

President meets professors, faculty members, students at Mawlamyine University calling for overcoming challenges and obstacles

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met with professors, faculty members and students of the Mawlamyine University today.

Before the meeting, the President viewed thesis papers for doctorate courses including marine science for master's degrees displayed at the university.

He also called for keeping on conducting under and postgraduate courses at the university.

Speaking at the meeting on his first ever visit to the university, the President thanked the professors and faculty members for their teaching at the university and their contributions so that new generation students have morality and the patriotic spirit.

He also stressed the need for giving training to the students to improve their individual capacity and skill and expressed his hope that the students would have creativity.

In his speech, the president also praised the historic dignity of the university which produced medical practitioners, writers, leaders, senior military officers.

He told the students



President U Thein Sein meets faculty members and students of Mawlamyine University.—MNA

that Myanmar lagged behind in development though the country sits on natural resources including forests, minerals, aquatic and terrestrial resources.

He highlighted the

need for human resources who could utilize natural resources and tasked the education sector with it.

He guaranteed that the government's measures would not be irreversible,

calling for preparations for overcoming challenges and obstacles. He said the entire society of the country had the fine tradition of solving any issues with united efforts. The future

YANGON, 15 Dec— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected construction of Kungyangon sluice gate and supply of water to farmlands yesterday. At the briefing hall of the sluice gate, Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing of Irrigation Department and irrigation superintending engineer of Yangon Region U Myint Swe reported the minister on preventive measures against floods and summer and monsoon paddy growing in Twantay,

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing inspects Kungyangon sluice gate.

MNA

of the country relies on the graduates, he said. He called for constant learning and continuing education even after receiving first degree. He urged the faculty members and the university

Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships and extension of creeks in Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships. Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Khin Shwe presented Zaygaba Co's aids programme for development of farm sector in the region and rural development and the requirements of machineries and technicians and works. U Maung Kyae of Green Asia Co also discussed aids programme for farm sector development and transformation to mechanized farming.

After that, the Union Minister expressed his thanks for assistances to be provided by Zaygaba Co and Green Asia Co. He said that farm sector could help the ordinary people

students to help prevent the backsliding of the democratic reforms.

The President then met the rectors of the University of Mawlamyine, the (See page 9)

generate higher income and better social status. For farm sector development, cooperation was to be made by the State, Hluttaw representatives and the people. Region government was to ask for government funds for maintenance of canals, creeks and sluice gate. Efforts were to be made for implementation of all in the open season. Modern rice mills were to be built with the assistances of local and foreign investments.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party looked into plantations and canals along the village-to-village road and construction site of Tarpyat Theinzayat sluice gate in Kungyangon township.

MNA

Zaygaba contributes to farming development



Group stage draw for AFC Challenge Cup 2014



YANGON, 15 Dec — Organized by Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the group stage draw for the AFC Challenge Cup 2014 took place at the office of AFC in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia on 11 December.

Myanmar falls in group A together with India, China Taipei and Guam. Group B is formed with Kirgystan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Macao. Laos, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia are in Group C. Group D consists of the Philippines, Turkmenistan, Cambodia and Brunei. The group stage will start during the month of March in 2013. From the group stage matches,

top five football teams with highest marks and the best two group stage teams will emerge as AFC Challenge CUP qualifiers. Those AFC qualifiers will take part in final stage together with the host Maldives football team.

Myanmar will host group stage matches of Group A at Thuwunna Stadium from 2 to 6 March.

This year is the fourth time for Myanmar football team that competed in the AFC Challenge Cup since 2008. Myanmar stood fourth place in 2008 and 2010, but the team failed to qualify for AFC Challenge Cup-2012.

Kyemon

Fire victims provided with cash assistance

YANGON, 15 Dec — Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win comforted victims of fire which broke out at about 7.45 pm at the market of Nat-than-kwin village in Kyaukkyi Township of Bago Region, and provided them with cash assistance.

The chief minister presented K 150,000 each to owners of fire-ravaged

shops, the secretary of Region government, K 50000 each to vendors, and the region development affairs minister, K 2.9 million for reconstruction of the shops destroyed in the fire.

Cash assistance presented by the Bago region government to the fire victims amounted to K 8 million.

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Photo shows a 900-acre Hsinthwelat, Hsin Thukha and Yezin (special) paddy plantation which is being harvested by farmers near Chanthagyi, Chinsu and Thayarkon villages of Sipaing village-tract in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recently.

KYEMON

Pakokku Home for the Aged turns 60

PAKOKKU, 15 Dec — The Home for the Aged in Pakokku was founded by Daw Oo Zunn in 1299. Now the Home turns 60. "Plans are underway to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the Home on a grand scale", a responsible person said.

Up to date, eight old men and 16 old women have lived there. Daw Khin San Myaing, the oldest at the Home, is 94 years old and she is in good health. "Donation

for the breakfast of the elderly costs K 15000 and the lunch and dinner K 2500 each", U Thauang Shwe of the Home said.

The Homes for the Aged established by Daw Oo Zunn are Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Yangon, Paungde, Thaton, Mingun and Pakokku Homes for the Aged. Pakokku Home for the Aged is situated near Thankheik Nunnery in Ward-3 of Pakokku.

Kyemon

Paungde sees free clinic

PAUNGDE, 15 Dec — An opening of free clinic founded by a group of people who are working together for a common purpose was held at the clinic on Shwedaung road in Paungde of Pyay District, Bago Region on 12 December.

Free health care service will be given to everyone regardless of race and religion at the clinic. — Kyemon



Globetrotters throng places of interest in Mandalay, Bagan NyaungU, PyinOoLwin, Amarapura, Sagaing, Mingun regions

MANDALAY, 15 Dec — Mandalay sees daily arrival of tourists who visit Maha Muni Buddha Image, Mya Nann Sankyaw Shwe Nanndaw, Mandalay Hill, Sanda Muni Buddha Image, Kyaundawgyi Pagoda and Shwekyauing in groups.

Locally-produced bunches of bananas, watermelons and tomatoes and Myanmar *thanakha* trading at fruit stalls near Zaygyo market attract globetrotters.

They also make a study

tour of gold embroidery and gold leaf-making businesses.

During their tours, they visit Amarapura, U Pein bridge, Sagaing, PyinOoLwin and Bagan-NyaungU regions where souvenir shops are doing a

brisk trade.

As tourists love beauty of nature and are interested in ancient cultural heritages, Mandalay, Bagan NyaungU, PyinOoLwin, Amarapura, Sagaing and Mingun regions have become popular tourist

destinations where places of interest are crowded with globetrotters from various countries such as Italy, Spain, Germany, Sweden, the United States of America, Australia, Thailand, China and Japan. — Kyemon

New hotel accommodation for Innlay region

TAUNGGYI, 15 Dec — With an increased number of visitors at home and abroad, Shan State government is arranging to establish a hotel zone in Innlay region with the aim of boosting tourism sector through emergence of hotels with

excellent facilities. Aimed at ensuring transparency and successful implementation of the tasks with momentum, a leading committee for implementation of hotel zone in Innlay region was formed together with work committees on 22 November.

Press release regarding the implementation of hotel zone will be issued frequently. There are two four-star hotels, seven three-star hotels, nine two-star hotels, 13 one-star hotels and 13 hotels with no star in the region. — Kyemon

Prado knocks down old woman on Pathein-Ngwehsaung road

PATHEIN, 15 Dec — A Prado with the vehicle with the number plate No.1C/... driving from Pathein to Ngwehsaung hit an old woman who was crossing Pathein-Ngwehsaung road at a place between mile post No. (5/1) and (5/2) in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region at about 5.30 pm on 11 December.

Daw Toe Lay (72 years) of Wardawgyi village in the township was knocked down by the vehicle while she was crossing over the road. She died on the spot in the road accident.

The name of the driver

is under investigation.

Thinbawgyin Police Station filed a lawsuit against

the driver for his reckless driving.

Kyemon



TRUCK PLUNGES INTO ROAD SIDE: Photo shows 22-wheeled container truck which was plunging down the embankment at the top of Chinsu Plywood factory street on Yangon-Mandalay motorway in Bago on 12 December. — KYEMON

WORLD

Italy Italian experts expect Monti's key political role after vote

ROME, 15 Dec—Prime Minister Mario Monti's announcement of resignation followed by his participation in the European People's Party (EPP) meeting has marked his transition from the head technician of an unelected government to a politician with a key role in Italy's future, local experts said on Friday.

Though Monti said he made a surprise visit on Thursday to the EPP meeting in Brussels to deliver reassurances on Italy's austerity agenda, various analysts agreed that the move looked very much like a specific act of stance-taking.

The existence in the country of a representation vacuum that leaves centrist groups without a compass has been certified, and Monti could enter the race as the head of a coalition of moderate parties, or in some capacity by endorsing one of

the forces that have backed his reforms.

"My personal opinion and sensation is that Monti would make himself available, though he will speak about his future only after he has handed in resignation," said Gabriele Albertini, head of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Albertini said it is difficult to outline the features of Monti's next political role.

However, should the prime minister decide to run for a second mandate, thus "sacrificing his almost certain election as the next Italian president," he would make a "commendable" choice in the frame of the painful but necessary efforts he has carried out to lead Italy out of its dramatic debt crisis, Albertini pointed out. Referring to pollsters, Albertini noted that in fact, Monti is the most respected Italian leader both in the country

and abroad, which makes his entering politics highly desirable.

Though acknowledging that latest events point to an upcoming political role of the emergency prime minister, Massimo Cacciari, a noted political scientist, ruled out some guesses on whether Monti will be the man who federates Italy's moderate voters or runs someone else's platform as simplifications. Cacciari wished that Monti would have a key role in Italy's future, but his next moves are shrouded in mystery and will depend on "many factors including the challenge to build a strong enough list" over the national elections expected next February, Cacciari told *Xinhua*.

Echoing the other experts' words, Aldo Cazzullo, an influential political commentator of national newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, said it is now "evident that Monti has

no intention to get out of his responsibilities."

"Europe, international institutions, markets and also a part of Italy's political world have clearly asked him to stay, but an official candidature would be the decisive step," he told *Xinhua*. In his view, Monti has three main possibilities ahead of him. "He could run as prime minister and lead the moderate alignment, or allow the alignment to insert his name in the list which is almost the same thing as presenting himself as a candidate, or limit to endorse that group," the commentator said.—*Xinhua*



Students view handicrafts made of wastes and scraps during an exhibition in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu province, on 14 Dec, 2012. A ten-day show themed on environmental protection opened here on Friday, during which over 1,800 artworks made by local primary and middle school students are displayed.

XINHUA

Connecticut gun rampage: 28 dead, including 20 schoolchildren

US

NEWTOWN, 15 Dec—Twenty schoolchildren were slaughtered by a heavily armed gunman who opened fire at a suburban elementary school in Connecticut on Friday, killing at least 27 people including himself in the one of the worst mass shootings in US history.

The 20-year-old gunman, who law enforcement sources identified as Adam Lanza, opened fire on a classroom at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Con-

necticut, which serves children from ages 5 to 10.

Authorities found 18 children and seven adults, including the gunman, dead at the school, and two children were pronounced dead later after being taken to a hospital. Another adult was found dead at a related crime scene in Newtown, bringing the toll to 28, state police Lieutenant Paul Vance said. As reports of the shooting spread, panicked parents rushed to the school searching

for their children as students covered in blood were being carried out of the building.

President Barack Obama, wiping away tears and pausing to collect his emotions in an address to the nation, mourned the "beautiful little kids between the ages of 5 and 10 years old" who were killed.

"Our hearts are broken today, for the parents, and grandparents, sisters and brothers of these little children and for the families of the adults who were lost," Obama said, his voice cracking.

"Our hearts are broken for the parents of the survivors as well, for as blessed as they are to have their children home tonight, they know that their children's innocence has been torn away from them too early and there are no words that will ease their pain," said Obama, who has two young daughters.

"Evil visited this community today," Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy told reporters.

Reuters

Defiant leader of Cayman Islands under pressure to resign

The entrance to the home of Cayman Islands Premier McKeeva Bush after investigators searched inside for evidence of economic crimes, in Georgetown on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

GEORGE TOWN, 15 Dec—Embattled Cayman Islands Premier McKeeva Bush faced growing pressure to resign on Friday after his arrest on suspicion of theft and corruption in the offshore Caribbean financial centre. A defiant Bush, who has blamed his troubles on the governor of the British overseas territory, has said since his detention that he did nothing wrong and has no plans to step

down. But opposition leader Alden McLaughlin, who took the first steps toward getting the premier removed by parliament on Friday, has publicly called on members of Bush's own cabinet to oust him and appoint someone from their own ranks to serve as head of the government.

"Mr Bush is plainly treating the matter of his arrest with utter impunity and is determined to return to business as usual,"

McLaughlin said in a televised address on Thursday night. "It is untenable that for the foreseeable future, business people will have to explain to any foreign investor or person doing business in Cayman how it is that the premier of the Cayman Islands continues in office after having been arrested and bailed on suspicion of having committed serious offenses," he said. Bush, 57, was arrested on Tuesday by members of the Financial Crime Unit of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. He was released on police bail until February, pending the possible filing of criminal charges against him. Authorities have declined to give specific details of the probe targeting Bush, saying only that it included allegations of theft and misuse of a government credit card.—*Reuters*

Kazakhstan plans to introduce direct elections for town, village mayors

ALMATY, 15 Dec—Kazakh President Nultan Nazarbayev said on Friday that he plans to introduce direct elections for town and village mayors starting next year.

Nazarbayev said more than 2,500 local and regional posts, such as village and town mayors, would be elected. That means more than 90 percent of mayors at all levels will be elected, he said. This is one of a raft of reforms announced by Nazarbayev in his annual state of the nation address, which

focused on cataloging the country's achievements during Nazarbayev's tenure.

Nazarbayev said Kazakhstan has attracted 160 billion US dollars in foreign investment, much of which has gone to developing the oil-rich country's energy and mineral resources. However, the president said his country would not rush into reforms before the economic conditions were right, adding every step of political reform is closely tied to the level of economic development.—*Xinhua*

CAPE TOWN, 15 Dec—The South African Communist Party (SACP) on Friday condemned the murder of a provincial secretary of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), saying the killing "represents barbarism of the worst kind." "We strongly condemn this incident as it has no place in our democracy, but above all in our ANC-led revolutionary alliance," the SACP said in a statement. Obuti Chika, ANC's regional secretary in the North West Province, was killed outside his house in Klerksdorp in the North West Province early on Friday.

The murder came two days before the ANC convenes its 53rd elective conference in Manguang, the Free State to

elect its leadership.

ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said the shooting was a reflection of people fighting for positions in the party. "People think if you are in a particular position you are an obstacle. They want to remove you," Mantashe said at a breakfast briefing hosted by the *New Age* newspaper in Johannesburg.

The SACP said the ANC as a movement in the North West has attracted too many criminal elements into its ranks who unfortunately masquerade as political factions.

"There is also too much money from proceeds of corruption in Municipalities and Departments that is used to continue destabilizing the

province." As the ANC is gearing for its conference scheduled for 16-20 Dec to elect the party's top leadership and adopt development policies for the next five years, there have been reports of disruptions, violence and internal fighting in events leading up to the conference. The murder of Chika happened within weeks after the car of SACP Provincial Secretary Madoda Sambatha was torched at his home.

Unidentified gunmen had previously tried to murder ANC Provincial Secretary Kabelo Mataboge and COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions) Provincial Secretary Solly Phetoe continuously received death threats.

The developments "dem-

onstrate the seriousness of the political situation of the North West Province," the SACP said. The SACP voiced hope that the unfortunate developments in the North West can get the necessary attention of the ANC elective conference so as to ensure that the ANC get rid of criminal elements within its ranks, brings to an end the systematic corruption within the province and unite real and loyal members of the ANC. "We call on all members of our movement at this stage to be calm and avoid making unfounded allegations or giving misleading conclusions," said the SACP, which is a partner in the Tripartite Alliance consisting of the ANC and COSATU.—*Xinhua*

Africa



People grieve outside the overflow area of a vigil at the Saint Rose of Lima church in Newtown, Connecticut on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

SACP condemns murder of ANC official

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA moon-mapping mission to come to a crashing end

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., 15 Dec—NASA plans to crash a pair of small robotic science probes into the moon next week after a successful year-long mission to learn what lies beneath the lunar surface, officials said on Thursday.

The twin Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory, or *GRAIL*, spacecraft will make suicidal plunges on Monday into a mountain near the moon's north pole, a site selected to avoid the chance of hitting any of the Apollo or

other lunar relics.

The impacts, which are not expected to be visible from Earth, will take place about 20 seconds apart at 5:28 pm EST (2228 GMT) on Monday.

"They're going to be completely blown apart," *GRAIL* project manager David Lehman, with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Cali-

fornia, told reporters on a conference call. Almost out of fuel and currently flying just 7 miles above the lunar surface, the probes will make a final



NASA handout image shows an artist's concept of the Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (*GRAIL*) mission's twin spacecraft in orbit around the moon.

REUTERS

steering maneuver on Friday and shut down their science instruments in preparation for Monday's crash. The two spacecraft, each about the size of a small washing machine, have been flying in close formation around the moon for nearly a year to map the lunar gravity. Scientists precisely measure the distance between the

two, a figure that slightly changes as they fly over denser regions of the moon. The gravitational pull of the additional mass causes first the leading probe and then the following one to speed up, altering the gap between them.

Gravity maps from the first part of the mission, collected between March and May 2012 when the spacecraft were about 34 miles above the lunar surface, revealed the moon has a shallower and much more fractured crust

than expected—the result of asteroid and comet impacts billions of years ago.

"We know that the moon had been bombarded by impacts but what we found is just how broken up and fractured the crust of the moon is," said lead scientist Maria Zuber, with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Similar bombard-

ments happened on all the solid bodies of the inner solar system though the evidence on Earth has been erased by erosion, plate tectonics and other phenomena.

"With Mars, there's a questions about where did the water that we think was on the surface go," Zuber said. "These fractures provide a pathway deep inside the planet and it's very easy to envision now how a possible ocean on the surface could have found its way deep into the crust."

Scientists also discovered lava-filled subterranean cracks inside the moon, evidence that the body expanded early in its history.

In addition to planetary science, the gravity maps, along with detailed images of the lunar surface, should help engineers pick landing sites for future robotic and human expeditions to the moon, Zuber said.

Reuters

Science

Human link to climate change stronger than ever

LONDON, 15 Dec—International climate scientists are more certain than ever that humans are responsible for global warming, rising sea levels and extreme weather events, according to a leaked draft report by an influential panel of experts.

The early draft, which is still subject to change before a final version is released in late 2013, showed that a rise in global average temperatures since pre-industrial times was set to exceed 2 degrees Celsius by 2100, and may reach 4.8 Celsius.

"It is extremely likely that human activities have caused more than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperatures since the 1950s," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) draft report said.

"Extremely likely" in the IPCC's language means a level of certainty of at least 95 percent. The next level is "virtually certain",

or 99 percent, the greatest possible certainty for the scientists.

The IPCC's previous report, in 2007, said it was at least 90 percent certain that human activities, led by burning fossil fuels, were the cause of rising temperatures. The draft was shown on a climate change skeptic blog.

The IPCC said the unauthorized, premature posting of the draft may lead to confusion because the report was still work in progress and was likely to change before it is released.

A United Nations conference last week aimed at curbing emissions of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming yielded no progress and three countries—Canada, Russia and Japan—have abandoned the Kyoto Protocol limiting the emissions. The United States never ratified it in the first place, and it excludes developing countries where emissions are growing most quickly.—Reuters

Apple falls on lower shipment forecasts, muted China debut

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Dec—Apple Inc shares fell 3.9 percent on Friday after the iPhone 5 debuted in China to a cool reception and two analysts cut shipment forecasts.

Jefferies analyst Peter Misek trimmed his iPhone shipment estimates for the Jan-March quarter, saying that the technology company had started cutting orders to suppliers to balance excess inventory.

Shares of Apple suppliers Jabil Circuit Inc, Qualcomm Inc, Skyworks Solutions Inc, TriQuint Semiconductor Inc, Avago Technologies Ltd, and Cirrus Logic Inc also fell in early trading.

Apple shares have lost a quarter of their value since they hit a life high of \$705.07 on 21 September, as it faces

increasing competition from phones using Google Inc's Android operating system.

Misek cut his first-quarter iPhone sales estimate to 48 million

from 52 million and gross margin expectations for the company by 2 percentage points to 40 percent. UBS Investment Research cut its price target on Apple stock to \$700 from \$780 on lower expected iPhone and iPad shipments for the March quarter.

The brokerage said it was modeling more conservative growth for the world's biggest technology company after making supply chain checks that revealed that fewer iPhones were being built.

"Some of our Chinese sources do not expect the iPhone 5 to do as well as the iPhone 4S," UBS analyst Steven Milunovich wrote in a note to clients.

Apple launched the iPhone 5 in China on Friday, a move widely expected to bring the

Cupertino-based company some respite from a recent slide in market share in China, but early reports indicated

that demand may not be as great as expected.

An Apple logo is seen at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference 2012 in San Francisco, California on 11 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Tech

Softbank caps Sprint's Clearwire bid; investors want more

NEW YORK, 15 Dec—Sprint Nextel Corp's \$2.1 billion offer to buy out Clearwire Corp appeared to be running into trouble on Thursday, as some shareholders said they wanted more money while Softbank Corp set a cap on how much Sprint could pay.

Sprint, which owns 50.45 percent of Clearwire, offered \$2.90 per share for the rest of the company and said it would also provide interim financing of \$800 million to the cash-strapped company. Any deal would need approval by Softbank, which has agreed to buy 70 percent of Sprint for about \$20 billion.

Clearwire shareholders, who together hold about 7.6 percent of the company, criticized the Sprint offer on Thursday,

with some saying that the No 3 US wireless carrier should raise its bid to at least \$5 per share. Holders of at least 24.8 percent of Clearwire's outstanding stock, other than Sprint, need to approve the deal.

Clearwire, which is reviewing the Sprint offer, saw its shares jump almost 15 percent on Thursday to \$3.16, suggesting investors expected a higher price.

But Softbank has told Sprint that it would not consent to any Clearwire bid higher than \$2.97 per share, two sources close to the matter said.

The threshold is the same price that Sprint recently paid to buy a small stake from Clearwire founder Craig McCaw's Eagle River Holdings LLC. Sprint, Clearwire and



A jogger runs past a Softbank shop in Tokyo on 16 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Softbank declined to comment on the details of these discussions. For Clearwire, the deal is one of the few options it might have to survive in the long term. The company needs to raise more financing to upgrade its network and to keep the business afloat. It has said that it has enough money to

last it until the third quarter.

Stabilizing Clearwire is also in Sprint's interest, which not only has a majority ownership of the company. The hurdles Sprint is running into highlight the complexities it faces in trying to take on its larger rivals, Verizon Wireless and AT&T Inc.—Reuters

Infosys says settles whistleblower lawsuit in the US

drawn following successful mediation, the company said in a statement on its website. An amicable settlement has been reached without any admission of liability, Infosys said. Tripuraneni, an American ex-employee, had said he was harassed by his supervisor after he accused Infosys of visa fraud, accord-

ing to the lawsuit filed on 2 August in the federal court for the Northern District of California.

A separate lawsuit by another employee Jack Palmer, alleging retaliation after pointing out what he said was the misuse of US B1 visas, was thrown out by a US judge in August.—Reuters

Employees of Indian software company Infosys walk past Infosys logos at their campus in the Electronic City area in Bangalore on 4 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS



BANGALORE, 15 Dec—Infosys, India's No 2 software services firm, said on Friday it settled a lawsuit

filed by former employee Satya Dev Tripuraneni.

The lawsuit filed against the company has been with-

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Lundbeck's alcohol dependency drug wins EU green light

Health

LONDON, 15 Dec—A novel drug to fight alcohol dependency was given a green light by European regulators on Friday, providing a boost to Danish drugmaker Lundbeck at a time when its top product faces a big drop in sales.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said on Friday it recommended approval of Selincro in conjunction with counseling for the reduction of alcohol consumption in adults dependent on drink.

Recommendations from the EMA are normally endorsed by the European Commission within two or three months, implying the drug could be launched in Europe early next year.

That is good news for Lundbeck, which needs new drugs to replace lost sales from antidepressant Ciprale, sold as Lexapro in the United States and Japan, which is now coming off patent.

Alcohol abuse is theoretically a vast market, although it is unclear whether doctors will be ready to prescribe a drug as a treatment and whether Lundbeck has the marketing muscle to make a big impact.

Lundbeck Chief Executive Ulf Wiinberg told Reuters last week that Selincro was "a bit of a joker in our portfolio" because of uncertainty as to how it will be used in practice.

The drug, which blocks the action of opioid receptors in the brain, was licensed to Lundbeck from Finland's Biotie Therapies and shares in Biotie jumped as much as 16 percent on the news, while Lundbeck rose around 1 percent.

"Clearly, the news is a much-needed boost to sentiment for the (Lundbeck) shares," said Deutsche Bank analyst Tim Race.



A customer takes a bottle of vodka from a shelf at a Russian supermarket in Benidorm, on 26 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

"However, we suspect the market will refrain from pricing-in significant upside from the drug given uncertainties in reimbursement and Lundbeck's ability to penetrate this market without a major partner." Race said current consensus forecasts suggested modest sales of 540 million Danish crowns (\$95 million) in 2016.

More important for Lundbeck will be the verdict from regulators in North America and Europe late next

year on a new antidepressant being developed with Japanese partner Takeda Pharmaceutical that analysts see as a potential \$1-2 billion-a-year seller.

Developing new treatments for depression has proved an uphill battle for drugmakers in recent times but vortioxetine has produced encouraging clinical trial results and its unique mode of action and flexible dosing could make it a winner.

Reuters

EU agency rejects Sanofi, Isis cholesterol drug

Health

LONDON, 15 Dec—European regulators recommended against approval of Sanofi and Isis Pharmaceutical's Kynamro drug for treatment of a rare genetic disorder that causes unusually high cholesterol.

The European Medicines Agency said it was concerned about the medicine's safety, noting that a high proportion of patients stopped taking it within two years, mainly due to side effects such as flu-like symptoms, injection site reactions and liver toxicity.

The European rebuff contrasts with a green light for the drug, known generically as mipomersen, by a US advisory panel in October.

Sanofi's Genzyme unit said it was disappointed by the decision and planned to request a re-examination.

A Sanofi spokeswoman said the company expected feedback from the regulator in the second quarter of 2013.

Isis founder and Chief Executive Stanley Crooke said on a conference call with analysts he was still optimistic on securing approvals in both the United States and Europe.

"Even though I cannot address the specific concerns of the (EU) committee ... I can say that each issue raised by the (committee) was thoroughly reviewed by the FDA," Crooke said. "We do not believe that today's opinion should have a negative impact elsewhere."

At 1514 GMT Sanofi shares were trading 0.1 percent lower at 71.72 euros, in line with the CAC 40 index, while Isis was up 0.3 percent at \$9.87 in New York.

California-based Isis is entitled to 30 percent of total sales of Kynamro once the drug reaches the market, rising to 50 percent for sales over \$2 billion.

Reuters

Swiss banks face more pressure after German setback

Business


Trams drive past the offices of Swiss banks UBS (L) and Credit Suisse at Paradeplatz square in Zurich on 10 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

ZURICH, 15 Dec—Switzerland's banks have suffered a major setback in their fight to maintain client secrecy after Germany rejected a key tax pact to sweep Swiss accounts clean of tax dodgers.

Switzerland is trying to protect its \$2 trillion (1.23 trillion pounds) offshore banking industry by striking deals with European neighbours that allow their citizens to pay tax on secret Swiss accounts without revealing their identity.

The German deal's failure — even as others with Britain and Austria go ahead — is a big blow to the Swiss government because the northern neighbour has traditionally been the biggest foreign market for Swiss private banks, which hold an estimated 150 billion Swiss francs (\$161 billion) in German assets.

"Switzerland still hasn't solved the problems of its past, which means it should put together a Plan 'B' as quickly as possible," said Heiko Kubaile, partner at KPMG in Zurich and head of German tax and legal.

Swiss officials are

struggling to reconcile strict national laws protecting banking secrecy with intense international pressure to get at lost tax revenue.

Switzerland remains embroiled in a long-simmering tax dispute with the United States targeting Credit Suisse (CSGN.VX) and a host of other banks suspected of helping clients dodge US taxes.

Switzerland has agreed to allow foreign governments to get information on groups of bank clients based on suspicious behavioural patterns, such as using a bank-provided mobile phone, bringing itself into line with standards laid out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on group requests.—Reuters



The Fiat logo is pictured at an event to introduce the 2013 Fiat 500 cars at the 2012 Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles, California on 28 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

MILAN/NEW YORK, 15 Dec—Italian carmaker Fiat SpA (FIA.MI) rebutted a report that it was set to

raise money from banks to finance its purchase of more of Chrysler, saying it had no need for such funds.

Chevron nears settlement in Brazil spill case

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Dec—Chevron Corp is willing to pay about 300 million reais (89 million pounds) to settle lawsuits in Brazil over an oil spill last year, a senior executive and a federal prosecutor said on Friday.

The talks over a possible settlement reinforce expectations of a swift resolution for Chevron (CVX.N), the No 2 US oil company, and its drilling contractor Transocean Ltd.

Related moves by Brazil's oil regulator, the ANP, could also lead to a quick restart of output at Chevron's Frade field, the location of the spill, which has been shut since March. "We could have an agreement before Christmas," Gisele Porto, the prosecutor responsible for the case, said after a public hearing. "The amount is reasonable, and I

don't think I could get a judge to sign off on more."

She said Chevron and Brazil's oil regulator, the ANP, suggested that the settlement include 311 million reais worth of damages and additional measures to improve the safety of offshore oil operations.

"It's our understanding

that if this settlement is accepted that the civil lawsuits will be extinct," said Rafael Jaen Williamson Chevron's director of corporate affairs in Brazil. Chevron will pay the entire cost of the settlement, Williamson said. Transocean was found to have no responsibility in the spill by the ANP.—Reuters



A lit sign at Chevron's oil refinery in Richmond, California is seen through a window after a large fire erupted earlier in the evening on 6 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Fiat denies it will raise bank funds for Chrysler buy

Business

Instead, Sergio Marchionne, chief executive of Fiat and Chrysler, said on Friday that Fiat could raise cash by selling assets such as its components unit Magneti Marelli.

At a brief, impromptu news briefing in New York, Marchionne said Fiat has no need to tap the debt or equity markets to raise cash for the planned purchase of remaining Chrysler shares. Fiat owns 58.5 percent of the No 3 US automaker.

While Fiat has ample cash on hand, he added, it could raise additional money if needed by selling assets, citing Magneti Marelli, which had revenue of 5.8 billion euros (4.6 billion pounds) last year, as an operation that could be sold.

In the current weak economic environment, Marchionne said, "the availability of cash is crucial. It's better to be safe than sorry."

In Italy, Fiat commented

on an unsourced report in Il Messaggero that said Fiat was sounding out UniCredit (CRDI.MI), Morgan Stanley (MS.N), Bank of America (BAC.N) and Goldman Sachs (GS.N) about the possibility of raising between 1 and 2 billion euros.

"Fiat states there is no specific project in such respect, and believes that there is no need for a capital increase," the company said in a statement on Friday.

Reuters

WORLD

Blast targets oil well in southeast Yemen

ADEN, (Yemen), 15 Dec—A powerful explosion on Friday hit an oil well in Yemen's southeastern Province of Hadramout, a government official told *Xinhua*. Several groups of masked gunmen attacked an oil well located in the area of Hadaba in Hadramout Province, causing a powerful explosion and spills of oil, the local government official said on condition of anonymity.

"The huge blast targeted an oil well at Block 9 operated by Canada's Calvalley Petroleum company," the source said. "The actual damage on the oil line is yet to be assessed by the technicians there," he added.

Militants of the Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot are believed to be behind the pipeline bombing, according to the official.

Local leaders of the al-Qaeda terrorist group were not available for comments.

The country's transitional government, which depends on oil exports for up to 70 percent of its budget, is struggling to launch a UN-backed reconciliation national dialogue by the end of this month to reunite the divided nation.—*Xinhua*



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) talks with British Prime Minister David Cameron during the second day's meeting of EU Summit in Brussels, capital of Belgium on 14 Dec, 2012. —XINHUA

Mediation expert urges better handling of post-election

Africa impasse in Ghana

TEMA, 15 Dec—A conflict mediation expert in Ghana, Austin Gamey, Friday called for a better handling of the country's post-election impasse, saying the manner matters had been managed was not the best.

There has been rising tension between supporters of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the main opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP), with the latter accusing its opponents of having rigged the presidential election won by incumbent President John Dramani Mahama.

Mahama polled 50.70 percent of the total valid votes cast as compared to 47.7 percent by his closest

challenger and candidate of the NPP, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

Gamey, Chief Executive Officer of Gamey and Gamey Academy of Mediation (GGAM), warned that the situation, if not properly handled, could worsen, considering the growing tension between supporters of the two main political parties.

Gamey, who is also Executive Consultant for Pulse Africa Incorporated, an associate of Pulse Institute, a mediation group in Canada, made this observation when he addressed the media here, 38 km east of the Ghanaian capital, Accra.

Xinhua

Israeli foreign minister quits after indictment



Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman is seen during a convention of his Yisrael Beiteinu party in Jerusalem, in this 13 April, 2011 file picture.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 15 Dec—Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman resigned on Friday after being charged with fraud and breach of trust, a move that could impact on January's election which his party, merged with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud, was tipped to win.

Israel's Justice Ministry said on Thursday it would charge Lieberman over alleged irregularities tied to the promotion of an Israeli

diplomat who had leaked him privileged information about a police probe into his activities.

More serious allegations, including money-laundering and bribery, were dropped, but even the lesser charges cast a cloud over his political future and within 24 hours of receiving the ministry report, he stood down.

"I have decided to resign my post as foreign minister and deputy prime minister and ... also to remove my (parliamentary) immunity

forthwith so I can end this matter quickly, without delay and clear my name absolutely," Lieberman said in an emailed statement.

Netanyahu will serve as acting foreign minister until the 22 January election, an official said. Lieberman is not prohibited by law to run in the election, but it was unclear whether he would choose to do so.

On his Facebook page, Lieberman wrote that he hoped the case would be settled before the vote and that he would return to public office.

Lieberman's right-wing party Yisrael Beiteinu (Our Home is Israel) and Netanyahu's Likud group have formed an electoral pact ahead of the ballot and opinion polls had predicted they would win.

Lieberman is second on the party list after Netanyahu and before his indictment he was widely expected to retain a top cabinet position in the case of victory.

"I am also doing this because I believe the citizens

Tearful Obama calls for "meaningful action" after school shooting

US

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec—Choking up and wiping away tears, President Barack Obama said on Friday "our hearts are broken" for the victims of a deadly shooting rampage at a Connecticut elementary school and called for "meaningful action" to prevent such violence.

"We've endured too many of these tragedies in the past few years," Obama said during a televised appearance in the White House briefing room just hours after one of the worst mass shootings in US history. Pausing to collect himself as he expressed "overwhelming grief" as a parent, Obama deplored the "heinous" attack by a heavily armed gunman at a school in Newtown, Connecticut that killed 26 people, including 20 children. The shooter is also dead, police said.

Obama, who has responded to previous shooting massacres by citing the need for a national conversation about gun violence, again stopped short of calling for tougher gun-control laws, considered a politically risky in a country known for its flourishing gun culture.

"As a country, we have been through this too many times," Obama said, ticking off a list of recent shootings.

"And we're going to

Middle East

of Israel are entitled to go to the ballot after the matter has been resolved, meaning after a legal decision has been made before the election and I will be able to continue to serve the state of Israel," Lieberman wrote on his Facebook page.

Reuters

have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics," he said, in an apparent reference to the influence of the National Rifle Association, a powerful pro-gun lobby, over members of Congress.

"Our hearts are broken today, for the parents, and grandparents, sisters and brothers of these little

children and for the families of the adults who were lost," Obama said, his voice cracking with emotion.

"Our hearts are broken for the parents of the survivors as well, for as blessed as they are to have their children home tonight, they know that their children's innocence has been torn away from them too early and there are no words that will ease their pain," he said.—*Reuters*



US President Barack Obama wipes a tear as he speaks about the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, during a Press briefing at the White House in Washington on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Kenyan police nab five terror suspects in Mombasa

Africa

NAIROBI, 15 Dec—Kenya's anti-terrorism police officers on Friday thwarted another terror plot and arrested five suspects who were planning to carry out a major terrorism attack in the coastal City of Mombasa over the weekend.

Regional deputy police commander Robert Kitur said the five suspects who are on the terror radar by both local and foreign security agencies were arrested from a bus while enroute to the Coastal city and recovered a pistol from them.

Kitur said the detectives

had intelligence information the suspects were part wide terrorism network planning attack in Mombasa. "Our officers are operating on highly placed intelligence reports of impending terror attacks in Mombasa and we have arrested suspects who are assisting us with investigation," Kitur told *Xinhua* by telephone.

Mombasa, the country's second largest city and a major tourist spot is one of various cities targeted by a series of grenade attacks and abduction of foreigners in recent months. Kenya's tourism has suffered a decline in tourist arrivals since September 2011 after the Somali militant group Al-Shabaab kidnapped tourists in the Lamu archipelago and Spanish volunteers.

Kenyan authorities have enhanced security in major cities and all entry points and called on residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious individuals in their midst to security personnel.

There has been a string of attacks by Al-Shabaab militants and their sympathizers since Kenya sent troops into Somalia on October 2011 to subdue the insurgents who were blamed for a series of murders and kidnappings on the Kenya soil with Daadab District which hosts the refugee camps being one of the worst hit by the attacks.—*Xinhua*



A high-speed train runs on a bridge during its trial trip from Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province to Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Dec, 2012. China is set to open the world's longest high-speed railway on 26 Dec, linking Beijing and the southern economic centre of Guangzhou, the Ministry of Railways (MOR) announced on Friday.—XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

PER-ACRE YIELD SURVEYED: Officials of Settlement and Land Records Department (Head Office) undertook correctness of per-acre yield of monsoon paddy at field 2032 of U Pu in Nyaungson-aing Village of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 8 December.

MYANMA ALINN



ITF Officiating National Course kicks off

YANGON, 15 Dec—The opening ceremony of ITF Officiating National Course, organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 10 December morning.

The course was purposed to turn out umpires for the Davis Cup Grades IV and III and the XXVII SEA Games and for enabling Myanmar umpires to discharge duties as umpires in the international tennis tournaments, said President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Aung Maw Thein. Coach Mr Nitin Kannawar of Asian Tennis Federation provides training to the trainees.

Myanma Alinn

Yangon offering Five Star accommodation for tourists

YANGON, 15 Dec—As Myanmar has opened its door to the world arrival of tourists is increasing day by day in Myanmar. For their visits they set with economic, political, social and other travelling purposes, there are five Five Star hotels in Yangon, the economic hub of the nation, according to the facts and figures of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services.

The internationally recognized five star hotels are Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yankin Township, Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on Kanyeiktha

Knowledge about anti-human trafficking shared

BAGO, 15 Dec—A workshop on anti-human trafficking was held at the city hall in Bago on 10 December, attended by members of community surveillance group of Bago Region Anti-Human Trafficking Committee.

On the occasion, Chairman of the Bago Region Committee U Maung Maung Than made a speech.

Police Brig-Gen Soe

Myaing of Trans national Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force explained basic facts about anti-human trafficking.

Police Major Khin Mar Win of Bago District discussed future tasks on prevention against trafficking in person.

Deputy In-charge IP Myo Thein also discussed anti-human trafficking.

Myanma Alinn

Mawlamyine says no to gambling

MAWLAMYINE, 15 Dec—Under the arrangements of the Commander of Mon State Police Force, Mawlamyine District and Township Police Forces as part of implementing the crime reduction project, a squad led by IP Khaing Than, SIP Thein Soe and SIP Khin Maung

Zaw together with witnesses, acting on information, searched the house of Ma Nilar San, 39 on Thiri Myaing 2nd Street in Mupon Ward of Mawlamyine on 1 December and seized documents used in gambling, one GSM telephone, one CDMA telephone and over

Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay people get access to e-payment for meter bill

YANGON, 15 Dec—Yatanarpon Teleport in cooperation with private banks and Myanmar Economic Bank pay electric meter bills to Online Electricity Billing Services of the Ministry of Electric Power by applying Yatanarpon Online Payment Gateway (Y pay) under the permission of Central Bank of Myanmar.

Electric meter bills can be paid in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region from 15 to 24 every month through www.ebilling.yipay.com.mm. Soon, Yangonites will apply e-payment.

Myanma Alinn

Malaysian athletes receive training for Myanmar chess

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—At the invitation of Myanmar Chess Federation, a six-team comprising selected Malaysian chess players including one international master took training on Myanmar traditional chess that will be included in the XXVII SEA Games, at the hall of Myanmar Chess Federation from 4 to 6 December.

Myanmar traditional chess champions U Thein Zaw, Maung Maung Latt and Aung Myo Hlaing trained the Malaysian players.

After the course, President of the federation U Maung Maung Lwin presented the book on technique of Myanmar traditional chess and sports equipment to the Malaysian players.—Myanma Alinn

Sports trials for traditional cane-ball event on 26 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—With the aim of securing gold medals in the XXVII SEA Games, the sports trial of Myanmar traditional cane-ball event will be held at Aung San Stadium in Yangon on 26 January 2013.

Not only the selected players from the 2011-

2012 student festival and Champion Challenge Cups but also any athletes in individuals or in groups may take part in the sports trials free of charge.

Men players are to take part in the events 1-6 and women in the events 1-4 drawn in line with the international sports rules.

Those wishing to participate in the sports trials may get registered at Myanmar Cane-Ball Federation, not later than 31 December. The selected players will be provided training in Nay Pyi Taw Sports Camp. For further information, dial 01-393420 of the federation.

Myanma Alinn

MNA



K 50000 of gambling money. Likewise, the authorities searched Lin Lin Aung (a) Nga Pyu, 35 of 10th Street in Thiri Mingala Ward, at Thamadi 3rd Street on 30 November and seized vouchers used in gambling and K 22050.

Moreover, the

of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Pyay Road in Mayangon Township is formed with 112 rooms as the second largest room number. Yangon International Hotel stood third in the room number with 111 located on Ahlon Road of Dagon Township.

In addition, there are 21 two-star hotels and 28 one star hotels in Yangon. With the aim of accommodating the guests from the global countries, plans are underway to build more five star, four star and three star hotels meeting international standards in Yangon.

With the international standard hotels, foreign investment will flow into the industry so as to contribute much to development of tourism industry and State economy.

Myanma Alinn

Free eye care for patients in Penwegan

PENWEGON, 15 Dec—Under the auspices of 11th Tipitaka Dhamma-bhandagarika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indapala and arrangements of the Ministry of Health, an eye specialist



team led by eye specialist Dr U Aye Tun gave free eye care to patients in Penwegan of Bago Region on 8 and 9 December.

The specialists provided eye care to 586 eye patients

and 148 cataract patients from Penwegan and its surrounding villages free of charge. Moreover, the specialists donated optical glasses to needy patients.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 December, 2012

Hopes for return home

A series of changes and emergence of long-awaited investment law raise the hopes for return home of undocumented Myanmar migrant workers and their families high. They are struggling to make ends meet in other countries, suffering intense exploitation and facing harsh living conditions, discrimination and low wages. Moreover, they are deprived of human and legal rights because they are undocumented migrants.

There are misperceptions that surround the labor migration policies of the host country and the country migrants have left behind. The first false assumption is migrants are a burden. In fact, they are drivers of mass production in labor-intensive economy.

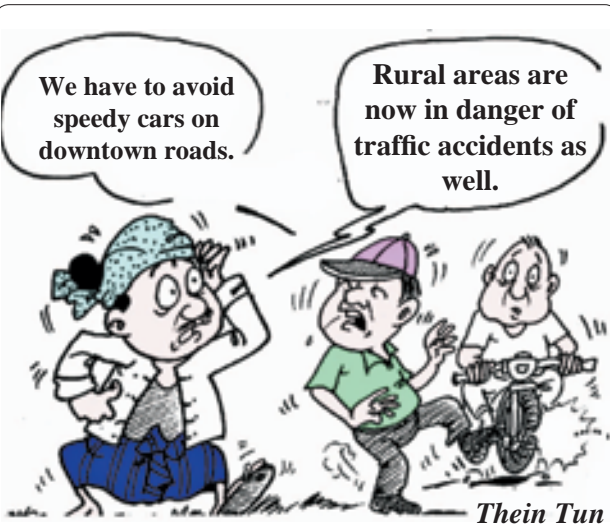
The second false assumption in which many think migrants with no official documents may undermine community peace and tranquility of an area of land they reside in. Provided they are supported by the right policies and proper protections, they will be able to contribute economically and socially to the communities as an important driver for economies of the countries of origin and destination.

The third one is migration is a crime. In fact, only conditions—unemployment, conflicts or other major factors—that force them to leave their homes in search of better places are criminal. Most of undocumented migrants are lured to the other countries by prospects of good jobs and money. Although they are great economic potentials, their unsafe and unsecure migration brings sorrow and high risks for various forms of exploitation at the same time.

Their offspring have become a grater vulnerable to labour and sexual exploitation and trafficking. This is compounded by a lack of access to justice and remedial processes.

Only solid steps towards enactment of comprehensive laws that guarantee basic human rights are respected and smooth and secure registration process could ensure undocumented labor migration full safeguard and resist human trafficking and abusive exploitation.

For the country of origin of labor migration, labour-intensive direction should be emphasized to move towards with the help of foreign investments. Only if these conditions are fulfilled will migrant workers be free from high risks for multiple exploitations and be satisfied of their hope for return home.



Thein Tun

ARTICLE

NECTAR OF THE GODS

BY BA THAN

The Toddy palm and the coconut palm are tall stately twin beauties which grace the Myanmar landscape. Coconut palm is a pinnate-leaved tropical tree known the world over for its sweet refreshing juice and delicious white kernel. It is found plentifully in sea beaches.

The palmyra palm or toddy palm grows abundantly in the Central plains of Myanmar stretching endlessly on the vast flat lands. The toddy palm is a tall shapely beauty likened to a dainty damsel, usually addressed as 'she'. Toddy palm is an idyllic model for shutterbugs and artists.

It is an oasis offering a shady haven to weary travelers crossing the plains or working in the sun from unbearably scorching heat. She is also an interesting theme for prose and poetry to enrich our literature and poetic renditions.

One wonderful similarity of the coconut and toddy palm trees is its immense height tapering high above the reach of many like species, near to the abode of the Gods in heaven, swaying in the high winds and savouring pristine ambrosia trickled down from heavenly abode. Another unique feature is the pure juice ensconced inside the kernel of the coconut.

Just imagine the pure juice having to travel all the way from the roots through the trunk to the top and siphoning into the kernel, sealed by the blessing of the gods, untouched by soiled human hands.

Again imagine the juice of the toddy palm also travelling from the roots down below the earth pumping up through the trunk to the stem and thence to the udders ready to be milked into exhilarating juice to stimulate the palate of mortal humans.

The toddy palm grove is said to be 'a paradise' offering many a weary thirsty traveler who seeks her sweet cool solace. One can only wonder at the many products, derivatives and delicacies she offers to mankind to fulfill man's economic, social, educational, gastronomic and aesthetic needs. In

fact in this humble palm of the plains, nothing is ever wasted, from the roots to the sap and the fruits. Its toddy udders (*htan no*), the juice-producing shoot offers toddy, *the delicious nectar from heaven*.

Milking toddy juice is an extremely risky profession, calling for skill, dexterity, cool confidence especially in scaling the sixty plus meter trunk from the ground to the pinnacle. And it is a vocation handed down by generation from father to son, a family affair indeed. A cursory tour to the toddy villages will reveal many pathetic cripples caused by falling from trees, not to say of those who lost their lives.

At first streak of dawn we see the lowly climber enjoying a bellyful of simple breakfast of left-over rice and *pebyoke* steaming boiled pea. Then he prepares the essential tools of trade which consist of a razor-sharp short knife, a cluster of earthen pots blackened with soot in open fire and tucks a longyi tight around his slim waist. Now a days he wears a short trunk because the longyi may tend to slip away at grave danger to life and limb. He also carries an extra longyi to use as loop to transport up and down the high tapering trunk.

On ground at the foot of the tree trunk, the climber hugs most lovingly to the tree, mutters *sotto voce* his mantras for safety, tucks his spare longyi across the trunk in a loop and fastens to his two feet. In a fleeting moment he is up and away, crawling most dexterously, a tiny speck peering up from ground to the high and mighty trunk, tens of feet nearer to heaven, swaying to the rhythm of the tree teased by the clear winds high above.

As he nears the top where the palm fronds spread like a giant fan, a slender but strong short ladder is attached to the tapering trunk leading to the sliced udder where the nectar trickles down into the blacked earthen pots tied the day before. Ropes tied to around the rim of the pots are firmly wound to the stems to withstand strong winds sixty feet above.

The toddy climber is careful man, for a slight slip means certain death, a precarious profession

indeed.

Up and above, the toddy climber stands astride the ladder checks the pots and unties the ones full to the brim with milky bubbling frothy juice. He trims the shoot with his knife for smooth flow, replaces with the empty treated pots hung at his waist for the next day's collection. Then hanging the full pots around his waist, he begins his careful descent. Alighting on the earth he delivers the frothing pots to his awaiting wife or family.

Then taking another cluster of empty pots at the ready, he climbs the next tree for the next cluster. Up and down, up and down he toils scaling the majestic trees till he completes the quota for the day. Meanwhile the wife and family empty the contents into larger canisters and carries to the market centre to sell out to the waiting customers.

There are many products made from toddy juice, the principal fare being the toddy nectar (*htan yai*). Jaggery the natural sweetener is also made from toddy juice, a thriving commercial business of Central Myanmar. The rural people prefer jaggery to sugar, because it has many products and derivatives of medicinal value according to indigenous traditional medical pharmacopoeia.

As has been said earlier, the toddy palm grove amidst the parched plains of Central Myanmar is an oasis providing refreshingly cool shelter to a weary traveler. Robust youths and adults weary or not just do not enter the solace of the palm grove only to rest.

The better fare lies in wait, to soothe the searing heat and also to quench the parched palate.

Herein at the foot of the stately grove sheltered by natural verdant green of shrubs lie the nectar, drink of the God's pristine bounty of nature, most covetously milked by skilled hands of the toddy climber and prepared by most guarded formula to serve the thirsty who take all the trouble to enjoy the first juice from source. How it beckons you with piquant taste and lingering tang to sit down on Mother Earth's emerald green carpet amidst like minded friends to enjoy to one's heart content.

The morning pot is ideally the nectar of the first water sparkling with myriad colours of jay's wings, bubbles popping like frisky shrimps, pure milky juice fresh sizzling with the crest of white foaming froth. So tempting was its exotic flavor and taste that in the days of the Myanmar kings certain choice palm groves were reserved exclusively for the royalty and the nobility.

Food tastes best at source, so the saying goes. Ripe durians bring forth its true pungent and dizzyingly sweet aroma and flavor when enjoyed in the plantations in Mawlamyine. Beer tastes best in the Brewery reliving the memory of my visit to Scultz Brewery in Milwaukee USA during my post-graduate tour in 1961. Dyer Meakin Brewery in Mandalay also renders equally exotic taste in fresh brew, when I was their guest in 1951. Toddy juice also tastes supreme in the choicest palm grove, from the morning product, fresh, bubbling, in pristine form not yet commercially adulterated.

Like-minded friends forming good company (depending on one's interpretation of 'good') make *htan yai* taste best. With the majestic soot-covered earthen pot of *the nectar of the gods* in the centre stage on a makeshift brick pedestal, and complemented by tantalizing teasers like roast rabbit, fowl, fish, fresh salad of onions, roasted peanuts, chili and slices of lime it is a feast fit for kings for that wee speck of time.

Such feast is also topic for poets, writers to commemorate for future generations to admire at the feast as well as the wit and humour of the compositions. King Tapinshwe Hti a fearless teenage King who performed Novitiation ceremony at Shwedagon, territory of the rival Mon Kings pathetically succumbed to the treachery of the foreign friends and their booze.

In my younger days, at the undergraduate English literature sessions taught by the late Guru Dr. Htin Aung, *The Rubaiyat* composed by the Persian Poet Omar (See page 10)

NATIONAL

President meets professors, faculty members, students...

(from page 1)

University of Computer Sciences (Thaton) and the Technological University (Mawlamyine) and attended to the needs.

He also urged them to turn their universities into centres of excellence and to establish connectivity with international universities for academic cooperation.

It is required to teach them to be able to serve the interest of the State practically. Student-centered approach would facilitate self-study. They are to be equipped with necessary knowledge so that they would be able to take post-graduate and doctorate courses after undergraduate courses. Knowledge they are given would be used to overcome difficulties in real world. The outputs of that university are to be equipped with nationalistic fervor and the well-disciplined graduates are to discharge duties efficiently and effectively while they

are in the workplace. The President called for more efforts to preserve own cultures and literatures of national races.

After the meeting, the President cordially greeted those present.

Next, the President and party viewed round the development of Mawlamyine and progress of strand road in a motorcade.

In meeting with state/district level departmental officials at Aung San Hall of the office of Mon State government, Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein, first, made clarifications on ongoing political and economic reforms in the country, seminars and workshops on investment being held in coordination with international organizations and field trips being made to know the real situation while making investments.

Next, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thein explained progress

of formulation of laws and bylaws, implementation of four foreign investment policies, tasks of inspection groups comprising outside scholars for ensuring transparency and plans for investment procedures for 2013.

The President said that now is the time when reform processes are being implemented including system changes. What the purpose of the change is and which the points to be changed are necessary to be known. National goal should be synonymous with the desires of the people who inspire peace and stability and the rule of law and socio-economic development. The government is moving towards emergence of a peaceful and developed democratic nation. Liberalization was made for all-inclusiveness in the drive for political stability and national development. Amnesties were granted. Now the nation sees peace and stability to a certain extent. The new government inherited the issue of armed

conflicts that broke out since 60 years ago.

In an attempt to ensure non-disintegration of the Union, Our Three Main National Causes is of great importance. To reach the eternal peace, it needs to reach cease-fire as a first step and then political dialogue should be made. Peace talks could be made not only at state-level but also at Union-level. Agreements with ten of 11 national races armed groups have been reached. Discussions with KIO/KIA armed groups are being made, and peace agreement with them would reach soon. Country's development tasks can be implemented only when there is peace and stability.

Seventy percent of the country's population is living in the rural areas, the majority of whom are the poor. Eight poverty alleviation and rural development tasks are being implemented. Micro finance societies have been set up to provide capitals to the poor. Due to the less employment opportunities

in the country, the people are working in the foreign counties. But they have to work as blue color workers there. The reason why they are working there is that they get much more income than that in the country. To create more job opportunities, factories and workshops are under implementation. In doing so, it needs to have capital, investment and human resources. Without these three inputs, it is impossible to establish factories and workshops. Foreign investments are being invited while efforts for removal of economic sanctions are being made. Foreign Direct Investment has been approved, which is essential for foreign investment. Establishments of factories and workshops like garment industries that can create more job opportunities for the majority of the people are being invited while striving for establishment of industrial zones. The government is striving for ensuring higher socio-economic status of people.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources including oil and gas, iron and copper. Heavy industries are to be established with the use of these resources. Efforts are being made for the development of information and communication technology. It could be implemented as of 2013.

In building up a modern, developed nation, all need to move forwards. The government is steering the country. We would reach the final goal only when the government could manage it well. Departmental staff are to have their hands in becoming a clean government and good governance.

After the meeting, the President cordially greeted those present. Afterwards, the President and party arrived in Mudon by cars and looked round Kantawgyi near Mudon Lake pagoda.

The President and party visited the private Rubber sapling and fruit farm in Mudon. They arrived back in Mawlamyine.

MNA

Union Minister U Hla Tun makes apology to monks



Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun comforts monks at General Hospital (1000-bed) in Chanayethazan Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun and Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, accompanied by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and departmental heads, visited hospitals in Mandalay that are providing medical treatment to members of the Sangha who sustained injuries in Latpadaungtaung Copper

Mining Project incident in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region this morning and made cash donations.

First, the Union Minister and party paid respects to members of the Sangha who received medical treatment at the general hospital (1000-bed) in Chanayethazan Township and enquired after the health of the monks.

On arrival at the operation ward-1 and operation ward-2 of the hospital, they paid respects to members of the Sangha and lay persons receiving

medical treatment and were briefed by the acting medical superintendent on provision of health care services. They then attended to the needs. There are 15 members of the Sangha and four lay persons receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The Union Minister and party proceeded to Kandaw Nadi hospital in Chanmyathazi Township and paid respects to warded members of the Sangha and attended to their needs. Altogether eight members of the Sangha are still at the

hospital.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister on behalf of the government apologized the wounded members of the Sangha at Maha Atulawaiyan monastery, and the ceremony was attended by members of working committee of the Sangha of Mandalay Region, members of the Sangha of Jotikayon Monastery in Monywa of Sagaing Region and members of the Sangha who got injuries in the protest.

After receiving the Five Precepts from Deputy Chief Rector Sayadaw of Mahagandayon Monastery in Amarapura Bhaddanta Innobhasabhivamsa, the Union Minister made apology. He said that he was deeply touched by the plight of members of the Sangha who sustained burns in Lapadaungtaung incident, and pledged to fulfill the requirements of the warded monks. He continued that being a Buddhist, he felt every unhappy to see the injured members of the Sangha, and accordingly he on behalf of the government humbly made apology in the presence of the Sayadaws who are present on the occasion. He added that the investigation commission

was formed with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as leader in order to seek the most appropriate answer to the incident, and only when there is an assistance of the people and members of the Sangha will the investigation commission be able to deal with the problem in a free and right manner. And he humbly requested the Sayadaws to give a helping hand in line with the Dhamma so that the incident can be prevented from bad

to worse.

Next, Presiding Sayadaw of Jotikarama Monastery in Monywa State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavinda gave Ovada Katha, and the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha accepted the apology of the government. And then, the Union Minister and those present presented offertories to members of the Sangha, which brought the ceremony to an end.

MNA

Myanma Airways makes emergency landing at Dawei due to engine failure

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec—A Myanma Airways' XY-AGA 316-J flight bound for Yangon from Myeik landed at Dawei Airport safely due to engine failure 10 minutes after taking off on 13 December morning.

The left engine of the aircraft was noticed to be malfunctioning by the Captain.

The XY-AGA Fokker F-28 of the state flag carrier was carrying five crews and 72 passengers. The Captain decided to land at Dawei

Airport for safety of passengers despite the fact that the right engine alone could fly the plane till the Yangon International Airport.

Engineers from Yangon who inspected the plane with Boroscope approved engine failure.

All the passengers were transported to Yangon by Beach Craft and ATR-42. According to the Myanma Airways, the passengers arrived at the destination safely.

MNA

Action Speaks Louder than Word.

Buddhist Cultural Heritage seminar...



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham supplicates on religious affairs at International Seminar on Buddhist Cultural Heritage to members of the Sangha.—MNA

(from page 16)
The Vice-President said he believed that it would be great help for the friendly relationship between the two countries. In the 6th Century BC, the noble instructions and timeless teachings of the Buddha manifested itself in India

by the name of Buddhism, spreading many parts of the world and creating tremendous influence on human society, up to the 21st Century. It has also prevented the decline of moral values and contributed to peace and harmony with the embellishing

of patience, loving-kindness, compassions and selflessness. Out of two requirements of humankind, physical and spiritual, science and technology may be able to fulfill the physical needs. But, in the end, only the teachings of the Buddha can satisfy the spiritual

pristine purity convenes these special events to commemorate the 2600th anniversary of the Buddha's Enlightenment.

The Vice-President concluded that it was his wish that the teachings of the omniscient Buddha be like unto the luminescence of the sun and the moon and be long lasting and the teaching of the omniscient Buddha be propagated throughout the world.

External Affairs Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid of the Republic of India made an inaugural address.

Then, Joint-President



Secretary of Seminar Organizing Committee Dr Myo Myint.—MNA

of the Organizing Committee and Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Dr Ashin

Ñanissara delivered a welcome address.

Myanmar Historical Commission Member Retired Director-General Dr Khin Maung Nyunt of Archaeological Department and Retired Director-General Dr Myo Myint from Sasana Affairs Department and Secretary of the Organizing Committee supplicated on report of the organizing



Myanmar Historical Commission member Dr Khin Maung Nyunt.—MNA

committee.

Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Ñanissara presented Buddha Images to Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Indian External Affairs Minister, Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung, Chief Minister U Myint Swe and monks and guests from foreign countries as Dhamma gift.

Director Dr R. Panth of Nava Nalanda Mahavihara from the Republic of



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Ñanissara.—MNA

India presented university commemorative gift to Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Writer Tekkatho Shin Thiri donated Dhamma books to the Sitagu Sayadaw and the ceremony came to an end with three times recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiramtitthatu.

After opening ceremony, the Sitagu Sayadaw and monks, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Indian External Affairs Minister, union ministers, chief minister, deputy ministers, Yangon Region ministers and honourable guests posed for a documentary photo.

Then, paper reading session followed. The paper reading session will continue till 17 December.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets attendees to International Seminar on Buddhist Cultural Heritage.—MNA

NECTAR OF THE GODS

(from page 8)
Khayyam of Naishapur (circa 11th century) was my favourite poem. How his magic quatrains could bewitch students like me with a central philosophy of a vigorous free-thinking hedonism, a casual but frank appeal to enjoy the pleasures of life in utter abandon, only the poem lovers can sense aesthetically. His most quoted four-line stanza as translated by the English country gentleman Edward Fitzgerald (1809-1883) was:

"A Book of Verses underneath the Bough
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf

of Bread, and Thou
Beside me singing in
the Wilderness,
Oh, Wilderness were
Paradise now!"

If Omar Khayyam had been to Bagan Kingdom in the 11th Century in the days of King Anawrtha, the mighty emperor, and in the company of the Ari Heretic Rahans had tasted the toddy juice, *Nectar of the Gods*, the author is as sure as the sun rises in the East, that Poet Omar might have eulogized it in his Rubaiyats, bringing enduring fame to Bagan, its toddy groves and like buddies "the Ari", don't you agree?

requirements. Hence, the sublime teachings of peace and harmony, promulgated by the Buddha, are the unique cultural heritage of Buddhism.

It is believed that the seminar, on the basis of the preservation of Buddhist Cultural Heritage, not only will bring peace, harmony and prosperity will also bring the cultural values and guiding principles to all of us. It is highly appreciated that the Republic of India, the birth-place of the Buddha and the seat of the Buddhist Culture, together with Myanmar, which is a leading Theravada Buddhist country, preserving Buddha's original teachings in its

Technical transfer agreement and investment on MoU signed

YANGON, 15 Dec—The signing of technical transfer agreement and investment on memorandum of understanding between Asia General Electric Co Ltd (AGE) of Myanmar and Meidensha Corporation (MEIDEN) and Metal One Corporation from Japan took place at Mindon Hall of Sedona Hotel here this morning.

AGE managing director and Meidensha Corporation Executive Officer Mr Kazumi Ikarashi inked technical transfer agreement, AGE chairman and Meidensha Corporation Vice President Mr Kozo Masaki and Metal One Corporation Chief Regional Officer Mr Takehiro Honda investment on MoU and exchanged the notes. Then,

AGE chairman spoke words of thank.

The purpose of the ceremony is to manufacture power transformer in Myanmar and to develop experiences and techniques for local staff, to create job opportunities, to reduce foreign currency expense and to repair materials purchased from foreign countries.—MNA

REGIONAL

India and Pakistan seal accord to ease visa restrictions

India

visa restrictions



Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde (L) shakes hands with Pakistan's Interior Minister Rehman Malik before their bilateral meeting in New Delhi on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec—India and Pakistan sealed an agreement to ease tough visa restrictions for travellers on Friday as the nuclear-armed neighbours move slowly to rebuild relations that soured in 2008 when Pakistani militants attacked India's financial capital.

The accord was signed by India's home minister and his Pakistani counterpart, weeks before the two cricket-loving nations play their first series in India since the attacks that killed 166 people.

"This is not only historic but this is a step forward for the two countries in the progress of peace," said Pakistan's Interior Minister Rehman Malik during a three-day visit to New

Delhi. Under the previous arrangement, Pakistani business travellers were restricted to certain cities, prohibiting their travel from Delhi to the nearby thriving business hub of Gurgaon without permission.

Businessmen had to report to Indian police stations in the evenings "like a criminal", Pakistani trade official Zafar Mahmood complained in April during a Pakistani trade fair in New Delhi. Indians visiting Pakistan face similar restrictions.

The change will permit visitors to travel to five places now instead of three and some businessmen will get multiple-entry visas, exempting them from reporting to the police.

Despite thousands of years of shared heritage, India and Pakistan have tense relations—a legacy of three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

The two governments agreed to relax visa rules in principle in September, when former Indian foreign minister SM Krishna visited Islamabad.

India is likely to issue up to 3,000 multi-city visas to Pakistani cricket fans and an additional 300 to VIPs for the cricket series that starts on Christmas day, allowing Pakistanis to cheer on their national team on Indian turf.

"This is a baby step towards reducing the tensions between India and Pakistan," said Ashok Mehta, a former major general of the Indian army. "But it's still significant, especially because nothing is happening on big-ticket items like border management and terrorism - the real ice-breakers."

Malik promised India that Pakistan would convict those responsible for the 2008 attacks. "I assure the Indian authorities that we will not leave any stone unturned and the day is not far when you will see the conviction and you will see the justice done," he said.

Reuters

ASEAN mobilizes relief to aid typhoon-hit areas in Philippines

JAKARTA, 15 Dec—Relief aids to victims of Bopha Typhoon in the Philippines is being closely coordinated by disaster management authority of the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN), official said here on Friday.

"We work closely with the ASEAN Coordinating

Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and other ASEAN countries to assist the relief work," AHA Centre Executive Director Said Faisal said here, referring to the Philippines' disaster mitigation agency, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Council (NDRRMC).

AHA Centre team has deployed three generators to Boston, New Bataan, and Cagayan de Oro. The delivery of mobile storages and other relief items are also on the way.

Malaysia sent its first batch of aid including food, milk, and tents on 7 Dec, while Indonesia handed over 1 million US dollars to the government of Philippines. Singapore deployed an emergency response team to support the emergency planning and preparation, Faisal said. "We will do our best to facilitate the Government and the community in disaster-affected areas to receive what is needed through our ASEAN family," Said Faisal said.



Photo taken on 14 Dec, 2012 shows yachts displayed at Sanya International Boat Show in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province. The show, which kicked off on Friday, will last until on 17 Dec.—XINHUA

Six troops wounded by bomb in restive South of Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 Dec—Six Thai army soldiers were wounded on Friday morning in a bombing in the southern border province of Narathiwat, Thai News Agency reported.

The army patrol was ambushed when it was moving down a road in Narathiwat's Cho Ai Rong district in an armoured vehicle. The injured men were taken to hospital.

The explosive device, weighing about 50 kilograms, was placed in a gas cylinder.

According to the initial investigation, the army rangers were crossing a

Indonesian capital poised to become ASEAN diplomatic hub

ASEAN

JAKARTA, 15 Dec—With the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat headquartered in Indonesian capital of Jakarta, city governor Joko Widodo vowed to make the city the diplomatic capital of ASEAN, local media reported on Friday.

"We will do anything within our power to prove ourselves as an extraordinary host," Joko said Thursday during a meeting with a team from the ASEAN Secretariat led by Ambassador Bagas Hapsoro, the former

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community & Corporate Affairs.

The governor said that he values having the ASEAN Secretariat headquartered in Jakarta and believes in connecting the ASEAN member states to Indonesia.

As ASEAN is tasked with implementing a free trade zone by 2015, Bagas said, the success of ASEAN and the diplomatic presence of missions and other international organizations added to significant economic and political ben-

efits in Jakarta that would continue for years to come. "We should take a fresh look on how we can accommodate both ASEAN and non-ASEAN citizens who work to sustain the centrality of ASEAN," Bagas was quoted by the *Jakarta Globe* as saying.

To back the Indonesian government's mission of making Jakarta the diplomatic capital city of the region, Bagas urged the expansion of ASEAN Secretariat, currently located in Kebayoran Baru, South Jakarta.—Xinhua

China Nine killed in east China pile-up

JINAN, 15 Dec—Twenty-eight vehicles were caught in a pile-up on an

east China highway on Friday morning amid sleet and fog, leaving nine people

dead and about 60 injured, local authorities said.

The incident occurred at 8:45 am on a snow-coated section of the Jinan-Guangzhou highway in Pingyin County, Shandong Province. Three people were killed on the spot while six others died after medical treatment failed, according to county government officials.

The conditions of the injured people have stabilized, the officials said, citing hospital sources.

Traffic on the highway has resumed. Investigation into the accident is under way.—Xinhua



Rescuers and working staff work at the accident site after a pile-up involving over 20 vehicles happened on a snow-coated section of an expressway in Pingyin County of Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 14 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Final rush for migrant workers to register in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 Dec—Migrant workers crowded into the Thai government labour office in central Province of Samut Sakhon in this seaboard province to apply for nationality verification as the government insisted Friday's deadline will not be extended, *Thai News Agency* reported.

Those who fail to have their nationality verified by Friday will be repatriated, said Labour Minister Padermchai Sasomsap.

Samut Sakhon, 100-kilometre southwest of Bangkok, is a fishing province near the Gulf of Thailand where the majority of workers are from Myanmar.

The Thai Chamber of Commerce on Thursday called on Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to defer the deadline for nationality verification, saying the mass repatriation of migrant workers will result in a severe labour shortage nationwide.

Xinhua



A policeman inspects a destroyed auto rickshaw at the blast site in southwest Pakistan's Quetta, on 14 Dec, 2012. At least eight people including a security officer were injured in a bomb blast at Sariab Road near girls collage in Quetta on Friday, local media reported.

XINHUA

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1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:
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|--------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | 12(T)23/MR(ML/ISN) 12-13 | DC Flexible Cable Wire | 7 - Items |
- Closing Date & Time - 25.1.2013(Friday)(12:00)Hour.
2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 17.12.2012 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

Cuba to boost renewable energy use in 2013

HAVANA, 15 Dec—Cuba has planned to press ahead with new programmes in 2013 to boost the use of renewable and clean energy sources such as wind, sun and sugarcane, Minister of Energy and Mines Alfredo Lopez Valdes said on Tuesday.

The government has set up a committee to outline a strategy and guide investment in the field, Lopez Valdes said during a meeting of Cuban parliament's Committee on Energy and Environment intended to discuss energy policies for the coming year.

It has decided to expand clean energy production in the country following a feasibility study and a decision to curb spending on fuel imports, he added.

Cuba already has several wind farms, and plans to open another one next year in northern Las Tunas Province with a designed power-generating capacity of 51,000 kilowatts. Also in the pipeline are solar farms in different parts of the country, which are expected to have a combined capacity of 10,000 kilowatts. A 1,000-kilowatt solar farm is currently being

built in the central province of Cienfuegos. Officials also have approved a plan to build two power plants that will use residual sugarcane as raw materials.

One plant will be located in western Matanzas with a capacity of 20,000 kilowatts, and the other will be set up in central Ciego de Avila with a capacity of 30,000 kilowatts.

Cuba meets 50 percent of its energy needs through domestic oil production, with the rest supplemented by imports from its political and economic ally Venezuela.

Xinhua

UN chief mourns victims of US deadly school shooting

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Dec—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday voiced his "deepest condolences" over the victims of a school shooting in the US state of Connecticut which killed 20 children and eight adults. In a letter to Connecticut Governor Dan Malloy, Ban called the Sandy Hook Elementary School rampage "shocking murders," spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here.

"The secretary-general said that the targeting of children is heinous and unthinkable, and extended his thoughts and prayers to the families of the victims and all others traumatized by this horrendous crime," said the spokesman.

Police in Connecticut said on Friday that 18 children died on the scene in the elementary school, two more died later in the hospital, and 8 adults were also dead.

According to reports, the gunman shot his mother, who worked at the school. Police said the gunman and the "individual who lived with him" were both dead.

Xinhua



The Chinese capital city of Beijing witnessed snowfall again in the evening of 13 Dec, and the moderate snow was forecast to last to the morning of 14 Dec, 2012, according to Beijing Meteorological Bureau.—REUTERS

Mandela remains under treatment in hospital

JOHANNESBURG, 15 Dec—Former South African president Nelson Mandela was still in hospital on Friday afternoon, the Presidency said, amid reports that the anti-apartheid icon might be discharged.

"The doctors attending to former president Nelson Mandela report that he has had a comfortable 24 hours and that he remains under treatment in hospital," said Presidency spokesperson Mac Maharaj.

Three military vehicles with police lights and sirens were seen entering and then leaving the Mediclinic Heart Hospital in Pretoria,

where Mandela was believed to be staying earlier in the day, prompting media speculations that Mandela may be released from hospital.

Maharaj said he had no information from doctors about when Mandela could be discharged.

Mandela was suffering from the recurrence of a previous lung infection and was responding to treatment, the Presidency said.

The whereabouts of Mandela have puzzled the media which are scrambling to get word on his conditions.

Since Mandela was hospitalized on 8 Dec, crowds

of journalists had camped outside the 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, where Mandela was believed to be treated. But the Presidency hinted on Thursday Mandela was not treated at that hospital.

This prompted journalists to change camping sites. This time they shifted their attention to the Mediclinic Heart Hospital in Pretoria. Since early Friday, groups of journalists have been streaming to the hospital to set up their camps outside.

Mandela reportedly had been admitted to the hospital under a pseudonym.

Xinhua

Young Colombian researcher wins UNESCO Prize

BOGOTA, 15 Dec—Colombian researcher Karen Nathalia Ceron won the Juan Bosch Prize awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), local media reported on Thursday.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said in a statement that the young Colombian researcher was unanimously elected by an international jury for her

contribution to understanding youth violence in Guatemala and her analysis of prevention policies.

Ceron, 25, won the prize for her master's degree thesis entitled "Sons of the War or State Orphans? A Study on Youth Violence", which studies Guatemala's "maras," or gangs, and the way the state deals with them.

She is majoring in international studies and political science at Colombia's

Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Senora de Bogota graduate school.

Established in 2009, the UNESCO prize consists of a grant of 10,000 US dollars and a diploma.

The goal of the prize, awarded every two years, is to promote the work of young researchers interested in contributing to development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Xinhua



A newly married couple steps out of the marriage registration hall in Hong Kong, south China, on 12 Dec, 2012. A total of 696 couples flocked to tie the knot on 12 Dec, 2012, or 12/12/12, Dec which sounds like "will love/will love/will love" in Chinese.—XINHUA

Russia says Brazil could raise beef imports after additive ban

MOSCOW, 15 Dec—Brazil could end up increasing beef exports to Russia, its biggest buyer, after banning a controversial feed additive that promotes muscle growth in animals such as pigs and cattle, Russia's food safety watchdog said on Thursday.

Russia stepped up tests on US and Canadian meat imports for traces of the additive, a beta blocker called ractopamine, on Monday, and demanded both nations certify their meat as ractopamine-free.

US exports alone to Russia are worth about \$500 million (310.3 million pounds).

Ractopamine is in a class of drugs known as beta inhibitors or blockers that counteract the effects of adrenaline on the nervous system and slow the heart rate. In livestock, it promotes muscle gain.

Brazil banned the use of ractopamine on 12 November and eventually plans to have a split system in place enabling it to produce ractopamine-free meat for

some buyers like Russia, and use it in meat for other destinations. Russia's food safety watchdog, Rosselkhoz nadzor, said it was satisfied with Brazil's assurances and said Brazil may manage to increase its current share of Russian beef imports, now around 43 percent, as a result.

An increase would likely come at the expense of purchases of US and Canadian meats while the testing and certification issue is resolved.—Reuters



A diver wearing a Santa Claus costume swims with fishes at an aquarium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 14 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

White House TV comedy aims for laughs, not politics

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec— There is a crazy family living at the White House, but it's not the Obamas. It's the Gilchrists, whose never-ending follies pulse and push upcoming TV comedy romp "1600 Penn."

Starring Bill Pullman as US President Dale Gilchrist and Jenna Elfman as his first lady, the show's co-creator Josh Gad said on Friday that there is plenty of precedent for family madness at the Oval Office.

"You can look as far back as Mary Todd Lincoln ... and you can see dysfunction in the halls of the White House," Gad told reporters on a conference call, referring to the wife of Civil War President

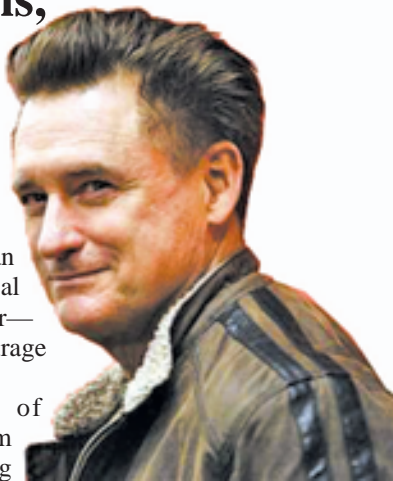
Abraham Lincoln. Gad, who shot to prominence in the Tony-winning musical "The Book of Mormon," also plays the error-prone, good-intentioned son Skip, who with his three youngersiblings backstop the earnestness of his father and step-mother.

"We really wanted to dissect what it meant to be a family in the most extraordinary of circumstances—and what's more extraordinary than being the first family?" Gad said. The show, which takes its title from the 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue street address of the White House, debuts on 10 January on NBC.

It sees Skip crashing a

Latin American trade meeting at the White House and helping convince the region's leaders to abandon the arm-twisting Brazilian president and cut a deal instead with his father—summoning their courage with booze.

It is all part of Skip's plan to redeem himself after causing a public relations embarrassment by burning down a fraternity house at his college. "It's like a drop of a political thing that will spark a family problem," Elfman said, whose character struggles to win the trust of her step-children and fights the media's trophy-wife label.



Cast member Bill Pullman attends the premiere of "The Killer Inside Me" during the 2010 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on 24 January, 2010.

REUTERS

"1600 Penn." is co-created by Jon Lovett, a former speechwriter for President Barack Obama.—Reuters

Greta Garbo's dresses, caps fetch high prices at auction

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec—An auction of film legend Greta Garbo's belongings got off to a roaring start on Friday, with her clothing, jewellery and other memorabilia fetching more than ten times pre-sale estimates in many cases.

Bidding was brisk and high as more than 800 items belonging to the reclusive Swedish actress, including the bed she slept in, went up for sale over two days at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills.

A 1930s black velvet evening dress with an estimated value of about \$1,200 (742 pounds) sold on Fri-

day for \$13,750. The winning bid for three leather driving caps worn by Garbo in a 1924 car advertisement was \$15,000, compared with an estimate of \$200.

Her US passport issued in 1964, which carried an estimate of \$3,000-\$5,000, fetched \$15,000.

All the items come from the estate of Greta Garbo, who died in 1990 in New York at the age of 84 after retiring from movies and public life in 1941.

Her great-nephew Derek Reisfield told Reuters when the auction was announced in August that the family had kept her belongings in storage before deciding to sell them.

The collection includes vintage and designer dresses, shoes, furniture and photos from Garbo's Hollywood heyday, as well as the platform bed she designed using antique Swedish carvings to reflect her Scandinavian heritage. The bed, due to be sold later in

the auction, carries an estimate of \$800-\$1,200.

Among other early items sold on Friday was a single page Swedish summary bank statement from 1956 that fetched \$1,125, a Swedish military jacket (\$4,062), and a 1960s silk brocade evening coat (\$12,800). The buyers for the various items were not immediately known.

Garbo started her Hollywood career in silent movies such as 1927's "Flesh and the Devil" and was among the few actors to successfully transition to talkies, becoming iconic not only for her beauty, but for her brains and the streak of independence she displayed on film and in her personal life. She earned four Academy Award nominations, her first for 1929's "Anna Christie," and was finally given an honorary award for unforgettable performances by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1954.—Reuters



A black and pink two piece ensemble that belonged to actress Greta Garbo is shown in this publicity photo released to Reuters on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Adele's "21" is top-selling US iTunes album of 2012

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec— Singer Adele notched another accolade on Thursday as iTunes announced that her Grammy-winning album "21" was the top-selling record of 2012 in its US store, extending the disc's successful run almost two years after it was released.

Adele, 24, who last year became the first artist to secure three iTunes milestones with top-selling album, single and artist of

the year, came in ahead of country-pop star Taylor Swift's "Red" and British folk band Mumford & Sons' "Babel."

iTunes did not reveal its sales or download figures.

British boy band One Direction's debut album "Up All Night" and current Grammy nominees fun.'s debut "Some Nights" rounded out the five top-selling albums on iTunes in the United States.

"21," released in February 2011, has performed strongly in the US music charts this year following the singer's



Adele speaks as she holds her award for best British female solo artist during the BRIT Music Awards at the O2 Arena in London on 21 Feb, 2012.

REUTERS

Grammy-sweeping win in six categories in February 2012.

Reuters

US "X Factor" judge LA Reid quitting TV talent show

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec— LA Reid, "The X Factor" judge, says he is leaving the TV talent show next season after two years on the panel.

Reid, 56, chairman and chief executive of Epic Records, told "Access Hollywood," the television programme and website, he has decided to leave the Fox reality singing show to return to the record label full time.

"I have decided that I will not return to 'The X Factor' next year," Reid told "Access Hollywood" late Thursday. "I have to go back and I have a company to run that I've kind of neglected, and it saddens me a little bit, but only a little bit."

He added that the show was "a nice break, it was a nice departure from what I've done for the past 20 years, but now I gotta go back to work."

Fox declined to comment on Reid's departure on

Friday.

Reid joined "The X Factor" when Cowell introduced the show in the United States in September 2011. Reid sat alongside Paula Abdul, former Pussycat Dolls singer Nicole Scherzinger and Cowell.

Cowell fired Abdul and Scherzinger after a disappointing first season and brought in pop stars Britney Spears and Demi Lovato. But "The X Factor" audiences have dropped this year to an average 9.7 million from about 12.5 million an episode in 2011.

The show broadcasts a two-part finale next week with the winner earning a \$5 million prize and record contract.

Epic Records, a unit of Sony Music Entertainment, which commands a roster of artists including Avril Lavigne, will sign the winners of "The X Factor."

Reuters



Judge LA Reid poses at the party for the television series "The X Factor" finalists in Los Angeles, California on 5 November, 2012.—REUTERS

"Lincoln," others qualify in 85th Academy Awards best picture race

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec—The awards season frontrunner "Lincoln" finished among the 282 feature films which were qualified as possible contenders in the race for best picture honor in the 85th Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced on Friday.

In addition to the Steven Spielberg's bio-pic about the 16th US president, other films which have been well-reviewed or well-received at box office have also won a pass to the next stage of race.

Tentpoles including the romantic drama "Silver Linings Playbook," Ben Affleck's political thriller "Argo," Ang Lee's fantasy "Life OF Pi," the 23rd James Bond film "Skyfall," Kathryn Bigelow's latest directorial work "Zero Dark Thirty," Denzel Washington's vehicle "Flight" and Tom Hooper's musical "Les Miserables" were

also named, along with teenage female-skewing vampires-and-wolves romantic drama "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2," French-language romantic drama "Amour" and the British drama "Anna Karenina."

This year's number of eligible films is 17 more than the last year. To be eligible for the consideration, feature films must open in a commercial motion picture theater in Los Angeles County by midnight of 31 Dec, with a minimum run of seven consecutive days.

Peter Jackson's latest fantasy film, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" which premieres this week, and films such as box office hit "Taken 2" starring Liam Neeson, Walt Disney Animation's "Wreck- It Ralph," Quentin Tarantino's western "Django Unchained" and indie film "Beasts Of the Southern Wild" also made the list.

Xinhua

Shaqiri's first Bundesliga goal saves Bayern



Bayern Munich's Xherdan Shaqiri (L) celebrates with David Alaba after scoring a goal during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Munich on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 15 Dec—Substitute Xherdan Shaqiri's first Bundesliga goal for Bayern Munich rescued a 1-1 home draw for the runaway leaders on Friday after Borussia Mönchengladbach had taken a surprise first-half lead.

Bayern enjoyed almost total dominance but were shaken when Thorben Marx converted a harshly-awarded penalty for Gladbach midway through the first half.

Marx went from hero

to villain when his misplaced pass fell to Shaqiri, who joined from Basel at the start of the season, and the 21-year-old Kosovo-born Swiss international fired the equaliser in the 59th minute.

"We dictated the game and they hardly had a scoring chance," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes told reporters.

"(Gladbach keeper Marc-Andre) Ter Stegen was the best player on the pitch. He was outstanding."

Spurs duo Parker and Assou-Ekotto near return

LONDON, 15 Dec—Tottenham Hotspur's Scott Parker and Benoit Assou-Ekotto have returned to training and could take part in Sunday's home Premier League clash with Swansea City (13:30 BST).

Midfielder Parker has not played this season due to an Achilles' injury he picked up while playing for England at Euro 2012, while attack-minded left back Assou-Ekot-



Tottenham Hotspur's Scott Parker reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 6 February, 2012.—REUTERS

Aston Villa striker Bent out with thigh strain

LONDON, 15 Dec—Aston Villa striker Darren Bent is expected to be unavailable for "a few weeks" after the out-of-favour forward injured his thigh in a midweek cup tie against Norwich City, manager Paul Lambert said.

The injury occurred 35 minutes into Bent's first start since October, having been replaced as the side's striking spearhead by Belgian international Christian Benteke.

"He's had a scan and

we've got to wait to see how it settles down," Lambert told a news conference.

The injury means the former England player is likely to miss the busy Christmas period.

Captain Ron Vlaar will also miss Saturday's Premier League trip to Liverpool with a calf strain.

The Dutch defender has not played since his side's goalless draw against Arsenal on 24 November.



Aston Villa's Darren Bent reacts during their Premier League soccer match against Newcastle United in Newcastle, northern England on 4 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

Shaqiri, who had already scored in the Champions League and German Cup, went on in the first half following an injury to Spanish midfielder and record German signing Javi Martinez.

It was a rare hiccup for the Bavarians who failed to win for only the fourth time in the league this season.

Bayern reached the halfway point of the campaign and the mid-season break with an impressive 42 points from 17 games, 44 goals scored and just seven conceded.

They are 12 points clear of Bayer Leverkusen, who host mercurial Hamburg SV on Saturday. Champions Borussia Dortmund, a further three points behind in third spot, visit Hoffenheim on Sunday.

Referee Tobias Welz held his nerve and turned down several Bayern penalty appeals throughout the match despite furious protests from the players and crowd on each occasion.

Sixth-placed Gladbach survived an early battering and went ahead when Tolga

limped off against Fulham two weeks ago, is highly doubtful.

Villas-Boas was grateful for a rare seven-day break between matches, having played 10 games in five weeks due to Europa League participation and the Capital One (League) Cup.

It allowed the side to work on areas that needed improvement after they conceded two late goals against Everton to end a three-match league winning streak. "The dressing room was extremely disappointed after Everton. To see the result shift and us to take nothing was difficult," Villas-Boas said.—Reuters

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Soccer

Cigerci's cross hit Jerome Boateng's elbow from close range as the defender turned away and Marx confidently steered the penalty low into the right corner.

Bastian Schweinsteiger's free kick was headed off the line by Juan Arango with Ter Stegen beaten and Brazilian Dante's header scraped the crossbar in the next attack as Bayern hit back.

There was no let up for Gladbach after the break either.

Ter Stegen made an outstanding save at full stretch to stop Schweinsteiger's low shot from finding the bottom corner.

Dante also went close with a header and Franck Ribery was foiled by a borderline offside decision as he was poised to put the finishing touch to a counter attack.—Reuters

Lochte sets world record in 200 individual medley

ISTANBUL, 15 Dec—Ryan Lochte of the United States set a world record of one minute 49.63 seconds to win gold in the 200 metres individual medley at the world short-course championships on Friday.

Lochte, who won the 200 freestyle and 4x100 freestyle world titles on Wednesday and gold in the 4x200 on Thursday, broke the record of 1:50.08 he set in December 2010 in Dubai. Japan's Daiya Seto took silver in 1:52.80 with Hungary's Laszlo Cseh grabbing the bronze medal in 1:52.89.

Lochte won six gold medals and one silver when Dubai hosted the short-course event in 2010. He also won five medals at this year's London Olympics

including two golds.

The 28-year-old American's victory gave him his fourth 200 individual medley title in a row at the short-course worlds having also snatched gold in Shanghai (2006), Manchester (2008) and Dubai (2010). Lochte's world record on Friday was the first at this year's event, on the third day of competition.—Reuters



Ryan Lochte of the US celebrates winning the men's 200m individual medley final during the FINA World Swimming Championships in Istanbul on 14 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Sao Paulo victory "shameful", says Argentine media

BUENOS AIRES, 15 Dec—Argentina's media reacted angrily on Thursday to Sao Paulo's controversial Copa Sudamericana victory over Buenos Aires outfit Tigre.

After a 0-0 draw in the first leg in Buenos Aires, the Brazilian club led 2-0 in Wednesday's decider at Morumbi Stadium. But the home side was awarded victory after Tigre refused to return to the pitch for the second half following a melee involving both teams as they headed for the player tunnel.

"Unprecedented and revolting," said Argentine national football daily *Ole*, referring to reports guns were pointed at Tigre's players by Brazilian police as they left the pitch at half time.

Clarín described the episode as "Tigre's nightmare", citing allegations



Players of Argentina's soccer team Tigre arrive at the Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 13 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

from players that they feared for the wellbeing of family members watching from the stands.

The website of magazine *El Grafico* emphatically supported the Argentine team's decision. "Sao Paulo has brought shame upon South America."

Tigre officials on Thursday filed an official

complaint over the incident to police in Sao Paulo and have also written to South American football's governing body Conmebol requesting action be taken against Sao Paulo.

The Copa Sudamericana is South America's second most prestigious club competition after the Copa Libertadores.—Xinhua

Moscow's Luzhniki confirmed for World Cup final

TOKYO, 15 Dec—Moscow's Luzhniki stadium has been confirmed as the venue for the 2018 World Cup soccer final, FIFA said in a statement on Friday.

The Luzhniki, which has a 90,000 capacity, will also stage the opening match and a semi-final following approval by FIFA's executive committee. St Pe-

tersburg will stage the other semi-final. Moscow, St Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi were approved as venues for the 2017 Confederations Cup, also to be held in Russia, FIFA said. In a separate decision, Kosovo, which is not a FIFA member, was given permission to play friendly matches at "youth, amateur, women's and club football" level. However,

no mention was made of a decision on Kosovo playing friendly internationals at senior level against FIFA member nations.

FIFA had agreed in principle to allow Kosovo to play friendlies last May but, following opposition from Serbia and UEFA president Michel Platini, has delayed implementation of the ruling.—Reuters

GENERAL

Price of orange falls in Sittway market

SITTWAY, 15 Dec— Orange from Paletwa Township flows into the market in Sittway of Rakhine State as of early November. In the second week of December, a large number of orange from Paletwa enter the market, so price of orange transported from Yangon in Sittway went down.



At Sittway market, of Paletwa per K 120-K 150 and that of Yangon per K 70-K 80.

Myanma Alinn

NLM

Word!

Learning English

A diplomatic wish, a development engine and a fall of proposed internet regulation were revealed this week.

“As with anybody who is suffering what he is suffering, we do.”

Victoria Nuland

Spokeswoman of US Department of State

When asked about the comment of the US government on ailing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the spokeswoman wished “a speedy recovery”, but declined the possibility of resuming ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations between US and Venezuela. Chavez returned to Cuba for fourth time in his battle against cancer Monday for an emergency surgery.

“A lever for development”

Irina Bokova

UNESCO Director-General

The UNESCO chief said at “Stand up for Malala: girls’ education is a right” event co-organized by UNESCO and Pakistan government the girls’ education is “a lever for development that profits the whole of society”. Malala is now being recovered from her serious injury the activist for the education for girls sustained when Taliban shot her at head.

“Russians and Chinese overplayed their hands.”

ITU spokesman

A Russian-led coalition at International Telecommunication Union meeting in Dubai proposed tighter regulation on internet which would give the governments more power to censor WWW contents. The plan of the group led by Russia and China was rejected by representatives of the western countries at the meeting attended by representatives from about 150 ITU members. Did they overestimate their influence over ITU?

NLM

Unified Chelsea continue to improve under Benitez

YOKOHAMA, 15 Dec— After taking four games to register a victory under Rafael Benitez, the Chelsea squad appears to be warming to the Spaniard’s meticulous methods with a run of three consecutive wins. By racking up 12 goals in the process, five of them scored by a resurgent Fernando Torres, Chelsea’s 3-1 win over Monterrey at the Club World Cup on Thursday provided the latest evidence of a marked progression under their interim manager.

“We have improved as a team under Benitez,” Torres, so prolific for his Spanish compatriot while they were together at Liverpool, told reporters in Yokohama.

“We are more compact and difficult to break down,” added Spain’s World Cup and European championship winner. “I think we are better in all departments.”

Benitez again refused to

take the credit for Torres’s resurgence after the striker scored in their semi-final in Japan, but midfielder Frank Lampard called for Chelsea fans to show patience.

The Stamford Bridge faithful have jeered Benitez since he took over from Italian Roberto Di Matteo last month but Lampard said the new manager deserved the chance to prove himself at Chelsea.

“Obviously we know the atmosphere is different,”

said Lampard, asked about the booing of Benitez, whose appointment triggered anger among Chelsea fans.

“Maybe that doesn’t help us quite so much. But as players we have to concentrate on our game regardless.” Lampard, whose future at Chelsea is unclear with his contract expiring at the end of the season, said Blues supporters had the right to express their feelings.

Reuters



Frank Lampard (2nd L) of Britain’s Chelsea shakes hands with his interim coach Rafael Benitez after the Club World Cup semi-final soccer match against Mexico’s Monterrey in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 13 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(16-12-2012, Sunday)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|---|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:20 pm | 14. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions |
| 7:25 am | 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 4:30 pm | 15. Dance of National Races |
| 7:40 am | 3. Dhamma Puja Song | 4:40 pm | 16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Law) |
| 7:55 am | 4. Nice & Sweet Song | 4:55 pm | 17. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 8:15 am | 5. (38) Phyar Mingalars | 5:05 pm | 18. Teleplay (Health) |
| 8:40 am | 6. International News | 5:25 pm | 19. Sing & Enjoy |
| 8:45 am | 7. Musical Programme | 6:20 pm | 20. Cartoon Series |
| 11:00 am | 8. Martial Song | 6:40 pm | 21. Tamyethnar Takwetsar |
| 11:20 am | 9. Round Up Of The Week’s International News | 7:00 pm | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 11:30 am | 10. TV Drama Series | 8:00 pm | 23. News |
| 12:30 pm | 11. Myanmar Movies | 2:20 pm | 24. TV Drama Series |
| 2:00 pm | 12. Documentary | | 25. New Melody |
| 2:20 pm | 13. Songs Programme | | |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-12-12 09:30 am ~ 17-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * How to Practice Vipassana Meditation (Part-I)
- * Vietnam-Myanmar Business Forum
- * News
- * 85th Birthday Anniversary His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
- * News
- * A Famous Pagoda in the Sea
- * News
- * A Helping and to Enlighten for the Blind
- * News
- * MI People’s Celebrities “Magnetic Songs”
- * Face of Myanmar Asia New Star Model 2013
- * News
- * “One Precept”
- * News
- * Traffic Jam Myanmar Movie “Po Pyone Cho”

Kompany rejects calls for stadium netting

LONDON, 15 Dec— Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany does not believe netting should be used at stadiums to protect players, the defender saying fans should not be treated like “animals”.

England’s Professional Footballers’ Association made the suggestion following last weekend’s derby when Manchester United’s Rio Ferdinand was hit in the face by a coin thrown from the crowd.

“I would definitely say we need action on prevention but keep treating fans as human beings and not animals that have to be behind cages,” Kompany, who was taken off injured during the match and is unlikely to play against Newcastle United on Saturday, told the BBC in an interview to be shown on the Football Focus programme. “I do think we should take action against these incidents and I have heard a lot of suggestions about putting up nets and everything.”



Manchester City’s Vincent Kompany (R) challenges Chelsea’s Fernando Torres during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge stadium in London on 25 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

“But the fact we are able to put people outside of cages is something that makes the English game so much more special,” the Belgian international said.

Nine people were charged following trouble at the match which United won 3-2. Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart had to restrain a fan who ran on the pitch towards Ferdinand.

“It is never a good thing to happen, not just for Manchester City or Manchester United, but for football,” Kompany added.

The defender suffered a groin injury in the derby game and has only a “two percent chance” of playing against Newcastle, City manager Roberto Mancini told a news conference on

Friday. Italian Mancini agreed with Kompany’s views on the introduction of netting at stadiums, saying: “I think football here is beautiful because the people are very close to the players.”

“I’m very sorry for what happened in the derby. Usually every game is OK we don’t have any problems. I don’t think for this situation we need to change everything.”

The 3-2 defeat by United last Sunday meant second-placed City dropped six points behind their rivals.

They next travel to a Newcastle side that have lost five of their last six league matches and are two points above the relegation zone.

Reuters

Buddhist Cultural Heritage Seminar brings peace, harmony, prosperity, cultural values and guiding principles to all

International Seminar on Buddhist Cultural Heritage opens

YANGON, 15 Dec— Opening ceremony of International Seminar on Buddhist Cultural Heritage, which is jointly organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA), was held at Santipata Assembly Hall of SIBA (Yangon) on Pinlong road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, here, this morning.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended it and supplicated on religious affairs on the occasion. It was also attended by SIBA Chancellor Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Ñanissara, Tipitaka Sayadaws, Sayadaws from the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities (Yangon and Mandalay), International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Sitagu International Buddhist Academies (Sagaing, Yangon and Mandalay), the monks from the US, Singapore, UK, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, China, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Laos and Cambodia, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr Salman Khurshid and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, deputy minister, Region ministers, ambassadors and diplomats, departmental heads, members of the Central Committee for holding the seminar and guests.



Dr Dhammasami of Oxford University acted as a master of ceremonies. The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tasa three times.

After that, Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Ñanissara, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and the Indian External Affairs Minister lit candles. Next, Co-Chairman of the Central Committee Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri supplicated the greeting.

In his supplication, the Vice-President said that a decision was taken by both sides of Myanmar and India during the State visit of President U Thein Sein to the Republic of India in

October, 2011.

The joint statement, concerning this conference, in the paragraph 38 was issued during the State visit of Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The paragraph 39 mentioned that “The two Leaders welcomed the preparations that have been made towards organizing the International Seminar on Preservation of Buddhist Cultural Heritage” in Myanmar with the cooperation of the Indian Council of Culture Relations, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Myanmar and Sitagu International Buddhist Academy.

He continued that

Buddhist scholars would share their views and perspectives on the name of Buddhist Cultural Heritage by presenting their erudite papers at the international Seminar.

The unveiling ceremony of Sand-Stone Buddha Image about 16 ft in height would be convened on the platform of Shwedagon Singuttara Hillock in a grand ceremony on that evening.

A Buddhist Exhibition, Buddhist Film Festival, and Cultural Programme where a joint India-Myanmar cultural troupe’s performance and a play on the life of the Buddha would also be staged.

(See page 10)

Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Ñanissara, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Indian External Affairs Minister Mr Salman Khurshid light candles to open International Seminar on Buddhist Cultural Heritage.

MNA

“The New Light of Soccer”

Here comes the new light for Myanmar Soccer.
 Thousand lights in absolute glitter.
 Lo! Where they shine from.
 Which last for ever and ever more.
 Enjoy the game under these glow.
 Stadium field lighting 356 sets of 1500 watts each
 And 20 sets for Auditorium.
 Then with Quarts light 1000 watts 108 sets for Emergency
 Complete with Automatic Programming switch board
 According to FIFA standard
 Back up by 1000KVA Generator each at Indoor substation to illuminate the soccer field.
 It’s lovely.
 Train Here. Move faster and Play harder.
 You’ve enough power of brightness as broad daylight.
 See the Goal.
 Don’t ever look back whatever happened.
 Win-Win-Win.
 Keep up the spirit of Myanmar.
 Now you are under the New Light of Soccer already in Great Nay Pyi Taw.

Hla Min
 Chief Engineer (MMCC)

