

# The New Light of Myanmar

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## All inclusiveness achieves much more success than individual efforts

### President tours Kawthoung

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — President U Thein Sein and party left Dawei by special flight yesterday and arrived at Kawthoung Airport where they were welcomed by departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The President and party observed development of Kawthoung from the viewing platform in Kawthoung. The President met with departmental officials and gave instructions on development of Kawthoung.

Next, the President and party visited Bayintnaung Hillcock where the statue of King Bayintnaung stands, and oversaw Bayintnaung bridge and development of Kawthoung.

In meeting with departmental officials at the guest house in Kawthoung, the President said that Kawthoung was only a township. It did better in administration. Accordingly, it had been promoted into a district level. Kawthoung was a gateway to the southernmost part of the country. The

lack of gate security might pose a danger to security, economic and social sectors. Import of commodities to Kawthoung from Thailand could have advantages and disadvantages. It needed to prevent the dangers for the country. Myanmar had to export marine products-fishes to Thailand as raw materials. Coal-fired power plant (8 megawatt) had been built in Kawthoung. Only two mega watt was used. The officials needed to seek the ways for development of the businesses by manufacturing value-added products with the use of surplus electricity.

Union Level and Region level alone were not enough. Necessary departmental staff had been appointed for regional development. So, staff needed to have qualifications. The region would lag in development if it had no qualified staff. To achieve the goals required the collaboration of department, officials concerned and deputy commissioners. At the district/township levels, weekly and monthly



President U Thein Sein views development of Kawthoung from the viewing platform.—MNA

coordination meetings were to be made regularly under the leadership of District General Administration Department Office. All participations could achieve much more success than the individuals.

The President called for adhering to the existing laws to ensure the rule of law in the region. He said there would be trade of contrabands in the border area while urging them to show accountability. The

President said the staff are responsible to ensure the development and the rule of law of the region.

The President and party then left Kawthoung for Myeik.

MNA

### Myanmar to participate in US Shows

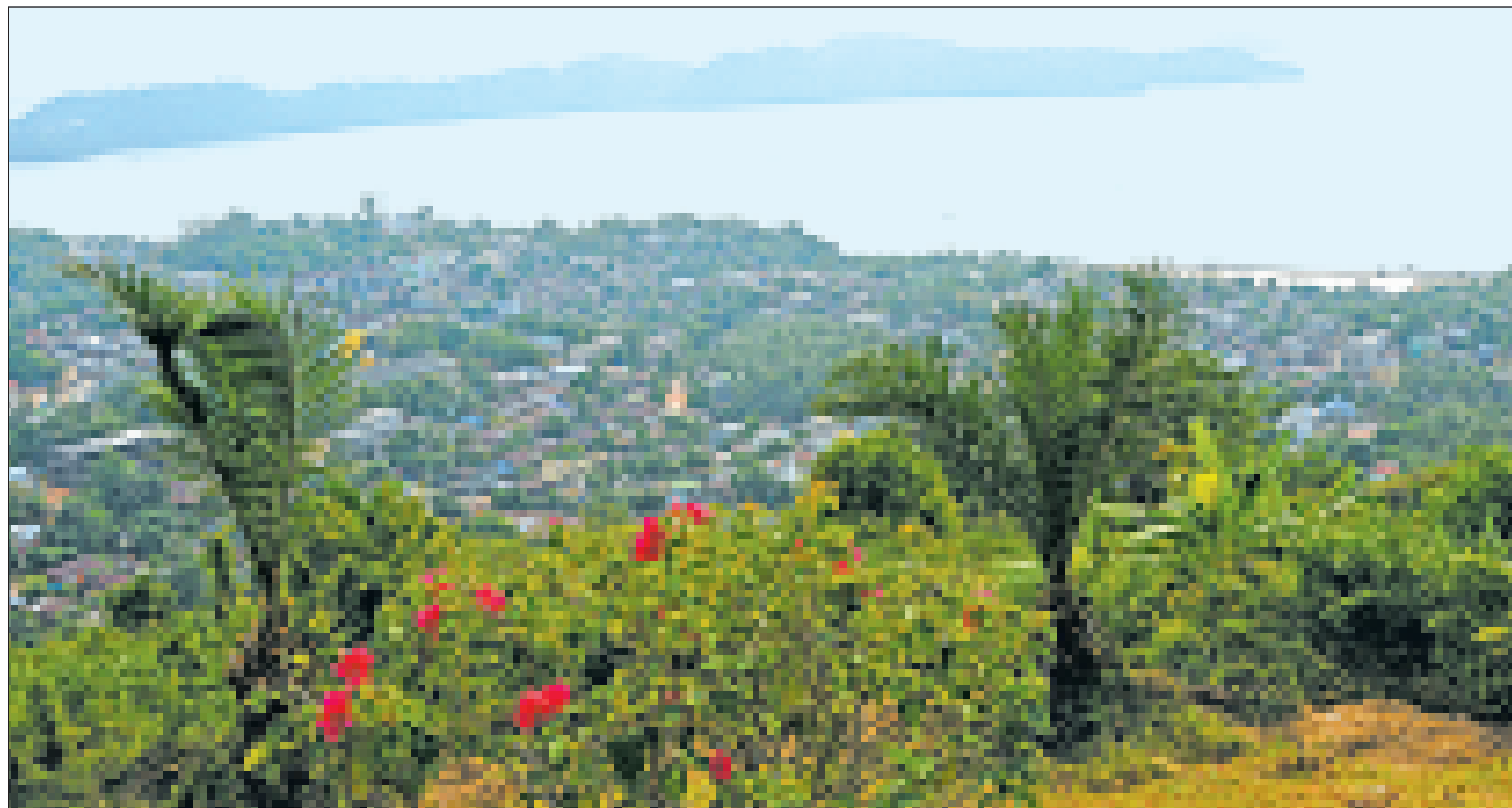
NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec— Myanmar's entrepreneurs are invited to take part in International Consumer Electronics Show-2013 and The International Builder's Show to be held in Las Vegas in the United States of America.

The International Consumer Electronics Show-2013 will be held from 8-11 January 2013 in Las Vegas. The cars, computers, handsets, electronics and electrical appliances are put on display by manufactures and dealers.

The International Builder's Show will be held from 21-24 January. All-in-one modern products of construction in the world are exhibited at the show.

It is a great chance to meet construction entrepreneurs from every corner of the world.

Nyi Nyi Thabyay



## MTF looks for talented tennis youngsters

YANGON, 18 Dec — The first tennis demonstration took place at Theinbyu Tennis Court on 8 December. The President of Myanmar Tennis Federation spoke on the occasion.

The tennis demonstration aimed at generating the awareness of tennis sports among students totaling 975

from 12 basic education schools in Yangon Region and ILBC and ISY private schools and nurturing the talented young tennis players to be internationals.

Arrangements have been made for organizing tennis demonstrations in States and Regions.

*Kyemon*



## Self-reliant book corner in Myoma Market

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — A self-reliant book corner is being kept open at a shop near Nay Kyal Min Bus Line in Myoma Market in Zabuthiri Township, here, starting from 16 December.

A ceremony to donate publications to the book corner called “Doh Myanmar” was held on 16 December, attended by the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw

of Pyankapyay Maha Vihara Monastery in the township, the township administrator, officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee and readers.

Those who want to donate books and other publications to the book corner may contact Ph: 09 428319049 and 09420745138.

*Kyemon*

## MMM Plaza to open soon

MANDALAY, 18 Dec — Plans are underway to open MMM Plaza on the second floor of Mann Myanmar Zaygyo Plaza in Zaygyo area which is the hustle and bustle of Mandalay. The area of 35426 square feet on the second floor of Mann Myanmar Zaygyo Plaza will be occupied with MMM Plaza.

MMM Plaza will provide

a two-lane motorway, a parking lot, four escalators, two lifts, air-condition system and wifi internet access. It will be suitable for opening of offices, training centre, cosmetics and personal goods shops and other services centres, and shops and rooms can be hired by one-year contract and long term system.

*Kyemon*



## Historic Sandawshin Pagoda Festival on 23 December

SITTWAY, 18 Dec — Historic Sandawshin Pagoda Festival will be held on a grand scale from 23 to 28 December (from 10<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nadaw to the Fullmoon Day of Nadaw) in Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State. The festival is annually held in the month of Nadaw.

It is learnt that Buddha’s sacred hair relics were enshrined at the historic pagoda built on Nilar Pavata Hillock, southernmost of Myay-ngu-kyun in the township, in the time of King Sanda Thuriya of Dhanyawady era.

*Kyemon*

## Flying sparks from the pump set fire to the coconut oil factory

MAWLAMYINE, 18 Dec — A fire broke out at a coconut oil factory on fish farm street in Zeyarthiri ward in Mawlamyine, Mon State at about 12.30 pm on 14 December. The fire started when flying sparks ignited the coconut oil in the filtration tank.

According to the information given by phone,

two administrative vehicle and ten fire engines rushed there and 20 firemen and 50 auxiliary fire brigade members managed to bring the blaze under control at about 2 pm.

The fire swept through the factory building, destroying 40 barrels of coconut oil and two 10 HP pumps. — *Kyemon*



## A six-year-old boy run over, killed by a truck

YEDASHE, 18 Dec — A six-year-old child was run over and killed while a truck with a load of sugarcanes moved backwards to start its journey at a sugarcane plantation, north of Ma-u-tone village in Yedashe Township of Bago Region at about 3.30 pm on 12 December.

Maung Thant Zin Phy (6 years) of Ma-u-tone village who fell asleep

under the six-wheeled TE truck which waited at the sugarcane plantation to pick up its loads was run over and pronounced dead when the truck driven by Htain Win (42 years) moved backwards to go out of the plantation.

Yedashe Township Police Station has opened a case in the court of law.

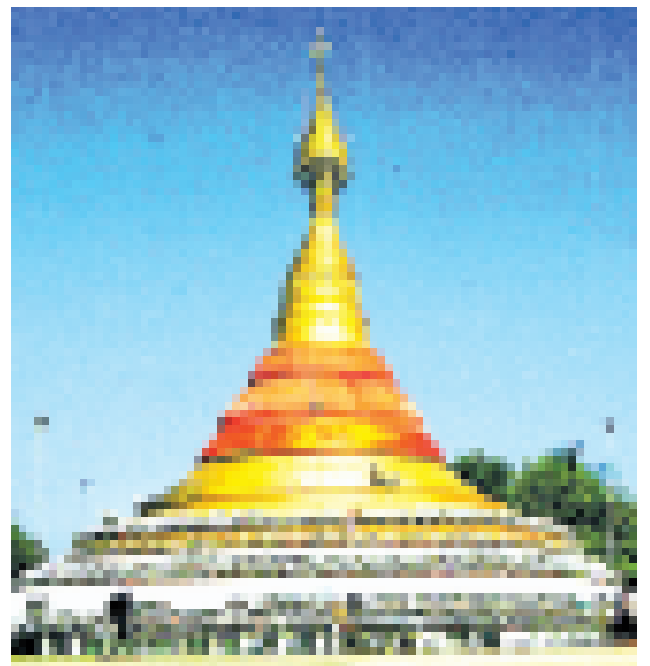
*Kyemon*

## New building for CICS (Phaunggyi)

YANGON, 18 Dec — The opening of a two-storey building (Tharaphi Hostel) with an accommodation capacity of 200 trainees was held at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region on 15 December.

Member of Union Civil Service Board Dr Win Myint and CICS Acting Rector U Tun Kyi formally opened the new building and viewed round it.

*MNA*



## MNL friendlies against 8-ranked Malaysian team coming soon

YANGON, 18 Dec — Football clubs of Myanmar National League that are in preparation for 2013 football season will play friendly matches against T-Team, one of Malaysian Super Leagues, on 20, 22 and 24 December, here.

According to an arrangement made by the Malaysian football agent that is dealing with transfer of footballers between MNL clubs and foreign football clubs, T-Team will play friendly matches

against Yangon United FC at the latter’s football ground on 20 December, Magway FC at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre 22 December and Kanbawza FC at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 24 December.

T-Team was ranked eight in Malaysia Super League 2012. Former YUFC head coach trains the Malaysian club comprising native players and two former premier league players.—*Kyemon*

## Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenges in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 18 Dec — Myanmar traditional boxing challenges were organized at the football ground at the corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> streets in Maha Aungmyay Township, here, at 7 pm on 16 December.

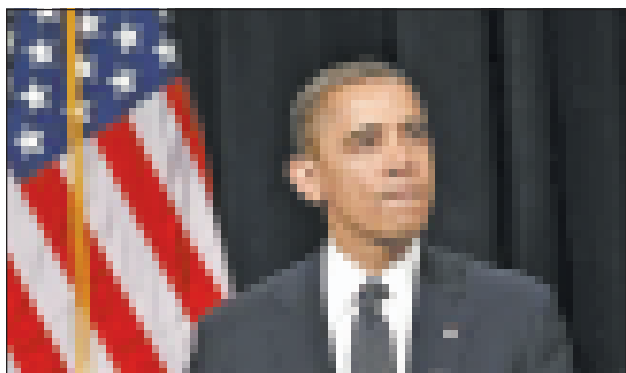
At the three-round challenges, Myaypway Mike (Myaypway) knocked his rival Chit Hein (Patmasein) out in the second round. The match between Pale Pyu (Paleik) and Khine Thu Win (Patmasein) ended in knockout in the

first round and Pale Pyu won the match. Thargyi Nanndaw (Paikkyone) won by a second-round knockout Shoelay (Sagaing). At the four-round challenge, Athe Dapwint (Mattaya) won by second-round knockout 5k (Shwe Kyarpyu).

Three five-round challenges ended in a draw. The five-round challenge between Aung Aung (Mandalay) and Saw Tinpoke (a) Shaung (England) ended in knockout in the first round.—*Kyemon*

## WORLD

## Even without Congress, Obama could act to restrict guns



US President Barack Obama looks down as he walks from the rostrum after speaking at a vigil held at Newtown High School for families of victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—Unburdened by re-election worries and empowered by law to act without Congress, US President Barack Obama could take action to improve background checks on gun buyers, ban certain gun imports and bolster oversight of dealers.

Prospects for gun control legislation intensified in the wake of the school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, as more pro-gun rights lawmakers said on Monday they were open to the possibility while Obama and three cabinet members met at the White House to

discuss the subject.

Having just won a second four-year term, Obama does not need to fear alienating voters who favour gun rights and he could press ahead without lawmakers on fronts where federal law enables executive action.

Speaking in Newtown, where a gunman on Friday killed 20 children and six adults in an elementary school, Obama vowed late on Sunday to “use whatever power this office holds” to try to prevent such massacres. “Because what choice do we have? We can’t accept events like this as routine,” Obama said at Newtown High School. His administration has the power to issue executive orders or new rules, options that Obama is likely to consider in combination with possible new laws.

The National Rifle Association, the largest US gun rights group with 4 million supporters, relies largely on its ability to influence lawmakers in order to block legislation. Obama’s appointees at the US Justice Department have been studying ideas since the 8 January, 2011, shooting of US Representative Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona and 18 others at a public meeting. Giffords survived but six people died. Christopher Schroeder, who ran the Justice Department’s review, said it looked at possible legislation to send to Congress as well as action the administration could take itself. “You always look at both, because if you can do it administratively it’s certainly a less involved process,” said Schroeder, who has since returned to a professorship at Duke Law School.—Reuters

## Clinton gets accountability report on Benghazi attacks

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday received an official review of the September attack on a US diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, setting the stage for testimony on an incident that prompted a political furor and sharp questions about security at US diplomatic facilities overseas.

The State Department said Clinton — who is convalescing after suffer-

land said. The committee has been meeting in private and State Department officials have declined to discuss almost all specifics of the Benghazi attack pending its reports. The findings are expected to cover questions on whether enough attention was given to potential threats and how Washington responded to security requests from US diplomats in Libya.

A determination that top State Department of-



The US Consulate in Benghazi is seen in flames.

REUTERS

## Mexico’s new president outlines nuanced fight against violence

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec—Mexico’s new president on Monday unveiled his strategy to curb drug-related violence that blighted the rule of his predecessor, announcing special units to combat kidnapping and extortion and promising to focus more on crime prevention. Enrique Pena Nieto took office on 1 December pledging to restore stability to Mexico, which has been battered by brutal turf wars between drug cartels and their clashes with security forces.

More than 60,000 people died in the bloodletting under former president Felipe Calderon, who became embroiled in an escalating drug war after he sent in the army to bring hot spots to heel upon taking office in late 2006. Instead of easing, though, the killings rose.



Mexico’s President Enrique Pena Nieto delivers a speech during the II Extraordinary Session of the National Council of Public Security in Mexico City on 17 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Pena Nieto, 46, said Mexico’s struggle over the last six years showed a multipronged approach is needed to get violence off the streets of Latin America’s No 2 economy.

“We’re going to plan policy and the institutional changes over the medium and long term, and also every specific decision and operation,” the president told a news conference. “Security and justice policy is not going to be focused on reacting.” Pena Nieto said the military would continue to patrol Mexico’s streets until a new militarized po-

lice, known as a national gendarmerie, was ready to take over. That force would initially be 10,000 strong — about a quarter of the total the president has previously mentioned. The existing federal police, meanwhile, would have 15 teams dedicated to fighting kidnapping and extortion. The strategy would put in place five regional centres tailored towards curbing violence, and aims to devote nearly 116 billion pesos (\$9 billion) to prevention by giving young people more opportunities. The plan calls for additional full-day schools and better

public spaces, Pena Nieto said. “It’s a more fully articulated vision than that of the previous government,” said Javier Oliva, a security expert at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). “Pena Nieto’s government is looking to anticipate events and will try to correct the previous government’s mistakes.”

Reuters

ing a concussion last week — received the report from the Accountability Review Board formed to probe the attack which killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. “The ARB has completed its work. Its report has gone to the secretary this morning. She now has it,” State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nu-

officials turned down those requests, as Republican congressional investigators allege, could refuel criticism of the officials — and possibly even end the careers of some of them. Clinton had been expected to testify to Congress on 20 December on the report’s results, but is under doctors’ orders to remain at home this week.—Reuters

## Syrian rebels take control of Damascus Palestinian camp



A torn poster of Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad is seen at the entrance of a factory in Ouwayjah village in Aleppo on 17 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

BEIRUT, 18 Dec—Syrian rebels took full control of the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp on Monday after fighting raged for days in the district on the southern edge of President Bashar al-Assad’s Damascus powerbase, rebel and Palestinian sources said.

The battle had pitted rebels, backed by some Palestinians, against Palestinian fighters of the pro-Assad Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Many PFLP-GC fighters defected to the rebel side and their leader Ahmed Jibril left the camp two days ago, rebel sources said.

“All of the camp is under the control of the (rebel) Free Syrian Army,” said a Palestinian activist in Yarmouk. He said clashes had stopped and the remaining PFLP fighters retreated to join Assad’s forces massed on the northern edge of the camp. The battle in Yarmouk is one of a series of conflicts

on the southern fringes of Assad’s capital, as rebels try to choke the power of the 47-year-old leader after a 21-month-old uprising in which 40,000 people have been killed.

Government forces have used jets and artillery to try to dislodge the fighters but the violence has crept into the heart of the city and activists say rebels overran three army stations in a new offensive in the central Province of Hama on Monday.

On the border with Lebanon, hundreds of Palestinian families fled across the frontier following the weekend violence in Yarmouk, a Reuters witness said. Syria hosts half a million Palestinian refugees, most living in Yarmouk, descendants of those admitted after the creation of Israel in 1948, and has always cast itself as a champion of the Palestinian struggle, sponsoring several guerrilla factions.

Reuters

## French hostages in Sahel alive, attempts to free them unsuccessful

PARIS, 18 Dec—French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian affirmed on Monday that French nationals kidnapped in the Sahel region are alive, adding that the government’s initiatives to release them remained fruitless.

“We said and we repeated that they (hostages) are alive... However, for the moment, the initiatives that we are taking to secure their

release were unsuccessful, and are not only unsuccessful but there is one more hostage,” the minister told France Culture radio.

“So we must also stop this process and to ensure that it will be happened with the best way,” he added. In November, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) claimed responsibility for kidnapping a

61-year-old Portuguese-born hostage abducted in Kayes in southwest Mali, as response to Paris’ continued support of a planned military operation to oust Islamists insurgents from the northern region of the west African country.

Six French nationals are already in the hands of kidnapers in the Sahel region.

Xinhua

## Mind-controlled robotic arm gets closer than ever to human limb

LONDON, 18 Dec—Researchers in the United States have developed a robotic arm controlled directly by thought with a level of agility closer than ever to a normal human limb.

Jan Scheuermann, a 52 year-old woman who was diagnosed with a degenerative brain disorder 13 years ago and is paralyzed from the neck down, was able to operate the robotic arm with a level of control and fluidity not seen before in this type of advanced prosthesis.

Experts are calling it a remarkable step forward for prosthetics controlled directly by the brain. Other systems have already allowed paralyzed patients to type or write in freehand simply by thinking about the letters they want.

And in the last month,

researchers in Switzerland used electrodes implanted directly on the retina to enable a blind patient to read.

The development of brain-machine interfaces is moving quickly and scientists predict the technology could eventually be used to bypass nerve damage and re-awaken a person's own paralyzed muscles. In the meantime, they say, systems like this could be paired with robotic 'exoskeletons' that allow paraplegics and quadraplegics to walk.

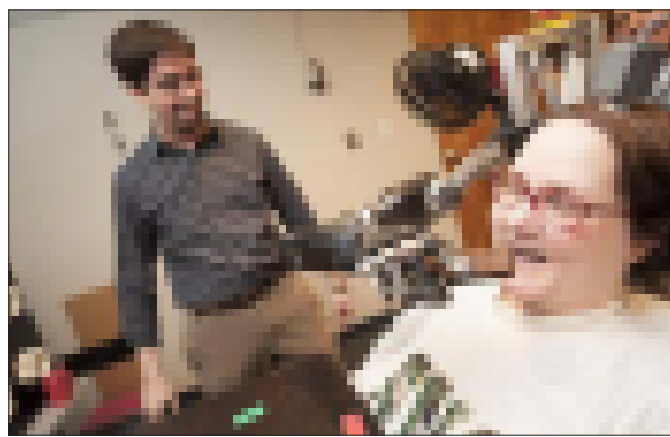
In the latest study, published in the *Lancet*, a research team from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre implanted two microelectrode devices into the woman's left motor cortex, the part of the brain that initiates movement.

The medics used a

real-time brain scanning technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging to find the exact part of the brain that lit up after the patient was asked to think about moving her now unresponsive arms.

The electrodes were connected to the robotic hand via a computer running a complex algorithm to translate the signals that mimic the way an unimpaired brain controls healthy limbs. "These electrodes are remarkable devices in that they are very small," Michael Boninger, who worked on the study, told *Reuters*. "You can't buy them in Radio Shack." But Boninger said the way the algorithm operates is the main advance. Accurately translating brain signals has been one of the biggest challenges in mind-

### Science



An undated photo shows a 52 year-old woman, paralysed from the neck down, demonstrating the use of a new mind-controlled prosthetic arm with intuitive control to help her eat a chocolate bar at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre in Pittsburgh.

REUTERS

controlled prosthetics.

"There is no limit now to decoding human motion," he said. "It gets more complex when you work on parts like the hand, but I think that, once you can tap into desired motion in the brain, then how that motion is effected has a wide range of possibilities."

It took weeks of training for Scheuermann to master control of the hand, but she was able to move it after two days, and over time she completed tasks - such as picking up objects,

orientating them, and moving them to a target position - with a 91.6 percent success rate. Her speed increased with practice.

The researchers plan to incorporate wireless technology to remove the need for a wired connection between the patient's head and the prosthesis.

They also believe a sensory loop could be added that gives feedback to the brain, allowing the user to tell the difference between hot and cold, or smooth and

rough surfaces.

"This bioinspired brain-machine interface is a remarkable technological and biomedical achievement," said Grégoire Courtine at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, who was not involved in the study. "Though plenty of challenges lie ahead, these sorts of systems are rapidly approaching the point of clinical fruition," Courtine said in a comment piece in the *Lancet* linked to the study.—*Reuters*



A Twitter page is displayed on a laptop computer in Los Angeles on 13 Oct, 2009.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Dec—Weeks before he accepted a \$1 billion offer from Facebook Inc, Instagram CEO Kevin Systrom had verbally agreed to sell his photo-sharing company to

Twitter Inc for \$525 million in March—but then called off the deal, according to a *New York Times* report citing unnamed sources.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg ultimately

## Twitter offered Instagram \$525 million deal

### Tech

acquired Instagram after pushing through a cash-and-stock deal just weeks before Facebook's May initial public offering. The transaction closed in September at a \$715 million valuation, reflecting Facebook's stock drop since the offering.

During negotiations with Instagram, Twitter executives had handed Systrom a term sheet outlining the details of the proposed deal, the *Times* reported, but Systrom later told California state regulators under oath that his company had not received any "formal offers or term

sheets" from potential buyers aside from Facebook.

Relations between Twitter, Instagram and Facebook have soured since Facebook successfully swooped for the photo service. Earlier this month Instagram shut off a functionality that allowed Twitter to display Instagram pictures, while Twitter introduced its own photo colour-filters to compete with Instagram.

A spokeswoman for Facebook declined comment. Twitter could not be immediately reached for comment.

Reuters

## Google could emerge unscathed from federal web search probe

### Tech

TORONTO, 18 Dec—Google may not face any major repercussions from the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) two-year-old anti-trust investigation into its web search business, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The FTC might drop the investigation sometime this week based on voluntary changes Google will make to its search practices, rather than making the company sign a formal settlement called a consent decree, the *Journal* said.

The web search investigation examined whether Google tweaks its search results to disadvantage rivals in travel, shopping and other specialized searches.

Google will probably still be required to sign a consent decree for a separate federal investigation into the licensing of mobile-

technology patents it acquired when it took over phone maker Motorola Mobility, the *Journal* said.

An end to the federal probe into Google's search business would allow the company to avoid getting mired in anti-trust investigations like rival Microsoft Corp endured in the early 2000s.

The European Commission, which is also probing Google, is expected to announce a decision next month.

The FTC declined to comment to the *Wall Street Journal* and could not be reached for comment by *Reuters* outside of regular business hours.

Google could not be reached for comment by *Reuters* outside of regular business hours.

Reuters

## Japanese women enamoured of "Mr Right" love

### Tech

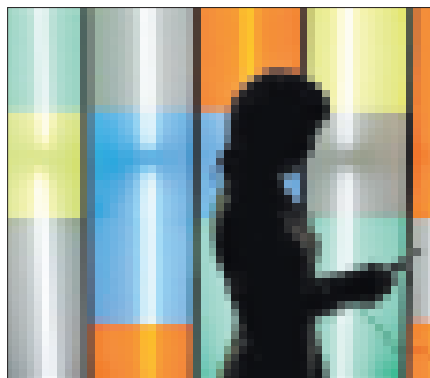
TOKYO, 18 Dec—After being saved from kidnapping, you discover you're the daughter of the prime minister and your life is in imminent danger. You are introduced to a handful of handsome bodyguards, and must decide who you want to protect you 24 hours a day.

That's the scenario for one of several role-playing "love games" currently popular in Japan, allowing women to safely spend time with their choice of Mr Right without actually dealing with a live person — even as marriage rates in Japan fall.

"In the game, you're the lone woman, and the attention of all the guys is on you," said "han-kura," a 37-year-old office worker

A booth assistant checks out a video game with a mobile phone during Tokyo Game Show 2006 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 22 Sept, 2006.

REUTERS



who uses that alias on a blog dedicated to these games.

The role-playing games are based on characters typical of Japanese manga comics, with all the men slender and elegant. The player becomes the heroine and chooses an ideal mate from several "knight in shining armour" characters,

developing a relationship through the choices they make in the storyline.

The games, which can be played on smart phones, are especially popular with working single women in their 30s who feel they don't have the time or energy for a real relationship due to their demanding

work schedule, said Kana Shimada, a novelist who writes about modern women and relationships.

"It may be virtual, but if it's 'a boyfriend from a game,' then you can enjoy it whenever you want," said Shimada. "The games that make you feel the ups and downs of a real relationship have all the elements to get women hooked."

The video game industry has always had a strong male following, but it seems to have found a way to finally capitalize on female users. The sector based on such love simulation games grew by 30.4% with 14.6 billion yen in sales in 2011, according to Yano Research Institute.

Reuters



Coffee cups with Google logos are seen at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 November, 2012.

REUTERS

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH



A worker welds iron rods at the construction site of a commercial complex in Ahmedabad on 29 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## India lowers growth forecast, says on track for deficit

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec—India lowered its official growth forecast to between 5.7 and 5.9 percent for this fiscal year, the finance ministry's mid-year economic review said on Monday, but said it was on track to meet a fiscal deficit target of 5.3 percent.

The budgeted forecast for GDP growth in the 2012/13 fiscal year was 7.6 percent, but growth was just

5.4 percent in the first half of the year. Finance Minister P Chidambaram recently projected growth of between 5.5 and 6 percent for the year.

The government has struggled to contain the deficit, which has swelled because of costly oil subsidies and sluggish tax revenues, prompting global ratings agencies to warn of a possible credit downgrade.

Reuters

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec—India is looking at new ways to attract investors to sales of shares in state-run industries and large offerings in Oil India (OILI.NS) and power company NTPC (NTPC.NS) are set to come in the next few weeks, a top finance ministry official said.

Selling equity in large public industries is a central plank of the government's plan to bring down a wide fiscal deficit, a major weakness in Asia's third-largest economy that has triggered repeated warnings of a credit downgrade from global ratings agencies.

Until last week the government's divestment plan was struggling, but it got a boost from a \$1.1 billion offering of miner NMDC Ltd (NMDC.NS). It is on track to meet a budget target of \$5.5 billion by the end of March, DK Mittal, Secretary, Financial Services and Disinvestment, told the CNBC television network.

Mittal said the Oil India offering will happen in January and will be quickly followed by NTPC by early February.

Investor interest in stake sales was muted last year

because of poor market conditions and high pricing, along with restrictions and poor incentives for banks handling the deals that put off foreign players.

The NMDC sale was popular in part because the government set the floor price below book value, which attracted more investors, which could set the tone for the upcoming stake sales.

"We have to have a strategy keeping in mind that the market tends to bring in the price at the lower level," Mittal said. "Pricing is only part of it, there are few more parameters which are a part of the strategy." He did not give more details, but India's Economic Times newspaper on Monday reported the finance ministry is planning to achieve the target by setting realistic floor prices for share auctions and also providing better incentives to merchant banks, to prod them to go out and aggressively woo investors.

Last financial year, state-run insurer LIC had to bail out the government and buy most of the shares on offer after very low interest for the sale of stock in oil

company ONGC (ONGC.NS). Investors said the floor price was too high for market conditions.

Last week, Mittal told reporters he was looking at

## Business

of India Ltd (SAIL.NS), NALCO (NALU.NS) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL.NS). Mittal gave



An employee uses an electronic machine to check a rupee note inside a bank in Allahabad on 16 Dec, 2011.

REUTERS

extending the offering time for shares of state-run firms beyond market hours so that more institutional investors from Europe and the United States could participate in the stake sales.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said India will speed up the sales to revive the stock market and will push ahead with reforms aimed at spurring an investment recovery in the flagging economy. The ministry is also looking to offload stakes in Steel Authority

no timeline on these, but the Economic Times report said they were likely to be part of the renewed push.

However, he ruled out any immediate IPO for state-run aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, while speaking to CNBC TV-18. "We do have a few issues to be put through the IPOs but I think we have still not completed the process. And as you are aware, IPOs do take a longer time so I don't expect anything to hit within this financial year," he said.—Reuters

## Nikkei at eight and a half month high on weak yen, most Asian shares drop

TOKYO, 18 Dec—The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan's election triumph drove the yen to a 20-month low against the dollar that propelled the Nikkei stock average .N225 to a 8-1/2-month closing high on expectations Japanese firms will have much better export earnings.

But regional bourses succumbed to profit-taking from last week's rally as investors wound down positions ahead of the holiday season amid worries that Washington won't avert the "fiscal cliff" of tax hikes and spending cuts that could hurt the US and global economy.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS dropped 0.5 percent, snapping an eight day winning streak.

European shares were expected to start higher, with financial spread betters predicting London's FTSE 100 .FTSE, Paris's CAC-40 .FCHI and Frankfurt's DAX .GDAXI will open as much as 0.4 percent up. A 0.3 percent gain in US stock futures hinted at a firm Wall Street open. LEUN

Shanghai shares .SSEC

rose 0.3 percent rise after the official Xinhua news agency said on Sunday that China pledged to maintain steady economic policies in 2013, leaving room for maneuver in the face of global risks while deepening reforms to support long-term growth.

On Friday, the Shanghai Composite Index soared 4 percent and Hong Kong shares .HSI rose to a 16-month peak. This year's resolution of a leadership contest in Beijing "is positive for the Chinese market," said Martha Wang, portfolio manager of Fidelity's China Focus Fund. "There are many companies with strong fundamentals, which have been indiscriminately punished by

political uncertainty, trading at attractive valuations."

Aiming to restore confidence in the mainland's stock markets — which have markedly lagged Asian peers in recent rallies—China's foreign exchange regulator has removed the \$1 billion limit for foreign sovereign wealth funds, central banks and monetary authorities buying Chinese assets through the Qualified Institutional Investor Programme. Australian shares .AXJO fell 0.2 percent in thin trade, but the resource sector found support from firm iron ore prices, which had helped the market reach a 17-month high last week.

Xinhua



A visitor walks near the logo of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 5 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## Daylight savings tied to bump in heart attack rates

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec—Setting the clock ahead for daylight savings time may set the scene for a small increase in heart attacks the next day, according to a US study—which suggests that sleep deprivation may be to blame. Researchers at two hospitals in the US state of Michigan, whose findings appeared in the *American Journal of Cardiology*, reviewed six years of records and found that they treated an average of 23 heart attacks on the Sunday when the United States switched to daylight savings time. That compared to 13 on a typical Sunday.

"Nowadays, people are looking for how they can reduce their risk of heart disease and other ailments," said Monica Jiddou, the study's lead author and a cardiologist at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

"Sleep is something we can potentially control. There are plenty of studies that show sleep can affect a person's health."

A 2008 Swedish report, for instance, found that the chance of a heart attack increased in the first three weekdays after the switch to daylight savings time,

and decreased the Monday after the clocks returned to standard time in the autumn.

Jiddou told Reuters Health that her team wanted to see if their respective hospitals experienced the same increase and decrease in heart attacks seen in the Swedish study. For the new study, she and her colleagues reviewed records for the 328 patients who were diagnosed with a heart attack during the week after a time change between 2006 and 2012, and for the 607 heart attack patients who were treated two weeks before and after the time shifts.—Reuters

## Yazaki opens auto parts factory in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 18 Dec—Japanese auto parts maker Yazaki Corp opened a wire harness factory in Cambodia on Monday, which President Yasuhiko Yazaki said will create about 600 jobs in the country immediately.

The \$24 million plant is in Koh Kong Province about 270 kilometres southwest of Phnom Penh.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said the new plant will contribute

to "socio-economic development by promoting the livelihoods of Cambodian people."

He added Cambodia is welcoming more investment from Japan and noted Minebea Co opened a new plant in the capital a year ago and last week Japanese retailer Aeon Co broke ground in Phnom Penh for a major shopping complex that will include hospital facilities. Yazaki said the new factory will use "sophisticated technologies"

and is expected to employ as many as 2,000 people by 2015.

Government statistics show only 15 Japanese companies invested in Cambodia from 1994 to 2009 with a total capital of \$147 million, but investment is picking up with five companies making investments worth \$35 million in 2010 and 19 making investments worth \$66 million in 2011.

Kyodo News

## WORLD



**Palestinian security forces take part in a military parade in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on 17 Dec, 2012. The parade was held to show support for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after a United Nations vote that granted Palestine the status of a non-member observer state.**  
XINHUA

## Dialogue with Russia is possible, says Georgian special envoy

TBILISI, 18 Dec— Georgia's special envoy on Russian issues, Zurab Abashidze, said on Monday dialogue is possible between the South Caucasus country and its northern neighbour.

Briefing the media here, Abashidze said his meeting on Friday with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gregory Karasin in Geneva is not bad for a first face-on contact after so many years.

The Georgian special envoy said that issues discussed during the Geneva meeting included cultural, humanitarian and economic relations as well as restoration of direct flights between Tbilisi and Moscow.

"From the 1 Oct (parliamentary) elections, voters gave us a mandate to find a common language with Russia," said Abashidze,

who served as Georgia's Ambassador to Moscow between 2000 and 2004, "We cannot be in constant confrontation. I don't know of any country that has such relations with a big and difficult neighbour. Our Western partners have always advised us to launch a dialogue with Russia.

"We have started a dialogue as it is only alternative is deadlock and permanent tensions. In this dialogue we mean listening to each other, exchanging opinions, looking for agreements through compromises."

Zurab Abashidze said that the Geneva meeting had been conducted in a business-like environment and that the Georgia-Russia dialogue process would not harm the ongoing Geneva talks which have been held

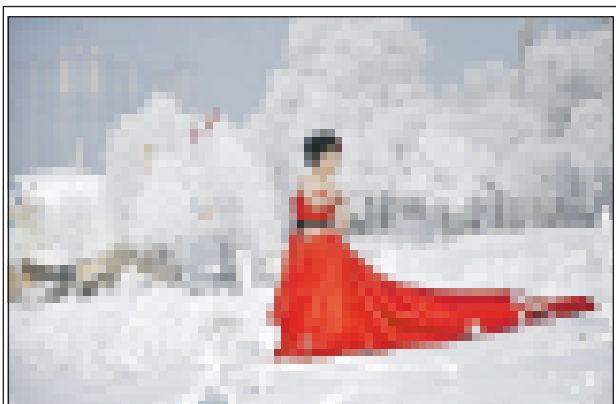
regularly since the August 2008 conflict between the two countries.

"On the contrary, we will try to strengthen the (Geneva talks) process. We know we will have to listen to harsh criticism from many, though we hope the process will end successfully."

But the special envoy did not specify a date for the next meeting between him and a senior Russian official and he said that meetings would be held on a regular basis.

As to the restoration of Georgian exports to the Russian market, Zurab Abashidze said that it would not be a matter of Russia's free will but rather an obligation of Russia as a member of the World Trade Organization.

Xinhua



**A bride poses for wedding photo among rime along Songhua River in Jilin City, northeast China's Jilin Province on 17 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA**

## Cayman Islands' ruling party fails to reach consensus to oust premier

GEORGETOWN, 18 Dec— Members of the Cayman Islands' ruling party failed to reach a consensus on Monday to oust Premier McKeeva Bush, who was arrested last week on suspicion of corruption, a party official said. Key members of the United Democratic Party met on Monday to determine if they would withdraw their

support for the embattled leader, said Ellio Solomon, who represents the party in parliament. But the meeting ended without an agreement by the party to call on Bush to step down, he told Reuters. Solomon said some members who would like to see Bush resign had reached out to opposition leaders about trying to force

Bush from office through a no confidence motion in parliament.

Bush, 57, was arrested on 11 December by members of the Financial Crime Unit of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. He was released on bail until February, pending the possible filing of criminal charges against him.—Reuters

## Mexico announces new security strategy

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec— Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Monday announced a new security strategy, which focuses on transformation of law enforcement institutions and crime prevention.

Pena Nieto, who took office on 1 Dec, said a 10,000-strong militarized police force known as the national gendarmerie would be created. The military

would continue to patrol Mexico's streets until the gendarmerie is ready to take over.

The Attorney General's Office would be strengthened, Pena Nieto told the Public Security National Council.

He also stressed that the new strategy has a regional focus and specific actions would be strengthened in hot spots. The government will invest 115.6 billion

Mexican pesos (9.17 billion US dollars) in 2013 for crime prevention programmes.

The new strategy is different from the one used by his predecessor Felipe Calderon, who relied on the military in a war with drug cartels. Calderon's strategy was widely seen as a failure as more than 60,000 drug-related killings occurred during his six-year term.

Xinhua

## International search for missing Samoan fishermen called off

WELLINGTON, 18 Dec— The international search for 10 fishermen missing off Samoa after Cyclone Evan hit the country last week has been suspended, New Zealand maritime rescue officials announced on Tuesday.

The search involving a New Zealand air force P3 Orion and a French navy Guardian aircraft had covered around 5,000 square kilometres without finding any sign of the men, said a

statement from the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ).

The Samoa Police Superintendent had requested the RCCNZ scale down the search for the men, who had been on four fishing boats, after the P3 Orion completed a final visual search of one of the smaller islands early on Tuesday.

RCCNZ search and rescue coordinator Neville Blakemore said the search could be reactivated if new

information came to hand.

"We are confident that the area has been thoroughly covered in difficult circumstances," he said in the statement.

"This is obviously a tragic outcome for the families of the men involved and our thoughts are with them." While the hull of one vessel believed to be one missing boat was found, the aerial and sea search, by Samoa Police, found no sign of the men.—Xinhua



**Injured people receive medical treatment at a hospital in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 17 Dec, 2012. At least 17 people were killed and over 40 others injured when a blast ripped through a bus stand in Pakistan's northwest town of Jamrud on Monday morning, reported local media ARY.**  
XINHUA

## US Senate takes up \$60 billion Sandy bill amid charges of waste

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec— The US Senate on Monday began debating a \$60.4 billion aid bill to rebuild communities devastated by Superstorm Sandy amid criticism by conservative groups who said the measure was loaded with wasteful, non-disaster spending.

The Democratic-controlled Senate is looking to pass the disaster aid bill this week. But Republicans, wary of its huge price tag

in the midst of tense debt and deficit negotiations in Washington, are likely to try to ratchet back some of its provisions through amendments.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives is taking a slower, more painstaking approach to analyzing the Obama administration's request for funding to rebuild coastal communities largely in New York and New Jersey, repair transportation infrastructure there and provide other aid.

The House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers, a Kentucky Republican, hopes to move an aid measure before year-end but has been considering a smaller initial bill aimed at meeting immediate disaster needs.

The conservative Club for Growth urged senators to vote against the Sandy relief bill, saying that it contained a lot of "immaterial" spending.

"When a natural disaster occurs, there is a textbook response by Congress - they cobble together an overpriced bill that isn't paid for, there's no accountability or oversight, and it's filled with pork. This proposal is no different," the group said in an email to senators.

Among spending items in the Senate bill drawing the ire of Washington conservatives is one seeking \$150 million for fishery disasters in Alaska and Mississippi — thousands of miles from the Sandy damage. The bill also includes a request of \$50 million for the National Park Service's historic preservation fund and nearly \$9 million to replace vehicles and other equipment used by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security.

Even some local New Jersey politicians criticized the bill. "A full 5 percent of the appropriation request

is earmarked for the replacement of federal assets, rather than rebuilding and aid efforts in the tri-state area," New Jersey State Senator Joe Pennacchio, a Republican, said in a statement, referring to New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

The three states had initially requested \$82 billion in aid, although damage estimates were expected to rise over time. Some of the rebuilding costs were expected to be covered by private insurance.

Some lawmakers are also questioning the bill's inclusion of infrastructure upgrades aimed at mitigating damage from future storms. For example, \$5.5 billion would be allocated to the Federal Transit Administration to make transportation systems more resilient in high winds and floods, including efforts to keep tunnels from flooding.

Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

**Townsenders selected through secret voting in Taunggyi**

TAUNGGYI, 18 Dec—Townsenders were selected in 22 wards of Taunggyi through secret voting system on 11 and 12 December for electing village administrators in Taunggyi Township of Shan State. The ceremonies were supervised by Taunggyi Township Administrator Assistant Director U Zaw Myint Thein and townsenders.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Publications donated to village libraries**

KENGTUNG, 18 Dec—For the people to have easy access to reading, a ceremony to donate books and publications to village libraries, jointly established by Information and Public Relations Department and local people, was held at Princess Hotel in Kengtung on 10 December.

Owner of the hotel U Soe Shwe and family donated 158 copies of books, 344 copies of magazine and 352 copies of journals to Staff Officer (Duty) U Aung Maung of District IPRD.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Don't worry about rice production**

YANGON, 18 Dec—Recently, some rumour spread in some townships as there was untimely rains in Yangon Region. Thus, paddy was wet in the rains. In consequence, production of paddy would fall and price of rice rise.

On 11 December, an interview was made at Myanmar Rice Dealers Association (Paddy and Rice Brokerage) on Wadan Street in Lanmadaw Township. The rice brokerages were crowded with buyers and sellers. Buyers and sellers from Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions met at the brokerages to check quality



**Advanced medicines to be produced locally soon**

YANGON, 18 Dec—According to a local pharmaceutical company, advanced medicines will be produced at home for the first ever in cooperation with a US pharmaceutical production company.

“Our company will cooperate with US-based pharmaceutical company Alvogen Co to manufacture advanced medicines in Myanmar. At present, we have signed the agreement. Necessary documents have been submitted to Myanmar Investment Commission. It is estimated that the production

will commence in early 2013,” said Admin Officer U Pe Hlaing of Silver Shine International (SSI) Co.

Most of the medicines in the market were imported from foreign countries, relying on 90 per cent of foreign medicines. If the quality medicines are produced at home, price of medicine would fall in the market.

“Mainly, technology is the most important. A plan is underway to build pharmaceutical factory in Myanmar. The US company will import raw materials to



**Tax educative essay and cartoon contest organized**

YANGON, 18 Dec—The Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and No. 3 Basic Education Department held the tax educative essay and

of rice. Some of them cooked rice in small pots so as to check the quality.

Chairman of Myanmar Rice Dealers Association U Aung Than Oo briefed that due to untimely rains, production of rice will not plummet down. Secretary of the association U Tin Oo explained that a large volume of rice has been flowing into the brokerages since mid-November. In Ayeyawady Region, farmers focus on Pawhsan paddy strain that fetches good price in monsoon. Ziyar paddy strain also emerges from Ayeyawady Region. Rice from wet paddy has some

cartoon contest at basic education middle school level of Yangon Region at Basic Education High School No. 3 in Kyimyindine Township on 13 December

moisture but it does not change to yellow colour. So, the price of rice fall a little but production rate will not change. The people should not succumb to rumour of unscrupulous persons.

From January to November 2012, townships from Ayeyawady Region Pyapon, Dedaye, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyaiklat, Labutta, Wakema and Myaungmya transported 13 million bags of rice to Yangon City through Bayintnaung, Insein and Pazundaung ports. In November, 1,134,675 bags of rice flowed into the city, according to the statistics.—*Myanma Alinn*

produce medicines as it is a great company. The foreign technicians will train the Myanmar staff in works,” continued U Pe Hlaing.

A surgical specialist who attended the signing ceremony of the two companies remarked that cooperation with foreign pharmaceutical companies will help develop Myanmar medical field. The US-based Alvogen Co is manufacturing quality medicines and opens its branches in over 20 countries for production and distribution of medicines across the world.

“Medicines are imported abroad. Whatever it may be, if quality medicines are produced at home, not only production cost but price of medicine will fall. At present, price of medicines at home is more expensive than that of other countries,” said specialist Dr Nyo Mie Aung.—*Myanma Alinn*

morning.

A total of 12 each students who secured prizes in district level essay and cartoon contest participated in the region level contest, supervised by Director U Thaung Aye of Yangon Region Internal Revenue Department.

First, second and third prize winning students in the region and district level contests will be awarded on 27 December.

*Myanma Alinn*



**Megatron Phacoemulsification Machine donated**



YANGON, 18 Dec—A ceremony to donate a megatron phacoemulsification machine worth US\$ 26000 to Eye Care Department of North Okkalapa Teaching General Hospital of Yangon Region was held at the hospital at 9 am yesterday.

At first, Medical Superintendent Dr Than Win extended greetings.

Chairman of Mya Yeik Nyo Education, Health and Culture Foundation Dr Khin Shwe explained the purpose of donation and handed over the machine to Head of Eye Care Department Dr Ko Ko

Thant who spoke words of thanks.

The medical superintendent gave a certificate of honour to the wellwisher.

Thanks to donation, the hospital will be able to provide eye care services to the cataract patients.

The megatron phacoemulsification machine is effectively used for giving eye treatment.

The Foundation is placing emphasis on matters related to education, health and culture foundation.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Myanmar student secures award in Environmental International Child Art Contest**

YANGON, 18 Dec—A Myanmar child secured the IQ Net Special Award in the 13<sup>th</sup> Environmental International Child Art Contest jointly organized by UNICEF and the International Certification Network in Tokyo of Japan.

The children of 7-15

years old from 80 countries sent 15212 works to the contest. Of them, Ninth standard student Maung Aung Thi, 14 of Institute of Education Practising High School (Kamayut) won the IQ Net Special Award.

Maung Aung Thi had secured the first prize in the contests in 2007, the honorary award in 2008, the best environmental award in 2009, the Best JQA Award in 2010 and the first prize in 2011. He has so far bagged 11 international awards in the cartoon, art, poster and computer art contests, 13 prizes in local contests at central level, five at region level and over 50 in the township and others.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Free clinic opens for families of Bayintnaung Brokerage**

YANGON, 18 Dec—Highway Commodity Transport Service Entrepreneurs Association opened the free clinic for its members at B 23 on Khayay Street in the compound of Bayintnaung Brokerage on 9 September.

Now, the clinic issues

free treatment cards to over 300 member cars of the association.

The clinic is closed every Sunday and gazetted holidays.

On remaining days, the clinic is kept open from 1 pm to 4 pm daily.

On Saturday, the clinic

is being kept open from 9 am to 4 pm for providing health care services to staff and families of NGOs in the brokerage compound, servicemen and families of Bayintnaung Fire Station and Police Station in addition to members of the association.

*Myanma Alinn*

## NATIONAL

## Greater economic liberalization invites more business competition



President U Thein Sein cordially greets local people at Pale Yadana Hall in Dawei.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — President U Thein Sein met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and town-sellers at Pale Yadana Hall in Dawei this morning.

Firstly, Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein, U Soe Thein and U Hla Tun elaborated ongoing reform processes of the government and works to be done for development of Taninthayi Region in accord with laws, bylaws and rules and regulations.

In his address, the President said his team comprising Union ministers based in Mawlamyine on 15 December and performed matters related to economic, electric power, education and health sectors, upgrading of Thanbyuzayat-Phayar Thonesu road for opening of border trade centre,

upgrading of the railroad which was once used in WWII and feasibility for construction of a bridge that links Mawlamyine and Bilu Island.

On their arrival at Dawei on 16 December, they coordinated matters related to education and health sectors and opening of Hteekhi trade centre near Thai border. He yesterday held talks with the Prime Minister of Thailand on sooner implementation of Dawei SEZ and deep-sea port and extension of registration process which was due to be completed on 14 December for Myanmar workers in Thailand.

Then they proceeded to Kawthoung where they inspected the developmental tasks and gave necessary instructions to district-level departmental heads.

The President vowed to seek ways and means for availability of electricity in Myeik District with an abundant supply of marine resources and thriving oil palm plantations which is accessible by land, water and air as it is situated at the centre of Taninthayi Region.

The President said that it was planned to open Mawtaung border trade centre to be able to import marine products to Thailand, and called for establishment of factories and industries for manufacturing of valued-added products if the region sees adequate supply of electricity.

Now, country's economy is in the positive condition. Massive foreign investments were likely to flow into the country. With an influx of foreign investments, the country would see the emergence of deep sea ports, special economic zones, workshops and factories. As a result, there would be more job opportunities, and poverty rate, drop and workers who are working in foreign countries, return to their regions.

Those local people would have to take responsibilities for development of their regions on a self-reliant basis without relying on the government alone. The government could lay down policies and tasks alone, and the citizens themselves are to

implement those policies and tasks. There should be more competitions between the businesses as the country saw more economic liberalization.

Economic development was of great importance as it could contribute to better living standards of the citizens and better political affairs. Ensuring peace and stability and socio-economic development was the same wishes of 60 million people. Myeik district in Taninthayi Region blessed with good economic foundations played an important role in redoubling its efforts to spur the economic development.

With the new democratic system, the reforms were taking place in the sectors of political and economic. To achieve those reform strategies had to rely on people-centered changes. Democratic goal would be achieved only when there were participations and supports of all citizens.

After the meeting, the President cordially greeted those present.

MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw IR Committee Chairman receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by member of Foreign Affairs Committee of Political

Consultative Conference of China Mr. Zhang Jiuhuan (Retd Ambassador), at Hluttaw Hall, here, at 11:30 am today.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion

on Hluttaw's international relations, implementation of Hluttaw's duties and further promoting relations between the foreign affairs committees of the two countries.—MNA

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 19 December, 2012

### Create renewable energy for environmental conservation

Myanmar, in its drive for environmental conservation, pays serious attention to conservation of forest, woodlands and takes measures in various sectors to reduce air and water pollution, control of dumping of industrial waste and conserve wildlife. In this context, it is laying down a new policy in order to be able to foster economic development in parallel with environmental conservation and to remain as a nation which offers the last area where clean food can be produced for the region.

Meanwhile, it will mobilize the participation of the people and social organizations in the tasks for environmental conservation and create renewable energy at low cost, while reviewing and amending laws and enacting new laws on environmental conservation.

Although Myanmar is blessed with substantial forest cover it is striving to transform its energy usage in spite of its plentiful oil and natural gas reserves. Being it is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, it has been closely following the tenets of the UN.

At a time when concrete steps are being taken to stop and reverse the activities which result in high carbon emissions that lead to climate change and in turn beget many undesirable adverse effects, it is heartening to learn that many governments have turned green and it is hoped that the international community will remain in the vanguard in finding solutions to such complex problems.

In fifty years, the era of fossils fuels will be over and hydrogen, wind, solar and nuclear will be meeting most of the global energy needs and we are looking forward to that day.

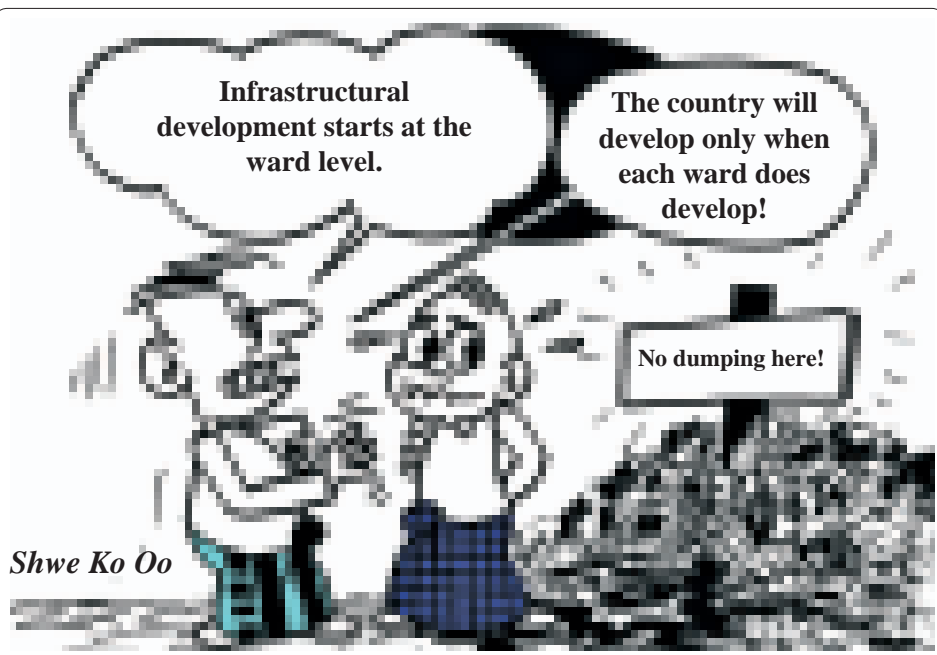
### Myanmar Tennis team on joint-training in Cambodia

YANGON, 18 Dec — A three-member Myanmar Tennis team (Men) left for Cambodia to take joint-training, hoping a victory in the 27<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian SEA Games on 15 December.

They were seen off by

officials concerned from Myanmar Tennis Federation at Yangon International Airport.

The team comprises athletes Min Min, Aung Kyaw Naing and Win Naing Oo.—MNA



Shwe Ko Oo



NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein visits Myeik University



President U Thein Sein meets faculty members, staff and students of Myeik University.—MNA

by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the region chief minister, the commander of the Coastal Region Command and departmental heads.

He viewed these displayed at the university and called for putting them into practice. The Union Minister for Education reported the President on the papers.

The President then viewed the research works of the Department of Geography.

The President stressed the need to arrange field trips of students to mines and help them establish careers in potential mining joint ventures. He called for studying potentials to establish industries of all capacities and conducting research on raw materials for production of cement.

met faculty members and students at the convocation hall of the university where he heard report on the academic matters of the university presented by the acting rector and Union Minister Dr Mya Aye.

The President said his trip to Mon State and Taninthayi Region was aimed at fulfilling the needs for development of the areas.

He briefed on economic reforms of the country, advantages of rich natural resources and the need for development of human resources. He urged students to raise their thirst for education.

The President and party then viewed the development of Myeik and visited the cold storage of Pyi Phyo Tun International Co Ltd on Pahtawpahtet island.

They left Myeik for Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

MNA

One dead, three seriously injured in KIA attack

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—About 80 KIA attacked Kamaing Police Station with RPJs in Phakant Township at a close range. The Police Station commander and members exchanged fires with the KIA group in the compound of the station. The group destroyed the station office and withdrawn at about 5.30 am.

At about 6 am, the KIA group destroyed a 220-ft-long steel truss Mogaung

Creek-crossing Bailey Bridge with two mines, about 1 furlong north of Kamaing Police Station at the entrance to Kamaing. Due to it, bridge's steel truss was damaged, and the bridge is out of service. There are still two mines planted on the bridge.

During the attack, police corporal Tun Aye fell, and police Sub-inspector Aung Tin Oo's wife Ma Hla Sein Nu, his mother Daw May Hmway

Sein and sister Ma Tin May Aung were seriously injured. They were sent to Kamaing Subtownship hospital. Of them, Daw May Hmway Sein and sister Ma Tin May Aung were dead. Ma Tin May Aung is a blue staff from Sittway Hospital. And she and her mother have been at the police station, visiting SIP Aung Tin Oo 10 days ago. Local military columns are chasing the KIA group.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—President U Thein Sein arrived at Myeik University where he met faculty members, staff and students this morning.

He was accompanied

The President then

Coordination meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw speaker and legal affairs and special cases assessment commission held



The coordination meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw speaker and legal affairs and special cases assessment commission in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The coordination meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw speaker and special cases assessment commission took place at the conference hall of the office of Pyithu Hluttaw this noon.

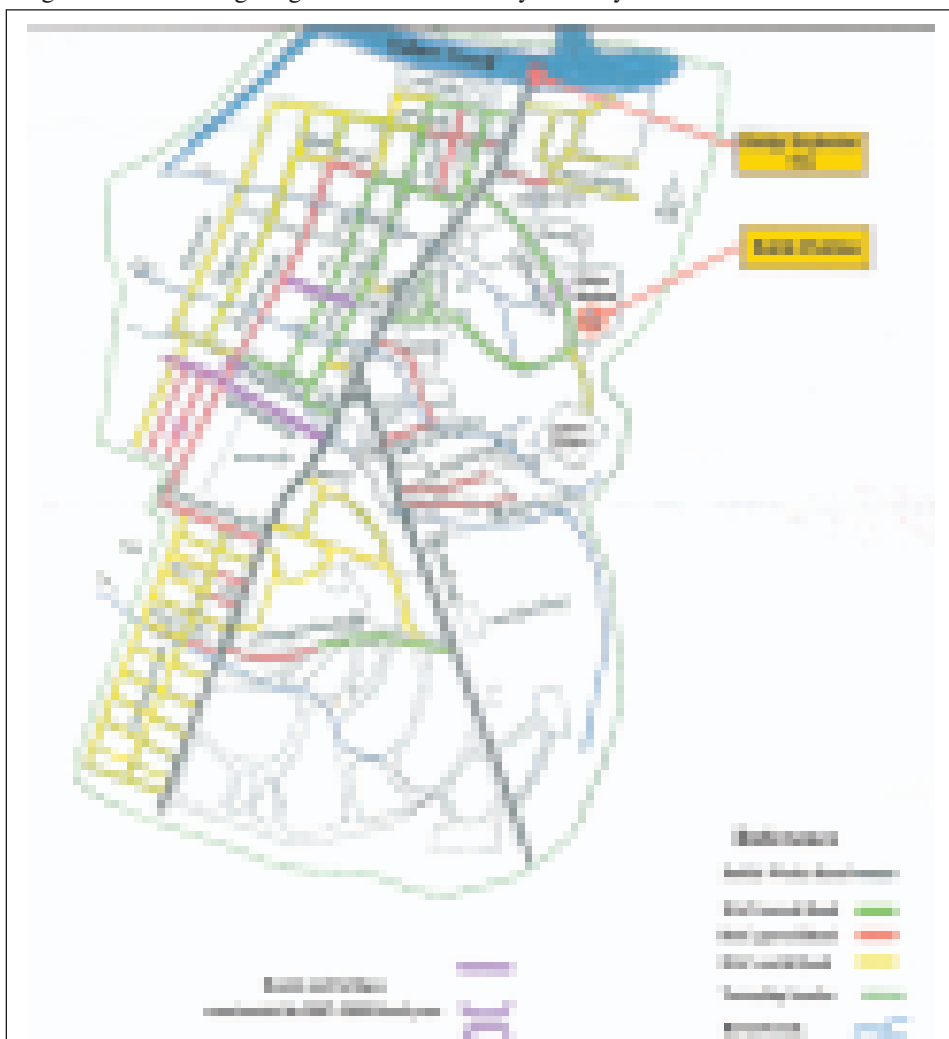
The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Vice-Chairman U Thein Swe, commission members and

officials from Hluttaw office.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann made an opening speech at the meeting saying that the sixth regular sessions of first Hluttaw will be convened on 9 January and the National Plan for 2013-2014 fiscal year, Union Budget Bill and Tax Laws for 2013-2014 financial year will be discussed at the coming sessions. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker urged those attendees to make efforts for giving priority to soonest emergence of the prioritized laws which are beneficial

to the State and citizens out of the laws that need to be amended, revoked and enacted.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman U Nanda Kyaw Swa explained the work progress of the commission. Then, commission members gave suggestions for the laws needed to be amended, revoked and enacted. The meeting was brought to an end by the concluding remarks of Pyithu Hluttaw speaker.—MNA



## Government strives for promoting safe...

(from page 16)  
migrant workers in collaboration with local and regional organizations, he added.

The Vice-President concluded his speech saying that he would like to recommend deeply to those ministries, Civil Societies, Organizations dealing with overseas employment, UN, INGOs and NGO including potential migrant workers to cooperate in a harmonious manner.

Next, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint explained ongoing tasks related to migrant workers.

Then UNFPA Resident Representative Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad read out the UNSG's message on

International Migrants Day and IOM Chief Mission Ms. Mariko Tomiyama read out the message sent by IOM Director-General.

Union ministers presented certificates of honour to ministries, Kayin State government and Myawady District General Administration Department.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President viewed round the booths on display at the ceremony.

Myanmar workers have been working in 15 countries including Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, ROK, Japan and Middle East countries. Labour migration of women has been allowed since December 2011. Under the MoU between Myanmar and Thailand, issuance of



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views prize winning works to mark International Migrants Day.—MNA

official documents started since 2009 and temporary

passports have been issued for more than 1.2 million Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. Plans are underway to issue official documents to the remaining undocumented migrant workers ranging from 800,000 to 1 million. Arrangements are being made to identify offspring of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand as

the citizens of Myanmar and provide them with education. More than new 40,000 Myanmar workers have been sent to Thailand under the agreement of the two countries.

More than 101,000 of undocumented Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia were granted passports, and plans are underway to issue more passports to the

remaining more than 100,000 workers. Labour Attachés were assigned duties in Thailand and Republic of Korea to handle the issues of Myanmar workers there. For ensuring systematic management on labour migration, a nine-point policy is being implemented and formulation of a five-year work plan is being carried out.—MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Israeli ambassador to Myanmar



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint shakes hands with Israeli Ambassador Mr Hagay Moshe Behar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hagay Moshe Behar at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw, here, at 3:00 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

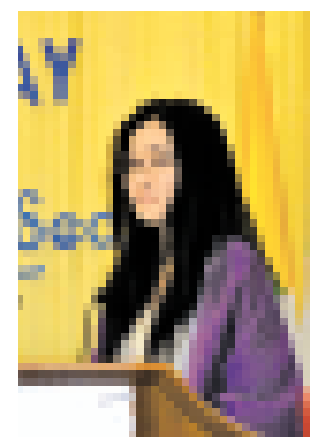
were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and responsible persons of the Hluttaw Office.

Both sides boded further cementing relationships between Myanmar-Israel that can bring friendships between the two parliaments, and which can build the belief

of the two people. Besides, they said that the friendships show evidence that the relationships between the two countries has been cementing for 59 years. They exchanged views on matters related to bilateral cooperation, visiting to the parliaments in turn and mutual cooperation in carrying out hluttaw's affairs.—MNA



UNFPA Resident Representative Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad.—MNA



IOM Chief Mission Ms. Mariko Tomiyama.—MNA



Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint.—MNA

## Hluttaw representatives to report to Hluttaw Office

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec— It has been reported that the sixth regular sessions of first Hluttaw will be convened in Nay Pyi Taw soon. Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw sessions will be at 10 am on 9 January, 2013 and

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, at 10 am on 10 January, 2013. Invitation cards have been sent to the Hluttaw representatives.

All representatives no matter whether they have received invitation cards or not are to report to Hluttaw

Office in Nay Pyi Taw Office No.20, not earlier than 7 January and not later than 8 January. And they are to bring their MP certificates and representative scrutiny cards along with them.

MNA

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

### Announcement No. (5/2012)

5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nadaw, 1374 ME

(18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012)

### Sixth Regular Session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw summoned

Under the Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and the Bylaw 3 (b), it is hereby announced that sixth regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be convened in Nay Pyi Taw, at 10 am on 13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME (10<sup>th</sup> January, 2013).

Sd/Khin Aung Myint  
Speaker  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

REGIONAL

## Accident at China's Baosteel plant kills two, injures 13

SHANGHAI, 18 Dec— Two workers were killed and 13 injured when a furnace at a steel plant owned by Baoshan Iron & Steel (Baosteel) fell, spilling molten iron, the third fatal incident at a Baosteel plant this year.

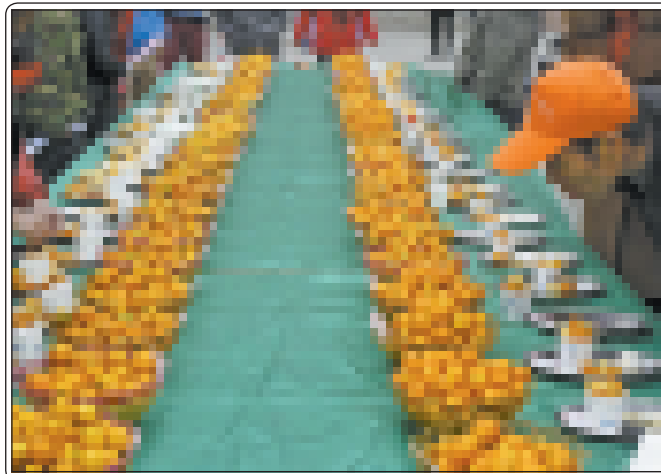
The workers were clearing slag from the structure when the furnace fell at the plant in the Baoshan

District of Shanghai, Baosteel said in a brief statement posted on its microblog site late on Monday. The plant has an annual production capacity of 100,000 tonnes, according to Baosteel's website. Baosteel is China's biggest listed steelmaker. Chinese media reported it was the third fatal accident at a Baosteel plant this year. In

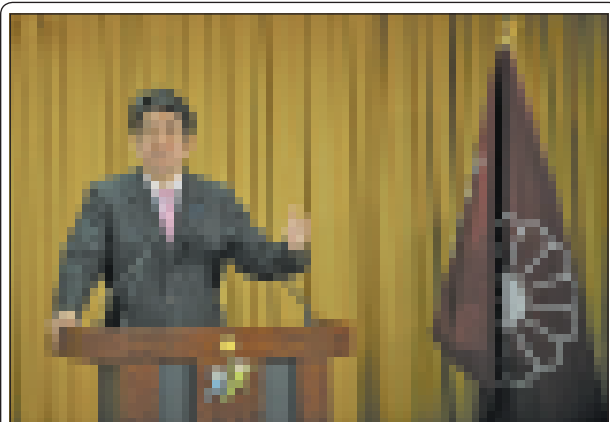
July, a heat-supply vehicle at a plant exploded, killing one person and seriously burning another.

In February, six workers were killed and three critically injured after a gas explosion at its Meishan steel plant. Shares in Baosteel closed down 0.21 percent at 4.85 yuan (\$0.78) on Monday.

Reuters



People check the quality of cumquat during a contest for cumquat in Rong'an County of Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 17 Dec, 2012. Cumquat planting has become a major income source for local farmers in Rong'an. XINHUA



Shinzo Abe, leader of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), speaks at a press conference at the headquarters of LDP in Tokyo, Japan, on 17 Dec, 2012. LDP won by a landslide in Sunday's House of Representatives election as it solo secured 294 seats in the election.—XINHUA

## Indonesia ranks second in bribery table

JAKARTA, 18 Dec— Indonesia is ranked the second after Malaysia in a survey on paying bribes for business conducted by international anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International on executives of companies, local media reported on Monday.

The survey entitled "2012 Bribe Payers Survey" was conducted on 3,000 company executives in 30 countries who were asked whether they had failed in securing business contracts because their rivals bribed officials to get the contracts throughout last year.

The survey showed that 42 percent of Indonesian executives interviewed confirmed it by replying "yes". That figure was a bit lower than 50 percent

of Malaysia. In China, 27 percent of executives replied positively.

Countries surveyed by the Transparency International included Japan, South Korea, China, India, the Philippines, Germany, the United States, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Japan was ranked the best in term of less bribing practices in business with below 5 percent and Singapore comes at the runner up with slightly below 10 percent, news portal detik.com reported.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said earlier that now investigations on corrupt officials can be conducted swiftly by the government-sanctioned anti-graft agency, the KPK.—Xinhua

## Singapore operators undertake to improve dorm conditions for foreign workers

SINGAPORE, 18 Dec— Eight major operators of dormitories housing foreign workers in Singapore have formed an association to roll out benchmarks aimed at improving the living conditions at such facilities, local media reported on Monday.

Apart from differences over salaries, the bus drivers also raised issues including the poor living conditions at the Woodlands Dormitory, where typically eight to 10 workers on different shifts

live in a room.

The dormitories for foreign workers in Singapore are often located in areas that is quite a distance away from local communities.

The eight companies offer over 100,000 of the estimated 150,000 bed spaces in the purpose-built dormitories, the online edition of the *Straits Times* reported.

The Dormitory Association of Singapore will roll out new benchmarks to uplift the industry ridden

by complaints on poor living conditions, it said. The eight companies signed a document to undertake to follow the benchmarks, which cover areas such as drainage, room and sanitation facilities. It also wants to help good dorms to set themselves apart from the competition by launching an accreditation scheme based on the benchmarks in six months. The association is aiming for more operators to join the association, too.

Xinhua

## Indonesia orders 37 Russian-made amphibian tanks

JAKARTA, 18 Dec— Indonesia has ordered 37 BMP 3F amphibian tanks from Russia, in addition to the 17 ones already in service with the Marine Corps.

Commander of Cavalry 1 mariner regiment of Indonesian Navy, Colonel Sarjito made the revelation at the Marine headquarters in Surabaya, East Java.

The 17 amphibian tanks were the first batch ordered from Russia in 2009, the tempo.co reported.

The new procurement order worth 100 million US dollars was awarded by Indonesian government this year with delivery scheduled to commence this year.

The BMP 3F amphibian tank is fitted with complete armament, including ground to air missiles, requires three crews to operate it. The tank carries up to seven military personnel.—Xinhua

A farmer picks up cherry tomatoes in the field in Longhe Village of Tianyang County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 16 Dec, 2012. About 240,000 mu (16,000 hectares) of cherry tomatoes here have come to maturity and workers here are busy with transporting cherry tomatoes to the north China market.—XINHUA



## Rise in Australians using homeless services

CANBERRA, 18 Dec — More than 19,000 people sleep in crisis accommodation each night and 230,000, or one in 98, used specialist homeless services in 2011/12, the latest report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows on Tuesday. The report shows 128,378 people using those services were at risk of homelessness. Children under 17 made up

29 percent of that total, with kids under 10 accounting for 17 per cent. Young people aged 18-24 had the highest level of need, with one in every 56 accessing services. Young women in that age group had an even higher representation, at one in 42.

A major cause of homelessness in Australia was domestic violence, AIHW spokesman Geoff Neideck said. Overall,

Victoria had the highest number of people needing help, followed by NSW and Queensland.

While 86 per cent of those seeking services were born in Australia, New Zealand, Sudan and UK were the top three countries for migrants needing help. And indigenous people were over-represented in the overall count of people seeking homeless services.

Homelessness Minister Brendan O'Connor said on Tuesday that a rise in people using homeless services shows increased investment in the area is working.

"We believe all Australians deserve a safe, secure home, and we will continue to work to provide affordable housing for Australia's most vulnerable people," he said in a statement.—Xinhua

## Woman rescued 22 hours after building collapse

NINGBO, 18 Dec— A woman who was buried for more than 22 hours after a building collapsed in Ningbo City of east China's Zhejiang Province was rescued on Monday morning, local authorities said. The woman, surnamed Dong, 24, was pulled out of the debris at about 10:40 am. She was taken to hospital, according to a Jiangdong District

government announcement.

Dong was found by rescuers at about 7 am and received packages of glucose from doctors through the rubble.

The six-storey building collapsed on Sunday at noon in Jiangdong District after residents found cracks in the structure. They reported the situation to a local government organization.

A woman, aged 21, was pulled out of the debris around 4:50 pm but died later in a local hospital.

The building was constructed in 1989, housing 18 families. A total of 256 households living in eight nearby buildings were evacuated and have been accommodated in seven hotels arranged by the local government.—Xinhua

Rescuers carry out a woman trapped in a collapsed residential building in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 17 Dec, 2012. A six-story residential building in Jiangdong district of Ningbo City collapsed around Sunday noon and two female residents were buried. One of them was pulled out of the debris Sunday afternoon but died later in a local hospital after rescue efforts failed. XINHUA



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (5)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (5) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING &  
AGENCY PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV SAIGON PRINCESS VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAIGON PRINCESS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: RK SHIPPING & TRADING  
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**Centre for Human Resource Development  
(Yangon University of Foreign Languages)****Invitation for Application to  
Foreign Language Courses**

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, French (Translation and Interpretation), German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Thai. Commencement date of course : 31-12-2012

Commencement date for : 26-12-2012

submission of applications

Closing date for applications : 28-12-2012

(For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)

Application to be submitted to : Yangon University of Foreign Languages

Days on which classes held : Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Time : 5:20 - 7:00 p.m.

Documents required : Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (or) Degree Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)

Enquiry : Student's Affairs Section, YUFL

Phone : 514372 (Ext-809)

Application must be submitted in person.

**Afghans turn to AK-47, fearing Taliban return or civil war**

KABUL, 18 Dec— Afghan father-of-four Mohammad Nasir has a secret he's been keeping from his family.

The aid worker pulls a television bench out from the living-room wall of his Kabul home. Behind it is a carved out shelf, hiding what he hopes will keep loved ones safe when Western troops withdraw by the end of 2014 — an AK-47 assault rifle.

Arms purchases are soaring in Afghanistan, along with the price of weapons, a sign that many Afghans fear a return of the Taliban, civil war or rising lawlessness.

An assault rifle cost \$400 a year ago. Today, some arms dealers are selling them for triple the price.

And it's not just ordinary Afghans who are buying. Warlords who control militias, and former anti-

Soviet mujahideen fighters are also boosting the trade.

"Whenever you turn on the TV or radio, the discussion is 2014. I'm not feeling safe now, it's become like doomsday for Afghans," said Nasir, 48, storing the polished second-hand rifle and slamming the TV unit back against the wall.

"People are saying security will collapse, or soldiers will join warlords or the Taliban, so we need something to protect our families when there's a crisis."

The brisk arms business is complicating the government's efforts to pacify a country where the Taliban can strike virtually anywhere, ethnic tensions can easily ignite violence, and warlords are constantly jockeying for influence.

Afghanistan wants to project an image of stability ahead of 2014, a critical year



*A Kalashnikov lies near a pile of books in Kabul, in this 22 Feb, 2002 file picture.—REUTERS*

when presidential elections will be held and the 350,000 Afghan security force will take over security.

Afghan authorities say they've had success in seizures of illegal firearms but concede that in a country with a turbulent history, their efforts may have little impact.

The government was deeply embarrassed when Energy and Water Minister Ismail Khan, an influential

former warlord, recently called on militias to rearm to protect Afghanistan after 2014.

General Mohammed Najib Aman, a deputy of the anti-terrorism department at the Interior Ministry, denies the illegal gun trade is flourishing.

"Buying and selling of weapon, without being authorized, is...illegal and they will be arrested," Aman told Reuters.—Reuters

about attacking Turkey," said Rasmussen.

NATO approved Turkey's request in early December to augment its air defence against a potential cross-border attack from Syria by deploying Patriot missiles along the border. According to earlier media reports, around 600 NATO troops are expected to accompany the six Patriot missile systems to be deployed in Turkey.

Meanwhile, commenting on the current situation in Afghanistan, Rasmussen praised the contribution of Belgium to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) under NATO command, in particular its air support with the presence of six F16 fighter jets.

Xinhua

**French opposition UMP heavy weights agree to new vote to end leadership row**

PARIS, 18 Dec—France's rightwing UMP arch rivals Jean-Francois Cope and Francois Fillon reached an accord on Monday to hold a new leadership vote, with the first round scheduled on 15 Sept, 2013.

"A new election for the presidency of the UMP will take place before the resumption of the regular parliamentary session of October 2013 and will be preceded by a campaign" that would take place between July and September, the two UMP heavy weights declared.

The agreement was announced after the two held talks on Monday evening, putting an end to the month-long bickering about the primary results of the party's presidency election between current UMP General Secretary Cope and former prime minister Fillon.

Chaos reigned in the right-wing conservative party since 18 Nov when both contenders claimed to have won the leadership vote. The dispute had plunged the UMP into an unprecedented crisis.

Fillon formed a new parliamentary wing R-UMP, and warned he would seek judicial solutions after the UMP's Electoral Appeals Commission confirmed Cope as the party's president. Former conservative president Nicolas Sarkozy

was also invited to negotiate the dispute and he suggested to hold a fresh vote.

The two rivals have met for several rounds of talks in an attempt to reach a compromise to end the vote dispute.

"Besides an exit from the crisis, this agreement aims to lay the foundations for a radical reforms of UMP statutes and rules... This agreement constitute the basis for rules drafting for the primary organization for the nomination of the candidate of our party in the presidential election," the pair said in a common statement. They also agreed on the material term of the due election which will be presented to the National Council and that a high and impartial authority "will ensure strict equality of resources allocated by the party to the candidates."

Following the agreement, the newly-formed group R-UMP will be dissolved in order to forge a united front before the next parliamentary session on 15 Jan, 2013.

Cope will keep the party's top job until the new vote but a management team will be composed to add new posts of vice president and delegated general secretary to be officially named in the first half of the next month.

Xinhua

**NATO: Patriot missiles in Turkey "purely defensive"**

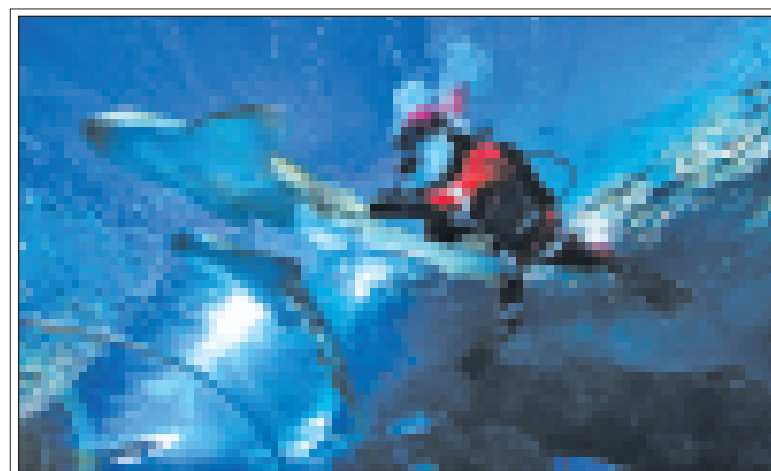
BRUSSELS, 18 Dec— The deployment of Patriot missiles by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Turkey is "purely defensive," the alliance's secretary general Anders

Fogh Rasmussen said here on Monday.

Speaking at a Press conference after his meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo, Rasmussen said NATO "has no offensive

intentions whatsoever" by deploying Patriot in Turkey.

"I hope the fact that we have deployed Patriot missiles in Turkey can act as an effective deterrence so that no one would even think



*A diver dressed as Santa Claus swims during an aquarium show in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 Dec, 2012.*  
XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

### Jessica Simpson planning secret Hawaii wedding

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec— The 32-year-old singer and her fiancé Eric Johnson are jetting off to the tropical paradise on 21 December with a group of their closest family and friends in tow and are believed to be tying the knot in an intimate ceremony. A source told RadarOnline.com: “For the holidays, Jessica and Eric are going to Hawaii and they’ve invited a lot of their close friends and family. No one quite knows what is being planned, but family members are speculating that they could be planning a surprise wedding.”

“Jessica and Eric had planned to get married before the end of the year, but because Jessica was helping her best

the special getaway. Despite her parents Joe and Tina’s well-publicised decision to file for divorce in November amid rumours her father Joe is gay, the ‘Fashion Star’ host allegedly feels the time is right for her and Eric to make their union official and wants to get married before the New Year.

pal Cacee with her wedding she got sidetracked. Then, her father’s problems shattered her world and she discovered she was expecting.”

Jessica—who is already expecting her second child after giving birth to daughter Maxwell Drew in May — and Eric have warned their pals they will be making a big announcement during

The insider added: “Jessica is certain though that she wants to get married before her baby is born, and isn’t bothered if she’s showing in any wedding pictures. She just wants a relaxed and intimate ceremony and has been dropping hints that the big day could be right before Christmas.”—PTI



### Alicia Silverstone in PETA campaign against cruelty to ducks



Alicia Silverstone appears as a spokesperson for animal rights organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec— Alicia Silverstone has taken part in a new PETA campaign

exposing cruelty ducks and geese suffer for their feathers. The Clueless actress appears

as a spokesperson for animal rights organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in its latest effort to shed light on the inhumane practices used to pluck birds’ feathers to produce down, which is then used in clothing, pillows and bedding.

She said: “No matter where it comes from, down is a product of cruelty to birds.” In the video expose released on (14.12.12), the 36-year-old actress states the live birds often have their feathers roughly yanked out of their bodies by workers which tears their flesh, which is then sown back together with a needle and thread without administering painkillers to the animals.

The video further alleges some ducks and geese used for down are also used for foie gras production—which involves the creatures being force-fed to fatten their livers. Alicia—who is a committed vegan and previous recipient of the Sexiest Female Vegetarian award — said: “You can help stop this suffering by purchasing only down-free products and encouraging all your friends and family members to do the same. This is one simple way to make a huge difference for animals.

“Even in costumes I’ve said please don’t use any feathers anywhere. I feel great not using down and feathers—there’s no need for it at all.”

PTI

### Pop star Kelly Clarkson announces engagement

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec— Kelly Clarkson, who became the first contestant to win “American Idol” a decade ago and went on to several chart-topping successes, has gotten engaged to her boyfriend, the singer said in a Twitter message on Saturday.

Clarkson, 30, previously revealed she had been dating talent manager Brandon Blackstock since early this year.

Blackstock is the stepson of country singer Reba McEntire.

“I’M ENGAGED!” Clarkson said on Twitter. “I wanted y’all to know!! Happiest night of my life last night!”

She then followed that by posting a link to a photo of her canary yellow

diamond engagement ring on a website. She wrote that her boyfriend helped design it and that she “can’t wait to make Brandon’s ring.”

Clarkson’s album “Stronger” hit No 2 last year on the Billboard 200 sales chart, and she in previous years topped pop charts with her songs “My Life Would Suck Without You” and “A Moment Like This.”

The Texas-born singer won the Fox television singing contest “American Idol” in the show’s debut year in 2002, and has had more success than many of the show’s stars from following years.

Clarkson has burnished an image as an artist willing to speak her mind, even confessing to feelings of loneliness.

Last month, in an appearance on the “Ellen DeGeneres Show,” Clarkson said she had been dating Blackstock since earlier this year and was thankful to have him.

“I am not alone for the first time for Thanksgiving and Christmas and I’m very happy,” she said on the show.

In the same November appearance, Clarkson said she expected to get engaged to Blackstock. “We will totally, probably elope,” she told DeGeneres.

Reuters



Kelly Clarkson

Katie Holmes at the “12-12-12” The Concert for Sandy Relief, held in New York on 12 Dec, 2012.



### Katie Holmes has ‘best revenge body’ of 2012

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec— Katie Holmes has been voted the celebrity with the ‘best revenge body’ of 2012.

The Dead Accounts star - who split from Tom Cruise in June after six years of marriage and won full custody of their daughter Suri, six, — topped the annual fit list, compiled by Fitness magazine.

The magazine ranked the 33-year-old actress’s figure slightly ahead of 28-year-old Part of Me singer Katy Perry’s post break-up body, whose divorce from British comedian husband Russell Brand was also finalised last summer after just 14 months of marriage.

Katie is frequently spotted attending spinning classes in New York at the popular celebrity exercise

centre Soul Cycle, and also maintains her petite curves by sticking to a diet rich in vegetables and fruit.

Katie recently revealed that she comes from a health conscious family and said that her family even goes running together before tucking into their Thanksgiving dinner.

She said: “Many years ago, my dad started this tradition where we all do this run in the local park. It’s a three mile run called the Turkey Trot. There’s even a prize, which I haven’t won yet. But it’s really fun.”

The actress has always kept fit and even ran the New York City marathon in 2007.

Blake Lively was awarded ‘best legs’ in the poll, while Jennifer Lawrence was voted ‘best curves’.—PTI

## Everton's Fellaini banned for three matches

LONDON, 18 Dec—Everton midfielder Marouane Fellaini has been banned for three matches after being charged by the FA with violent conduct, the Premier League club said on Monday.

The Belgium international appeared to headbutt Stoke City's Ryan

Shawcross in Saturday's 1-1 draw between the two sides.

Everton said the player and the club had accepted the charge and Fellaini would now be banned for their league fixtures against West Ham United, Wigan Athletic and Chelsea.

Referee Mark Halsey said he saw two further incidents involving Fellaini and Shawcross, neither of which he deemed to be violent conduct.

"I apologise completely to Ryan Shawcross, my team mates and to our fans at the game," Fellaini said after the match.

Reuters

**Everton's Marouane Fellaini (C) celebrates scoring with Leighton Baines (L) and Darron Gibson against Manchester City during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester, northern England on 1 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS**



**Sampdoria's coach Ciro Ferrara reacts during the Serie A soccer match against AS Roma at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 26 Sept, 2012.**

REUTERS

## Sampdoria replace coach Ferrara with Rossi

ROME, 18 Dec—Sampdoria sacked coach Ciro Ferrara after five months in charge on Monday and replaced him with former Lazio and Palermo boss Delio Rossi following a second straight defeat.

Ferrara, also fired by Juventus after a short spell in 2009/10, has paid the price following the 3-1 defeat at Catania on Sunday which left the Genoa side in 14th place.

"With sadness given the human bonds that have developed, Ciro Ferrara has been relieved of his position," a club statement said.

Much-travelled Rossi, whose best spell as a coach came with Lazio in 2009 when they won the Italian Cup, was last at Fiorentina but left in May after punching his own player Adem Ljajic in the dugout.—Reuters

## Houllier doubts second Thierry Henry Arsenal loan spell

NEW YORK, 18 Dec—Red Bulls head of global soccer Gerard Houllier said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger had not yet contacted him over a loan return for striker Thierry Henry.

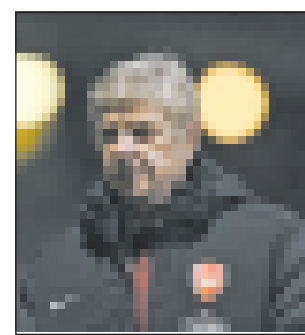
Henry has been photographed at Arsenal's matches this season sparking speculation he could return to the Emirates, as he did in January 2012, to keep himself fit during Major League Soccer's off-season.

Used by Wenger as an impact player from the bench, Henry netted late winners against Leeds United in the

FA Cup and Sunderland in the Premier League.

"For now, we have not had any formal request from Arsene Wenger to loan Thierry Henry," Houllier told Canal Plus in France.

"I am not sure both parties want to have this second comeback. I think Thierry needs rest. He is about to become a father and I think he will want to enjoy the break." Wenger himself has been reluctant to comment on the possibility of Henry's return and said last week there was nothing to report.—Reuters



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

REUTERS

## Golden year for Murray, regrets for Nadal

LONDON, 18 Dec—For Andy Murray 2012 marked a golden milestone, for Novak Djokovic the year was an emphatic reminder of his status as the world's best male player, and for Roger Federer and his army of fans it was proof that the old master's magic still sparkles.

Serena Williams used the second half of the year to demonstrate that she continues to be head and shoulders above her rivals in the women's game, whatever the rankings suggest.

Of the sport's marquee names, only Rafa Nadal will reflect on the past year with regret after six months out with a knee injury, and all eyes will be studying the 11-times grand-slam winner's form once the new season swings into action.

Nadal, one of four different winners of the men's grand-slam titles this year, has not played a match since a shock Wimbledon defeat by Lukas Rosol.

He hopes to return at the Australian Open although he has sensibly lowered expectations of an immediate impact. In any other era the absence of a player of Nadal's calibre would be

an impossible void to fill yet such is the quality at the top of the men's game that the Mallorcan's extended lay-off merely took a little gloss off what was otherwise a vintage year.

Murray began it with a new coach in Ivan Lendl but still without a grand-slam title on his CV having lost in his first three major finals without taking a set.

The Scot became Britain's first male Wimbledon singles finalist since Bunny Austin in 1938 but Federer's grass court brilliance deprived Murray of the title.

Three weeks later Murray returned to the All

England Club lawns like a man on a mission and he rode a wave of national euphoria to thrash Federer in the Olympic singles final.

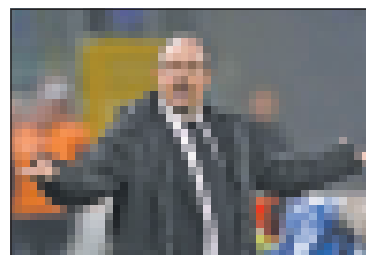
Fuelled with belief, Murray then strode into New York and when a fifth shot at a grand-slam final duly arrived he rose to the occasion to beat Djokovic in a five-set epic.

It was a setback for Djokovic but the Serbian, who began the year by beating Nadal to retain the Australian Open title in the longest-ever men's grand-slam final, finished it off as year-end world number one for the second season running.—Reuters



**Andy Murray of Britain (L) speaks with his coach Ivan Lendl during a practice session ahead of the ATP tennis finals at the O2 Arena in London on 4 Nov, 2012.**

REUTERS



**Inter Milan's coach Rafa Benitez gestures during the Italian Serie A soccer match against SS Lazio at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 3 Dec, 2010.—REUTERS**

## Benitez must lift Chelsea for trip to Leeds bear pit

LONDON, 18 Dec—Having flown halfway around the world only to return home tired and trophy less from the Club World Cup in Japan, Chelsea's weary band of jet-setters are unlikely to be savouring a League Cup visit to Leeds United on Wednesday.

A trip to Elland Road and Leeds was once an intimidating prospect for any side, from their glory days under Don Revie in the late 1960s and early 1970s to becoming the last winners of the old first division in 1992.

The fallen giants ply a more humble trade these days thanks to the financial implosion that engulfed the Yorkshire club.

Now mired in mid-table Championship (second division) mediocrity and desperately searching for

the golden ticket back to the Premier League, Leeds are seeking a hat-trick of top-flight League Cup scalps and a place in the semi-finals.

Everton and Southampton have been put to the sword at Elland Road, and Leeds manager Neil Warnock would dearly love to ratchet up the pressure on Chelsea counterpart Rafa Benitez.

"I hope we go out and give them a good game, but if we play well and they do as well there's only one winner, so we have to hope they're not right up to it and we're on top of our game," Warnock told Sky Sports.

"I don't think I could have picked a better team to play against. It promises to be fabulous with no pressure on us. Whatever team I select we can just go out and enjoy it."

Reuters

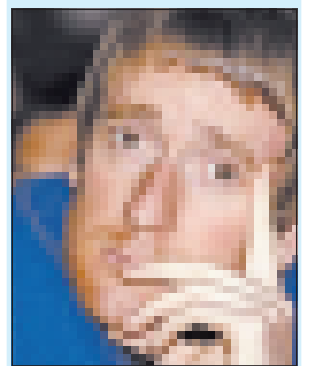
## Wiggins targets Giro and Tour de France double

LONDON, 18 Dec—Bradley Wiggins has targeted winning the Giro d'Italia and defending his Tour de France crown back to back next year.

Britain's first Tour de France winner was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year on Sunday and immediately set his sights on emulating an incredible 12 months which also saw him romp to gold in the time trial at the London Olympics.

"I've always wanted to win a second Tour," Wiggins was quoted as saying in the *Guardian* on Monday.

"I'm the defending champion. I want to try and win the Giro d'Italia and win the Tour de France behind it. People say it can't be done, winning two Tours. So let's have a go at it." Very few riders have managed to win both the Giro and the Tour de France



**Britain's cyclist Bradley Wiggins attends the presentation of the itinerary of the 2013 Tour de France cycling race in Paris on 24 Oct, 2012.**

REUTERS

in the same year with the late Marco Pantani last achieving the feat in 1998.

Before him Spanish great Miguel Indurain managed the double in 1992 and 1993.—Reuters

GENERAL

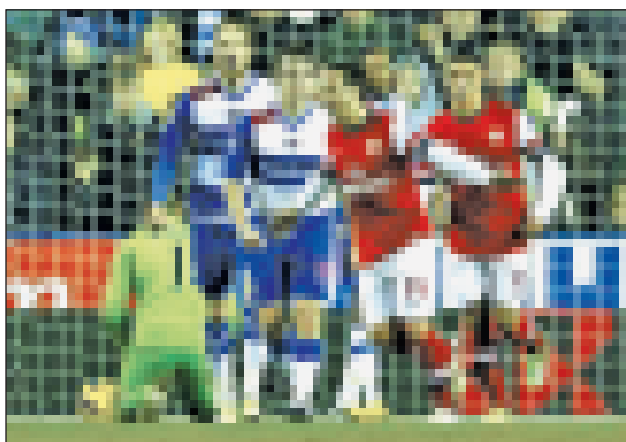
People actively participate in mass walk

SHWEGU, 18 Dec—The mass walk for third week of December was held in Shwegu Township of Kachin State on 15 December, starting from the office of Township General Administration Department. Departmental personnel, members of social organizations, students and local people totalling 1580 led by Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi participated



in the mass walk activity. In front of the Township DAG, they took physical exercises.—Myanma Alinn

Cazorla hat-trick fires Arsenal romp



Arsenal's Santi Cazorla (C) celebrates after scoring past Reading's keeper Adam Federici (L) during their Premier League match at the Madejski stadium in Reading, southern England on 17 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

LONDON, 18 Dec—Spanish playmaker Santi Cazorla scored a hat-trick as Arsenal stylishly dismantled bottom club Reading 5-2 to move up to fifth in the Premier League on Monday.

Reading's lowly league position was reflected in their school-yard defending as Arsenal cut through the home team at will to open up a four-goal lead before the hosts briefly threatened to make a game of it late on. Arsenal, under pressure

following their humiliating League Cup defeat at Bradford last week, produced an impressive attacking performance.

"It was important to stay strong and play football. Success comes with playing football," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports. "And it was a very convincing win tonight."

Germany forward Lukas Podolski put Arsenal ahead after 14 minutes while Cazorla scored twice in the first half and once

after the break as the visitors ran riot. Adam Le Fondre grabbed what looked like a consolation before Jimmy Kebe briefly stirred the home fans to believe in an unlikely comeback before Theo Walcott wrapped up the match.

Arsenal now have 27 points from 17 games, two behind local rivals Tottenham Hotspur in fourth and 15 behind leaders Manchester United. Reading stay bottom with nine points. Arsenal were looking to rebound from the loss at fourth tier Bradford City last week and took the lead when Podolski took a touch and fired left-footed into the net for his fifth Premier League goal of the season.

The lead was almost doubled eight minutes later when Walcott, handed the central striking role he craves, sprung the offside trap but his low shot was parried by the feet of Reading keeper Adam Federici. It was only a matter of time before Arsenal grabbed a second and on 32 minutes Podolski turned provider, darting down the left flank and curling in a cross that found Cazorla arriving in the centre unmarked to head past Federici.—Reuters

Schalke's Afellay missing in Cup debut for coach Keller

BERLIN, 18 Dec—Schalke 04 forward Ibrahim Afellay will be missing in their German Cup round of 16 tie against Mainz 05 on Tuesday when newly installed coach Jens Keller bids to start with a confidence-boosting win.

Dutchman Afellay has been nursing a muscle injury for weeks as Schalke have slipped down to seventh in the league, triggering the sacking of former coach Huub Stevens on Sunday a day after their 3-1 home defeat to Freiburg.

Keller was named as the new coach until the



Schalke 04's Ibrahim Afellay celebrates a goal against Sandhausen during the German DFB Cup.

REUTERS

end of the season. "Afellay will not be at our disposal tomorrow," Keller told reporters, adding he was satisfied with the team's first training session under his guidance.—Reuters

LONDON, 18 Dec—With a tribunal on the horizon over a club-imposed fine and a rap sheet more distinctive than his mo-hawk, Mario Balotelli is fast becoming the Christmas gift Manchester City could not give away - even if they offered complimentary wrapping.

Rash tackles, sendings-offs, tantrums after being substituted and the infamous 'Why Always Me?' undershirt have been the on-field norm for the Italy international since

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-12-12 09:30 am ~ 20-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Early Morning Athletics
- \* Paying Respects to Doyen Literati
- \* News
- \* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Steamed Pork Rib with Pickled Lettuce"
- \* 42nd Anniversary Art Exhibition
- \* The Light of Abhidhamma
- \* News
- \* 100 Shuttle Silk Fabric and its Key Notes
- \* Danish Business Delegation to Myanmar 2012
- \* News
- \* Shwe Settaw (Min Bu)
- \* The Holy Day with an Air of Festivity (Tazaungdaing Festival)
- \* Flying without Wings My Great Limitless Adventure (Pakokku)
- \* Myanmar Movie "Inseparable Siblings"

MYANMAR TV

(19-12-2012, Wednesday)

- |                |   |                |  |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| <b>7:00 am</b> | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw       | <b>4:10 pm</b> | 14. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions |
| <b>7:15 am</b> | 2. Dhamma Puja Song                                 | <b>4:25 pm</b> | 15. Musical Programme                                |
| <b>7:25 am</b> | 3. To Be Healthy Exercise                           | <b>4:35 pm</b> | 16. Teleplay (Health)                                |
| <b>7:30 am</b> | 4. Morning News                                     | <b>5:00 pm</b> | 17. Classical Song                                   |
| <b>7:40 am</b> | 5. Nice & Sweet Song                                | <b>5:10 pm</b> | 18. ASEAN "Programmes"                               |
| <b>7:50 am</b> | 6. Health Programme                                 | <b>5:20 pm</b> | 19. Classical Song                                   |
| <b>8:05 am</b> | 7. Cultural Dace                                    | <b>5:45 pm</b> | 20. Documentary                                      |
| <b>8:15 am</b> | 8. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions | <b>6:00 pm</b> | 21. Evening News                                     |
| <b>8:25 am</b> | 9. Documentary                                      | <b>6:15 pm</b> | 22. Weather Report                                   |
| <b>8:40 am</b> | 10. International News                              | <b>7:10 pm</b> | 23. Documentary                                      |
| <b>8:45 am</b> | 11. Musical Programme                               | <b>7:40 pm</b> | 24. Teleplay   |
| <b>4:00 pm</b> | 12. Martial Song                                    | <b>8:00 pm</b> | 25. News   |
| <b>4:05 pm</b> | 13. Song of National Races                          | <b>8:00 pm</b> | 26. International News                               |
|                |   |                | 27. Weather Report                                   |
|                |   |                | 28. TV Drama Series                                  |
|                |   |                | 29. Myanmar Video Feature                            |

Juve dream over for Lucio after contract terminated

TURIN, 18 Dec—Brazilian defender Lucio is now a free agent after his contract with Italian champions Juventus was terminated by mutual consent on Monday. "Lucio's adventure in the black and white stripes has come to an end," read a statement on the club's website www.juventus.com. "Juventus and the Brazilian defender have reached an agreement for the player's contract to be terminated by mutual consent."

Lucio made just four appearances for Juventus this term after joining on a free transfer from Inter



Juventus' Lucio (R) challenges Atalanta's Ivan Radovanovic during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Juventus stadium in Turin on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Milan in the close season. The 34-year-old centre back won the 2002 World Cup with Brazil and also the 2010 Champions League with Inter.—Reuters

Balotelli's dolce vita turns sour with City tribunal



Manchester City's Mario Balotelli gestures during a training session at the club's Carrington training complex in Manchester, northern England on 3 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

he joined City from Inter Milan in August 2010.

His off-field antics have been equally as colourful as the cards he has been shown during his two years at the Etihad Stadium, especially his new camouflaged Bentley and his well documented

clash with fireworks in his bathroom. But despite boss Roberto Mancini displaying more patience than a seasoned Buddhist monk, it now appears Balotelli will be sent packing after reports emerged he was disputing a club imposed fine of two-weeks' wages for last

term's misdemeanours. Media outlets say the 22-year-old striker was docked 340,000 pounds (\$548,100) in wages when City's tolerance was finally broken after he received his third red card of the season during a 1-0 loss away to Arsenal in April. Manchester City nor the Premier League, when contacted by Reuters, would confirm details of Balotelli's hearing which is due to take place in front of an independent tribunal in London on Wednesday.

Reuters

## Government strives for promoting safe migration movement, uplifting socio-economic life of Myanmar migrant workers in collaboration with local and regional organizations

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — The ceremony to mark the International Migrants Day took place at MICC, here, this morning, attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, deputy ministers Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, ambassadors and diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and guests.

In his address, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said Myanmar had become, since 27 November this year, a member of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at its 101<sup>st</sup> session. He said that the purpose of commemorating the event was to inform migrant workers and the international community of the government's efforts and goodwill for the promotion and protection of the rights of Myanmar workers abroad, to protect migrant workers' rights and to promote their interests, to advocate and educate Myanmar migrants in the country and the region

as part of efforts to protect them and to raise the socio-economic life of migrant workers and their families.

He continued that Myanmar had abundant human resources supply in and beyond Asian region and also had a workforce for different sectors of regional labour market.

The Vice-President quoted the speech of the State of the Nation in the Union Parliament given by the President that it was important to work vigorously to ensure the legitimate rights of Myanmar workers abroad.

He said that Myanmar had already drawn up a draft on migration policy framework in anticipation of promotion and protection of rights of migrant workers and uplifting of socio-economic life of their families. The government was striving with might and main with a view to promoting safe migration movement and uplifting the socio-economic life of Myanmar (See page 10)



*Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets UNFPA Resident Representative Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad and attendees at ceremony to mark the International Migrants Day.—MNA*

## Vice-President U Nyan Tun inspects chosen sites for construction of Dawei SEZ, deep-sea port

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Vice-President U Nyan Tun together with the Thai delegation led by Prime Minister of Thailand Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra viewed round the sites chosen for construction of Dawei Special Economic Zone

and deep-sea port in a motorcade yesterday.

The Vice-President and Thai PM heard reports on progress in construction of roads and buildings in Dawei SEZ and work progress presented by officials concerned while inspecting the project from

the view deck.

Next, the Vice-President posed for a documentary photo together with the Thai delegation led by the Thai PM.

Prime Minister of Thailand Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra and party left Dawei in the evening.

They were seen off at Dawei Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, the Region Hluttaw speaker and officials.

MNA

December morning.

After Myanaung Township Development Committee Patron Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay had delivered an address, PTTEPI External Relations Manager Mr. Siripong Fuenglikhit explained the donation. PTTEPI General Manager Mr. Kanok Intharawijitr handed over the documents related to the newly-built bridge to Executive Officer of Myanaung Township Development Affairs Committee U Tint Lwin Oo.

Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Hla Khaing, PTTEPI General Manager Mr. Kanok Intharawijitr and Managing Director of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise U Aung Htoo formally opened the bridge. The Union Minister unveiled

## Slight earthquake shakes southwest of Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 30 miles southwest of Nay Pyi Taw, about 180 miles north

of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 08 hr 02 min 30 sec M.S.T today, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

MNA

## Summary of observations at 09.30 hr MST on 18 December

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were 0°C in Pinlaung and Loilem each, 2°C in Heho, 3°C in Haka, 5°C in Lashio and Mogok each.

Yangon Regions, Shan (Northern and Southern) and Kayah States and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were 0°C in Pinlaung and Loilem each, 2°C in Heho, 3°C in Haka, 5°C in Lashio and Mogok each.

### Bay Inference

Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

### State of the Sea

Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

### Outlook for subsequent two days

Generally fair in the whole country.—NLM

the stone inscription and strolled along the bridge.

The bridge is located on Shwegyin-Htoogyi Road in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region and links Asel and Rike Village-tracts. It is 175 feet long and 12 feet wide, and can withstand 8 tons per vehicle. It costs a total of K 108.3 million.

MNA

## Yeni Creek Bridge put into service in Myanaung Tsp



*Opening ceremony of Yeni Creek Bridge in progress.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec— An inauguration of Yeni Creek Bridge, built with

the contribution of PTTEPI Company based in Thailand which is taking joint venture

with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, took place on 16