one point clear of the relegation zone.—Reuters

**Manchester United's Nemanja Vidic stretches a ball during a training session at the club's Carrington training complex in Manchester, northern England on 4 December, 2012.—REUTERS**

## Scarponi banned for three months for visiting Ferrari

### Cycling



**Lampre-ISD's Michele Scarponi (R) of Italy climbs during the 169 km 15th stage of the Giro d'Italia from Busto Arsizio to Pian de Resinelli on 20 May, 2012.—REUTERS**

LONDON, 13 Dec—Last year's Giro d'Italia winner Michele Scarponi has been handed a three-month retroactive ban for visiting banned sports doctor Michele Ferrari, his team said on Wednesday.

Lampre team media officer Andrea Apiani told Reuters in a text message that Scarponi's ban started on 1 October, meaning that the Italian will be allowed to resume competition at the start of the 2013 season.

Scarponi had been suspended by Lampre on November 6 for an issue that referred "to a period when (he) did not ride for Lampre".

He admitted for the first

time that he had visited Ferrari on 25 October after the Italian sports daily *La Gazzetta dello Sport* published a report containing extracts from a Padua investigation into the doctor.

Ferrari, who has denied any wrongdoing, was banned for life by the US Anti-Doping Agency which said he had masterminded Lance Armstrong's doping programme during the years the American dominated the Tour de France.

Armstrong was also banned for life and stripped of his seven Tour titles.

Scarponi has already served an 18-month ban for his involvement in the Operation Puerto blood doping scandal.—Reuters

GENERAL

## Brazil's Corinthians reach Club World Cup final

TOYOTA, (Japan) 13 Dec—Corinthians beat African champions Al-Ahly 1-0 on Wednesday to reach the final of the Club World Cup but the Brazilian side failed to impress as they set up a potential showdown with Chelsea. Peru striker Paolo Guerrero twisted superbly to head the winner for the Libertadores Cup holders on the half-hour mark to the delight of the Corinthians fans in Toyota.

"We were expecting a difficult match," Corinthians coach Tite told reporters. "We had huge responsibility on us to win and mentally we

were under a lot of pressure." Corinthians, the first team since 1978 to win South America's premier club competition without losing a game, survived a second-half onslaught from Egypt's Al-Ahly to advance.

Chelsea, whose defence of their Champions League title ended in the group stage last week, face Mexico's Monterrey in the other semi-final in Yokohama on Thursday (1030 GMT).

The Chelsea players, stopping to watch the second half of the game in Yokohama's mixed zone after training, will have seen

precious little to worry them from the Brazilians.

Ramy Rabia and Elsayed Hamdi missed gilt-edged chances for Al-Ahly, whose players are still scarred by a stadium riot in which more than 70 fans died earlier this year.

Al-Ahly coach Hossam El Badry could hardly mask his disappointment after his side failed to take their chances after dominating the second half.

"I'm frustrated that we lost because it was a really good performance," he told reporters. "We made a mistake and got punished



Paolo Guerrero (2nd R) of Brazil's Corinthians heads the ball to score against Egypt's Al-Ahly during their Club World Cup semi-final soccer match in Toyota, central Japan on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

but we deserved to win the game."

European sides have won the last five editions of the Club World Cup, Barcelona lifting the trophy

in 2009 and 2011. Many fans have made the long trip from Brazil to cheer on Corinthians, the first winners of the FIFA competition in 2000.—Reuters

## German clubs, league agree on tighter security plan

FRANKFURT, 13 Dec—The German football league (DFL) and clubs from the top two tiers on Wednesday agreed on a tighter set of security measures after a sharp rise in violence and pressure from politicians to act. The DFL and the 36 clubs from the top two leagues voted in favour of tougher stadium checks, increased crackdown on flares and smoke bombs and tougher sanctions, video monitoring, and better-trained security staff.

"Professional football is coming out as a winner today," DFL President Reinhard Rauball told reporters. "All 16 points were accepted with a wide majority. Germany's football culture is not threatened by this. "It is good news that the DFL is in a position to make its own homework," said Rauball, relieved to have avoided an intervention from politics after Germany's interior ministry

had urged the DFL to act. Many fans, some 500 of whom had peacefully demonstrated outside the Frankfurt hotel where the meeting took place, have accused the DFL of spoiling their football experience and having had little input in drafting the concept.

"This is not a decision against fans but a decision in favour of football and its future," said Rauball. The concept, which also



includes home teams reducing or providing no tickets to away spectators at high-risk games, has triggered weeks of protests among fans. They remained silent for the first 12 minutes of every Bundesliga game in the past two weeks, chanted against the plan and pledged more protests even after the vote. The country's football association (DFB) also welcomed the decision. "It is an important sign for football and the majority of German licensed clubs voted in favour and showed unity," said DFB President Wolfgang Niersbach. "We need guidelines with everyone involved but we also need guidelines along which we can orientate ourselves."

German football is

### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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- \* News
- \* Media Dialogue
- \* C.S.I's Music Concert Charity Fan Fair Myanmar Movie "Invisible Bond"

**Riot police protect the entrance of a hotel from soccer fans during the German Soccer Federation (DFL) meeting in Frankfurt on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS**

## All the World Cup venues will be ready, says Brazil



An aerial view shows the construction site of the Arena da Amazonia, or Vivaldo Lima Stadium, as it is rebuilt to host the 2014 World Cup, in Manaus on 8 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

BRASILIA, 13 Dec—Manaus, one of the 12 cities due to stage football World Cup matches in Brazil in 18 months, will be ready on time, despite fears expressed by FIFA, Brazil's deputy sports minister Luis Fernandes said on Wednesday.

"There is no threat whatsoever to any of the 12 host cities not being ready in time," Fernandes told international journalists. "We are confident that all the host cities are confirmed and there are no threats to any of them." Last month, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke expressed concern that Manaus would not be ready in time.

"For us, the Brazilian government and our partners at municipal and state level the World Cup is an historic opportunity to ferment national development and that involves establishing regional development throughout the country," Fernandes said on Wednesday.

"Manaus is in the heart of the Amazon jungle and that has added to the

complexity of organising the World Cup there. It is not an area that has easy access as other cities do so it demands special attention because of the specific nature of the city.

"But we are in continuous discussions with the state government in terms of guaranteeing that all essential investment in terms of having the World

Cup there is in place.

"I don't think it is correct to say it is behind schedule with respect to what is essential for the World Cup to be there but there are a number of special challenges. Boats have to get there because they are going to be used as accommodation during the World Cup. We have to discuss whether people will stay there for the games or stay in other regions and fly in for games. There is no obstacle in place that will threaten Manaus hosting matches in 2014."

Fernandes said the government were well aware that operations and management of Brazil's airports needed to be improved before both the World Cup and next year's Confederations Cup tournament which is taking place in six of the 12 World Cup venues.

Reuters



Photo shows passengers enjoying taste of reading before their departure for other parts of Mandalay at Thiri Mandalay bus terminal, where a book corner is being kept open, in Aungmyay Thazan Township in Mandalay on 3 December.

KYEMON

## Union Defence Minister meets British delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received a British delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Rt.

Hon. Hugo George William Swire at the minister's office, here, this morning.

They held discussions on matters related to bilateral cooperation.

MNA

## Union A&I Minister looks into Myogyi multipurpose dam project

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited Singaing quality strain farm of Seed Division of Agriculture Department in Singaing Township of Mandalay Region yesterday.

On his inspection tour of Myogyi Dam in Ywangan Township of Shan State, the Union minister called for timely completion of the whole project in parallel with irrigation system that would benefit 33000 acres of farmlands in Meiktila

plain, thereby contributing towards Meiktila plain greening project.

Upon completion of the project, regional development through job creation could be realized for Ywangan Township and its vicinity with the use of 30 megawatts electricity generated by the dam.

Next, the Union Minister inspected construction of power tunnel and related structures and spillway, and equipment to be used in generating electricity.

MNA

## British Minister calls on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Rt. Hon. Hugo George William

Swire at the ministry, here, at 9 am today.

Promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting.—MNA

## Utility jade, gems and pearl sales-2012 concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — The five-day sales of utility jade and gems ended today at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall, attracting 2794 local merchants and 41 foreign merchants.

A total of 1520 lots of jade were put on sales in Myanmar kyat, and 205 lots of gems and 334 lots of pearl in US dollar through the tender system during the sales of utility jade, gems and pearl lots for 2012 which kicked off on 9 December.

Secretary of the central committee for holding the sales Managing Director of

Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and personnel from the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association supervised the sales when local and foreign merchants had competed to buy the utility jade lots through the open tender system this morning.

After Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung visited the sales through the tender system this afternoon, the sales ended. Today, being the last day of the sales, Mani Yadana Jade Hall was packed with a number of merchants and observers.—MNA



## Russia says Syrian rebels might win; car bomb kills 16

BEIRUT, 13 Dec — Syrian rebels are gaining ground and might win, Russia's deputy foreign minister said on Thursday, in the starkest such admission from a major ally of President Bashar al-Assad.

"One must look the facts in the face," Russia's state-run RIA quoted Mikhail Bogdanov as saying. "Unfortunately, the victory of the Syrian opposition cannot be ruled out."

Bogdanov, who is Kremlin's special envoy for Middle East affairs, said the Syrian government was "losing control of more and more territory" and that Moscow was preparing plans to evacuate Russian citizens if necessary.

Advancing rebels now hold an almost continuous arc of territory from the east to the southeast of Damascus, despite fierce army bombardments designed to drive them back.

A car bomb killed at least 16 men, women and children in Qatana, a town about 25 km (15 miles) southwest of Damascus where many soldiers live, activists and state media said.

The explosion occurred in a residential area for

soldiers in Qatana, which is near several army bases, said Rami Abdelrahman, head of the pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

He put the death toll as 17, including seven children and two women. State news agency SANA said 16 people had died.

State television blamed the blast on "terrorists" - its term for rebels - and showed footage of soldiers walking by a partly collapsed building, with rubble and twisted metal on the road.

The attack follows three bombs at the Interior Ministry on Wednesday evening, in which state news agency SANA said five people were killed, including Abdullah Kayrouz, a member of parliament from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party.

Apart from gaining territory in the outskirts of Damascus in recent weeks,

rebels have also made hit-and-run attacks or set off bombs within the capital, often targeting state security buildings or areas seen as loyal to Assad, such as Jaramana, where twin bombs killed 34 people in

November.—Reuters



Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales in progress at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

## Ayeyawady River conservation and all-round development tasks discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec — "Conservation of Ayeyawady River will be carried out. Local people will have the rights to consume the electricity generated from the River," said Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at a briefing of Ayeyawady River conservation and all-round development tasks

by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems held at the meeting hall of Myanma Port Authority (Head Office).

After that, Director-General U Tun Lwin Oo of the Directorate discussed matters related to Ayeyawady River conservation and all-round development tasks. Experts gave suggestions

on systematic studies on river conservation ways and seeking least environmentally damaging ways. Director-General Dr Har Yin Naing Tiyan of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Department discussed that the project would prevent the region from the flood. The climate in the central region would

be better.

The Union Minister also said that the maintenance of the River would be carried out without blocking the river. Electricity would be generated from the project. Media should make reviews and suggestions. It would not be implemented if people don't accept it.

MNA

