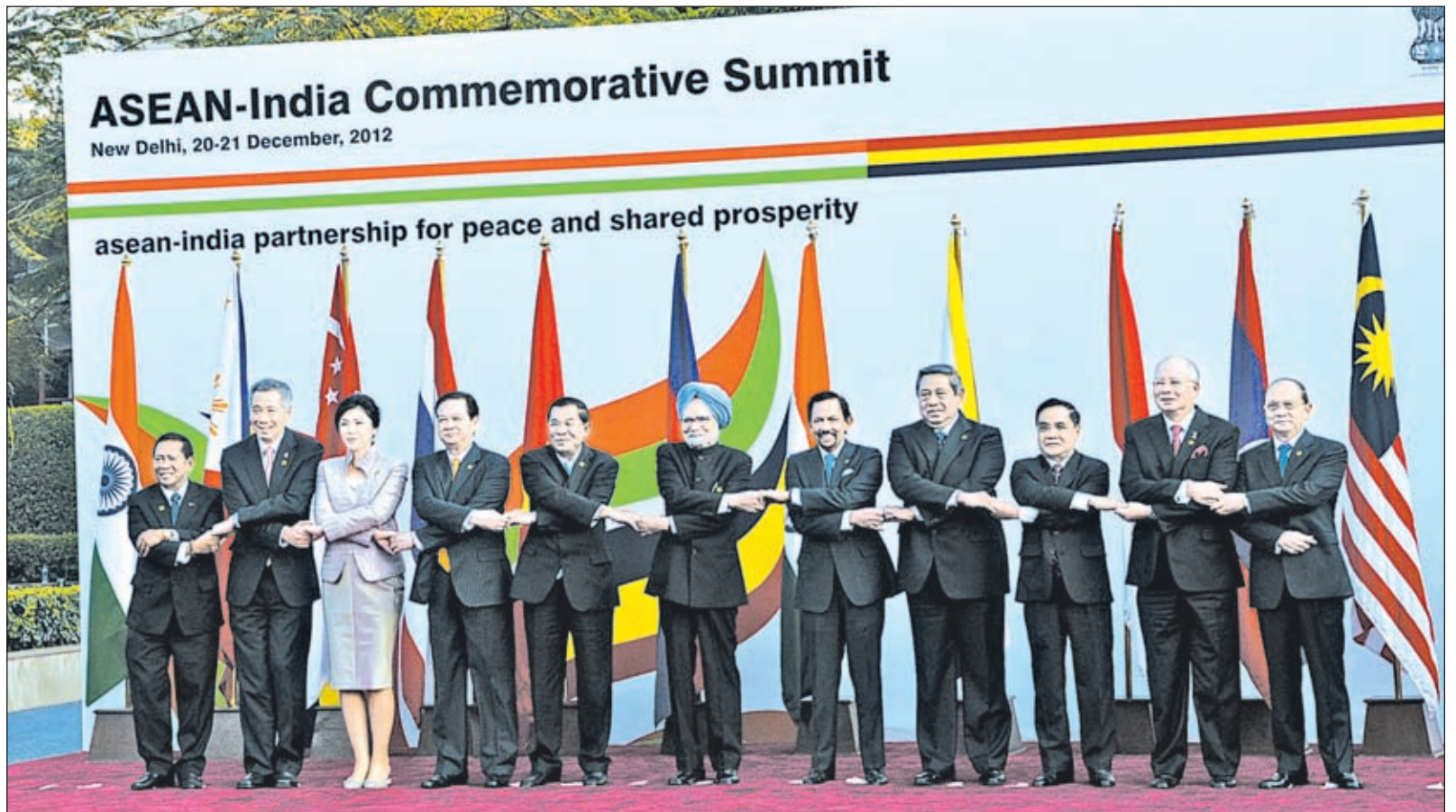


## President U Thein Sein attends 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi of the Republic of India at 4 pm yesterday.

Together with President U Thein Sein at the Summit were Brunei Darussalam King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Mohammed Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdullah Razak, Philippine Vice-President Jejomar Binay, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tang Dung, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and ministers and high-ranking officials from ASEAN and India.

At 3:45 pm, President U Thein Sein and heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries arrived at



President U Thein Sein seen with Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and India.—MNA

Taj Palace Hotel where they were warmly welcomed by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

President U Thein Sein, heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh posed for a documentary photo at Raja Bagh near Taj Palace Hotel.

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh made an opening speech at the opening of the Summit at 4 pm. President U Thein Sein and heads of State/

government of ASEAN countries delivered addresses at the Summit. President U Thein Sein said that he was pleased to witness the multifaceted co-operation during the period of the twenty year ASEAN and Indian relations at a time when the ceremony to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ASEAN-Indian dialogue partnership. India is an important dialogue partner of ASEAN, for it is still playing a crucial role in regional peace and stability.

He also expressed thanks to the India which is in support of efforts to establish the ASEAN community in 2015. He continued that, the meeting will be able to boost the ASEAN-Indian relations to a strategic level as aspired by the ASEAN.

At a time when concrete steps are being taken for closer cooperation in various sectors, the report of ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) is welcomed and the group will be enhancing its cooperation

to share peace, progress and prosperity.

It is the India that signed the ASEAN friendship and peace agreement in 2003, actively participated in regional discussions led by the ASEAN and supported the strategy of the ASEAN. Being a neighbour of India, Myanmar attached its importance to security cooperation between the ASEAN and India.

Both ASEAN and India are striving for boosting trade between them while

they are closely cooperating in politics and security.

Accordingly, efforts are being made to increase the trade volume between the ASEAN and India up to US\$ 100 billion in 2015. At the same time, steps are to be taken to foster relations of private sectors as well as small and medium enterprises. Myanmar will cooperate with India in the programmes of the ASEAN-India peace, progress and prosperity sharing

(See page 8)

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Investigation Commission

Press Release No. 3/2012

8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nadaw, 1374 ME  
(21<sup>st</sup> December, 2012)

1. The 16-member Investigation Commission including the Chairperson formed, on 3 December in accord with President Office's Order No.(95/2012) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, made a field trip to the Copper Mine Project from 5 to 15 December, 2012.
2. They made investigations into Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project in Salingyi Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region; Sabeitaung and Kyayzintaung mining projects being implemented by Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and Myanmar-Yangtze Copper Ltd ; and MEHL's Moegyo Sulphuric Acid Plant.
3. The members met local people residing in the area of Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project so as to include local residents' feelings and voices.
4. These tasks were carried out by all commission members after the groups comprising three local commission

members were formed.

5. The Commission members paid homage to member Sayadaws of Sangha Nayaka committee in Mandalay and Sayadaws from Ledi Monastery and sought advices from them. And they asked for the link between First Ledi Sayadaw and Latpadaungtaung from those Sayadaws and researchers.

6. The Commission members also met the Social Affairs Minister of Mandalay Region Government and the members of Health Care Committee in which the Medical Superintendent acts as chairman in order to find out the conditions of those injured in Monywa Latpadaungtaung copper mine project incident who are receiving medical treatments at Mandalay General Hospital and Kandawnadi Hospital. The Commission members, together with the medical team led by the Social Affairs Minister and the medical superintendent, comforted the injured at the said hospitals.

7. The Investigation Commission was divided into groups while making field trips to the villages in the areas of Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project. And these groups enquired about local people's attitudes towards

the mining project, concerns over social environment and natural environment and their desires for water supply, health and job opportunities.

8. The Commission members also held discussions with the displaced who moved to Wethme/Kantaw and Zeetaw/Setie new villages, on their buildings and job opportunities. And the members probed into the desires of local people.

9. Physicians and two Australian doctors who come to Myanmar under the arrangement of the Commission Chairperson, gave comments that their symptoms were not due to acid after making a preliminary test on four children who are alleged to have suffered health problems due to arid smoke. But the children were taken to Yangon by the Commission in order that they can receive medical treatments.

10. Commission members made an inspection tour of Moegyo sulphuric acid plant of Myanmar Economic Holding Limited near Kankon village, and oversaw measures being taken for control of SO<sub>2</sub> emission from the plant, waste materials, dump tanks and dump sites.

(See page 10)

## Diamond Buddha Image of Pinn old town



YAMETHIN, 21 Dec — Pinn old town is situated in Natmauk Township of Magway Region. The old town is home to religious edifices, historic pagodas and Buddha Images. Among them, Diamond Buddha Image is the most famous one in the old town. The

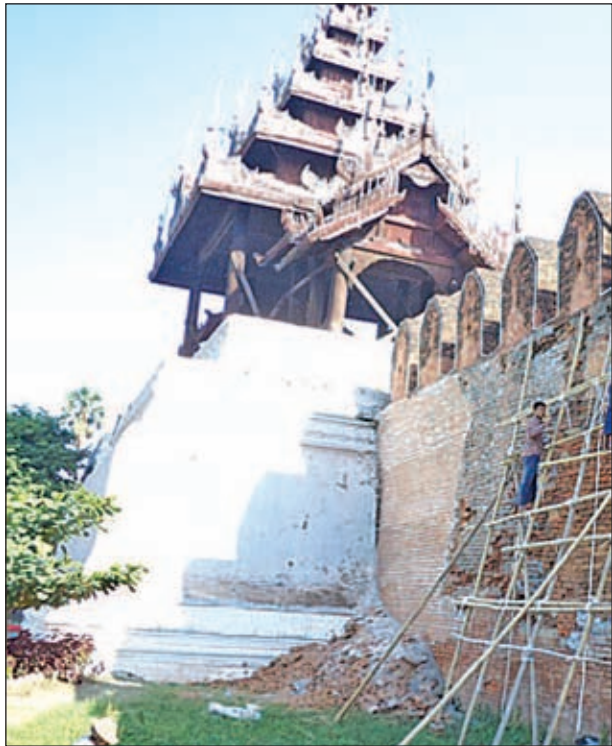
Buddha Image is being kept at Taungdaunk village, four-mile south-west of the old town.

The Diamond Buddha Image was unearthed on 9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon 1285 ME by Taungdaunk Sayadaw U Vilasa and a layperson. The Image was kept in an old bronze bowl full of blank sand in it. The diamond Buddha Image is two inches in height and the Image was carved from a 27-carat diamond.

The throne of the Image is 2.5 inches in height and 1.5 inches in width. According to the art works shown on the Image and throne, it is assumed that the Diamond Buddha Image was carved in Pyu Age. Now, Taungdaunk village Sayadaw U Osada preserves the Diamond Buddha Image which is the only one of its kind in Myanmar.

*Kyemon*

## Mandalay Palace wall under repair



MANDALAY, 21 Dec — Under the supervision of the Archaeological Branch of the Ministry of Culture, repair work has been carried out for sustainability of the weather-beaten city wall of the Mandalay Palace in Aungmyaythazan Township in Mandalay since

3 December. Tender for establishment of Mya Nann San Kyaw Shwe Nanndaw, the last seat of Myanmar monarchs, as a cultural garden had been invited and the final date for the submission of the tender was extended up to 19 December.

*Kyemon*

## Illegal teak seized in Tamway Township

YANGON, 21 Dec — A team comprising members of Myanmar Police Force and staff from the Forest Department of Yangon East District seized 6.9892 tons of teak worth K 5241900

while making a search of a saw mill in Mittanyunt Ward of Tamway Township on 16 December. Tamway Police Station opened a file against the case.

*Kyemon*

## A fatal road accident near Insein railway overhead bridge

INSEIN, 21 Dec — A car crash involved four vehicles occurred in Insein Township on 15 December, leaving one woman dead and the other two wounded.

A Canter truck driven by U Mya Win on Insein railway overhead bridge came off the road and hit three women who are walking on the pavement of bridge. Then the car drove smack into the back of a Probox saloon that stopped at the traffic lights. Due to the force of the collision from its back, the Probox hit the back of a stationary super saloon before it. Then the super saloon crashed into the back of a Nissan saloon. A series

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

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

## Bells over one hundred years old in Yamethin



YAMETHIN, 21 Dec — Bells depicting Waithandara jataka, one of the Buddha's life stories, cast in bronze in more than 100 years ago can be seen in Pinn Monastery of Ywama village in Ywadanletha village-tract of Yamethin Township. According to the inscriptions cast over the bells, those who lived

of car crashes caused damage to four vehicles, killing a woman (about 50 years) on the spot and wounding two women who were being given intensive care at Insein Hospital.

Insein Police Station filed a lawsuit against driver U Mya Win on his reckless driving. — *Kyemon*

in the region donated them in 1268, 1297 and 1302 respectively. The inscriptions said one bell is more than one hundred years old and the remaining two are over seventy years old.

The bells with floral arabesques show sculptures of main characters of Waithandara jataka—King Waithandara, Queen Mal

Madi, brother and sister Zali and Tanarsein and Brahmin Suzaka cast in bronze at the foetal positions on them. Sculptures of lions stand on both sides of each bell.

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Pinn Monastery preserves the three-foot high bells for the future generation to learn.

*Kyemon*

## Risk Management Course opened in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — The opening of risk management course (9/2012) of Shan State was held at the Town Hall in Taunggyi on 17 December with an address by Shan State Chief Minister Sao

Aung Myat. The director of Shan State Relief and Resettlement Department explained purpose of organizing the course.

Next, cash donations for quake victims in Sagaing and Mandalay Region followed. Then those present viewed round educative posters, paintings and cartoons on earthquake which were on display at the hall. — *MNA*

WFP provides them with monthly rations and Rakhine State Red Cross Society presents the monthly rice ration to them. Supplies from the international community are being delivered on equal terms to the nine relief camps regardless of race and religion.

*Kyemon*

## Nine relief camps in Sittway provided with international aid on an equal basis

SITTWAY, 21 Dec — Makeshift tents were set up at nine places—Thechaung, Bawdupha, Thekkalpyin, Kapaing, Mingan,

Setyonsu, a compound near meteorological station, Danyawady and Donetaikkwin—to fulfill the requirements in food

and shelter of displaced households in Sittway of Rakhine State.

Under the supervision of Rakhine State Government,



WORLD

## Syrian rebels fight for strategic town in Hama Province

BEIRUT, 21 Dec—Rebels began to push into a strategic town in Syria's central Hama Province on Thursday and laid siege to at least one town dominated by President Bashar al-Assad's minority sect, activists said.

The operation risks inflaming already raw sectarian tensions as the 21-month-old revolt against four decades of Assad family rule — during which the president's Alawite sect has dominated leadership of the Sunni Muslim majority — rumbles on.

Opposition sources said rebels had won some territory in the strategic southern town of Morek and were surrounding the Alawite town of al-Tleisia.

They were also planning to take the town of Maan, arguing that the army was present there and in al-Tleisia and was hindering their advance on nearby Morek, a town on the highway that runs from Damascus north to Aleppo, Syria's largest city and another battleground in the conflict.

"The rockets are being

fired from there, they are being fired from Maan and al-Tleisia, we have taken two checkpoints in the southern town of Morek. If we want to control it then we need to take Maan," said a rebel captain in Hama rural area, who asked not to be named.

Activists said heavy army shelling had targeted the town of Halfaya, captured by rebels two days earlier. Seven people were killed, 30 were wounded, and dozens of homes were destroyed, said activist Safi al-Hamawi.

Reuters



Damaged buildings are seen in Al-khalidiya neighbourhood of Homs on 20 Dec, 2012. Picture taken on 20 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

## India successfully testfires nuclear-capable Prithvi II ballistic missile

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec—India successfully testfired its home-made, nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Prithvi II ballistic missile in the eastern state of Odisha on Thursday, sources said.

"The missile was testfired from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur near the state's Balasore district. The testfiring of the missile, with a strike range of over 350 km, was successful and was witnessed by top defence scientists and military officials," the sources said. The missile has been developed by state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation and is already inducted into the country's armed forces. The missile has been developed under India's Integrated Defence Programme.

India had in October this year successfully testfired another Prithvi II missile from the same place in the state.

Xinhua

## Russia's Putin set for stand-off with EU on Syria, energy



Russia's President Vladimir Putin speaks during his annual news conference in Moscow, on 20 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 21 Dec—Russian President Vladimir Putin and European Union leaders are likely to clash over issues ranging from Syria to trade, energy and human rights on Friday when Putin holds his first talks in Brussels since his re-election as president in May.

Relations between the 27-nation bloc and Russia, its main external supplier of energy and a key trading partner, have been soured by rows over gas pipelines and

brewing trade disputes over cars and pigs.

European leaders have taken issue with the jailing of members of punk band Pussy Riot, prosecutions of opposition figures and laws restricting protests and foreign-funded organisations since Putin was re-elected.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said in September such moves constituted "a trend that is of very serious concern to the European Union".

Russian and EU officials expect no breakthroughs in Putin's talks with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy. Some commentators are surprised Putin is bothering to make the trip.

"The last few EU-Russia summits have achieved very little and for Putin I think it is really a box-ticking exercise and I am almost surprised he is going at all," said James Nixey, an expert on Russia at London's Chatham House thinktank.

No meeting of minds is likely over Syria where Russia has been sharply at odds with Western powers over a conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people since an uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began in March 2011. France and other Western states have criticised Russia for vetoing three UN Security Council resolutions aimed at pressuring Assad.—Reuters

## One killed, at least 17 injured in dust storm crashes in Texas

HOUSTON, 21 Dec—One person was killed and at least 17 others were injured on Wednesday in a series of accidents triggered by a dust storm in the US state of Texas. Twenty-three vehicles were involved in a series of chain-reaction crashes south of the Texas city of Abernathy, as sand and dust from nearby fields were whipped by winds, *The Houston Chronicle* quoted John Gonzalez, spokesman with the Texas Department of Public Safety, as saying.

Wind gusts reduced visibility in some parts to

near zero, according to reports.

A man died at the scene after his sport utility vehicle slammed into the back of a tractor-trailer, said Gonzalez, adding that other injuries were not serious.

About a eight-kilometre stretch of the highway Interstate 27 was closed because of the dust storm.

Gonzalez attributed the storm to a prolonged drought.

The storm also reportedly dropped power lines, cutting electricity to about 1,000 people in the affected area.—Xinhua

Members of the National Drug Control (DNCD, for its acronym in Spanish) of the Dominican Republic participate in a drug burning at the Pedro Brand municipality, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 20 Dec, 2012. According to the DNCD, 3,240 kg of pure cocaine, 325 kg and 766 marijuana plants, 15 kg of heroin and 4 kg of crack were burned on Thursday. The drugs were seized in the past five months in Santo Domingo.

XINHUA



## IAEA, Iran reach consensus on "structured approach" over nuclear checks

VIENNA, 21 Dec — The UN nuclear watchdog and Iran reached a preliminary agreement on structured approach at the meeting in Teheran last Thursday over Iran's disputed nuclear activities, diplomats said on Thursday.

Both International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran announced progress was made in Thursday's talk towards an agreement the IAEA believes would allow the agency to resume inquiry into the nuclear facilities in Iran.

A Vienna-based diplomat told Xinhua that

the preliminary consensus on structured approach between two sides is considered as the precondition of the new round of talk and also makes the agency more confident to achieve a breakthrough with Teheran, though Iran didn't agree to open access to the Parchin military base near Teheran for the UN inspectors in the talk last week. The IAEA told the member states in a note that it looked forward to finalize the framework in the new round of discussions in Teheran on 16 January, and start implementing it soon.

Xinhua



Smokes rise from the Grande Poste in Algiers Algeria, on 19 Dec, 2012. A fire broke out at the Grande Poste around noon at the Grande Poste on Wednesday, which is a main tourist landmark downtown Algiers. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

XINHUA

## Palestinian woman dies of A/H1N1 virus in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 21 Dec—A Palestinian woman from the West Bank died on Thursday of A/H1N1 virus, a Palestinian medical official said.

Spokesperson for the Palestinian Ministry of Health Assad al-Ramlawy told Xinhua that a pregnant woman died earlier Thursday, adding that two other men died of the virus earlier this week.

He added that a total of 40 A/H1N1 cases are receiving medical treatment in the West Bank.

"This disease has become seasonal and we have the needed medications and the expertise to fight it," he said.

Last year, twelve Palestinians died of A/H1N1 virus.

Xinhua

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



The Soyuz TMA-07M spacecraft carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew of US astronaut Thomas Marshburn, Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko and Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield blasts off from its launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 19 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

## Three-nation crew blasts off for space station

Science

ALMATY, 21 Dec—A Soyuz spacecraft carrying a Russian, an American and a Canadian blasted off on Wednesday to the International Space Station (ISS), where the men are to spend half a year in orbit.

The Russian-built Soyuz TMA-07M lifted off on time, at 1212 GMT, from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

On the crew's two-day

trip to the ISS, Canadian Chris Hadfield is joined by US astronaut Tom Mashburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko.

They will join US astronaut Kevin Ford and Russians Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin, who have been manning the \$100-billion, 15-nation research complex since October.

Reuters

## Seven companies enter British 4G airwaves race

Tech

LONDON, 21 Dec—Telecoms regulator Ofcom said on Thursday that seven companies had qualified to bid for the new airwaves needed to roll out superfast 4G mobile broadband across Britain.

Fixed lines provider BT, managed networks firm MLL Telecom and Hong Kong's PCCW Limited would enter the auction, Ofcom said, as well as all of the existing mobile network operators — EE, Vodafone, O2 owner Telefonica and Hutchison, which is behind Three.

Bidders will be competing for spectrum in two separate bands — 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz, it said. The lower frequency

800 MHz band was freed up when analogue terrestrial TV was switched off.

EE, a joint venture between France Telecom

and Deutsche Telekom, has already launched 4G services in major British cities by reallocating its existing airwaves. —Reuters



Two women look at a mobile phone on Oxford Street in London on 29 Oct, 2012. —REUTERS

## Humans made cheese 7,500 years ago, researchers say

Science

LONDON, 21 Dec—Scientists have found the earliest evidence of prehistoric cheese-making from a study of 7,500-year-old pottery fragments that are perforated just like modern cheese strainers.

Milk production and dairy processing allowed early farmers to produce food without slaughtering precious livestock, and making cheese turned milk into a less perishable food that was more digestible for a population who at the time would have been intolerant to the lactose contained in milk.

Researchers from the

University of Bristol in Britain, with colleagues in the United States and Poland, analyzed fatty acids embedded in prehistoric pottery from the Polish region of Kuyavia, and found they had been used to separate milk into fat-rich curds for cheese and lactose-containing whey.

"The presence of milk residues in sieves ... constitutes the earliest direct evidence for cheese-making," said Mélanie Salque from Bristol, one of the authors of the research, which was published in the journal *Nature*.

Peter Bogucki, another researcher involved in the work, said: "Making cheese allowed them to reduce the lactose content of milk, and we know that, at that time, most of the humans were not tolerant to lactose."

Milk residues have been found at ancient sites up to 8,000 years old in Turkey and Libya, but there was no evidence that the milk had been processed into cheese.

Until now, the earliest evidence of cheese-making came from depictions of milk processing in murals several thousand years younger than the pottery fragments.

Reuters

## Owner of OpenTV slaps Netflix with patent lawsuit

Tech

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—The owner of interactive television pioneer OpenTV sued Netflix Inc on Wednesday, alleging the company infringed on patents that cover technology underpinning the fast-growing Internet video sector.

Switzerland-based Kudelski SA, which owns OpenTV, said in its lawsuit that Netflix infringed on seven US patents covering aspects of over-the-top TV technology (OTT), including: the use of viewer information to make recommendations; digital rights management; and video playback. Kudelski tried for about a year to encourage Netflix to discuss licensing its patents, but the video streaming company has so far not played ball, according to the lawsuit, which was filed on Wednesday in the US District Court for the District of Delaware, a common venue for patent cases.

"Companies like Netflix have, in essence, stood on the shoulders of giants, largely focusing their R&D efforts on aggregating these previously patented technologies and

using them to provide a rich customer experience," Kudelski said in the complaint.

Netflix spokesman Joris Evers declined to comment.

Netflix shares fell 1.7 percent to close at \$93.9785 on Wednesday.

The suit comes amid a boom in digital TV shows and movies delivered over the Internet to smart TVs, tablets and smart phones. Netflix, whose iconic red envelopes have come to symbolize the DVD delivery-by-mail market, introduced video streaming in 2007, 10 years after the company was founded, and quickly grew into a market leader.

But the market is getting crowded, and Netflix is being chased by Amazon.com Inc and Wal-Mart Stores Inc's Vudu service, as well as streaming video website Hulu, which is owned by Walt Disney Co, News Corp and Comcast Corp.

Apple Inc, the world's largest computer maker by market value, is also widely expected to enter the smart TV market, spurring further

growth. The Internet TV sector shares some attributes of the smartphone business, with over a decade of innovation and patents produced by companies that are no longer dominant.

Grant Moss, CEO of patent broker and advisory firm Adapt IP Ventures, expects a repeat of the recent smartphone patent wars, but on a smaller scale.

"The frequency of these cases will increase dramatically" because of recent, high-profile Internet video content distribution deals, new ways of making

money in the sector and new entrants," Moss said.

"But I don't see the financial value of the individual cases being as significant as those in the smartphone market," he added. Kudelski, which has developed and acquired a range of movie and digital TV technologies over several decades, generates more than \$700 million in annual revenue and employs about 3,000 people worldwide. The company is a player in streaming video by virtue of its 2010 acquisition of San Francisco-based OpenTV.

Reuters



The headquarters of Netflix is shown in Los Gatos, California on 20 Sept, 2011. —REUTERS

## Twitter lets users claim their personal history

Tech

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Dec—Twitter's 200 million active users can soon savour or cringe over every single statement they've tweeted when the social media company begins sending users their entire archive of 140-character messages.

Only English-language users have this service for now, but Twitter will eventually send a download link containing the full personal archives in one file to any user who asks, the company said on Wednesday.

"Maybe you wanted to recall your reaction to the

2008 election, reminisce on what you said to your partner on your 10th anniversary, or just see your first few Tweets.

We know lots of you would like to explore your Twitter past," Mollie Vandor, a Twitter engineer, wrote in an official blog post on Wednesday.

Since Twitter launched the service in 2006, tweets have evolved from a tool for youngsters to chat about frivolous things into a force for social change.

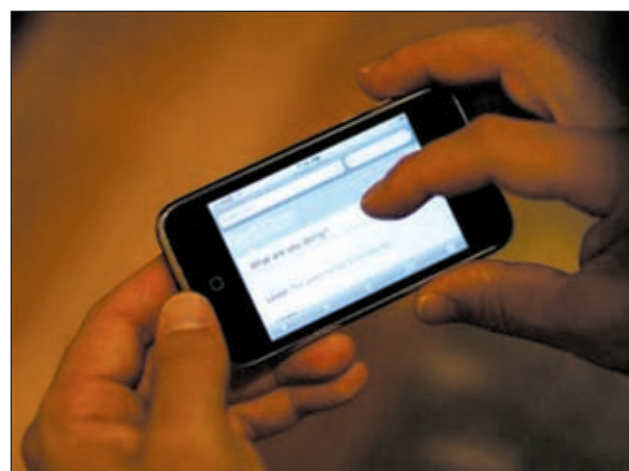
It has served as an alternative to government-controlled media, for example, in the Middle East. And during Superstorm Sandy this year, news organizations and emergency response

officials turned to Twitter as an essential source of real-time information.

In 2010, the Library of Congress pledged to preserve every public tweet as a matter of record — a significant undertaking, given that some 400 million tweets are dispatched worldwide everyday.

Bookending that archive will be one noted dispatch by Twitter Executive Chairman Jack Dorsey, who is widely recognized as its inventor. Dorsey, ignoring punctuation, brought the service to life shortly after 1:00 pm on 21 March, 2006 with a supremely pedestrian update about his experimental social network.

Reuters



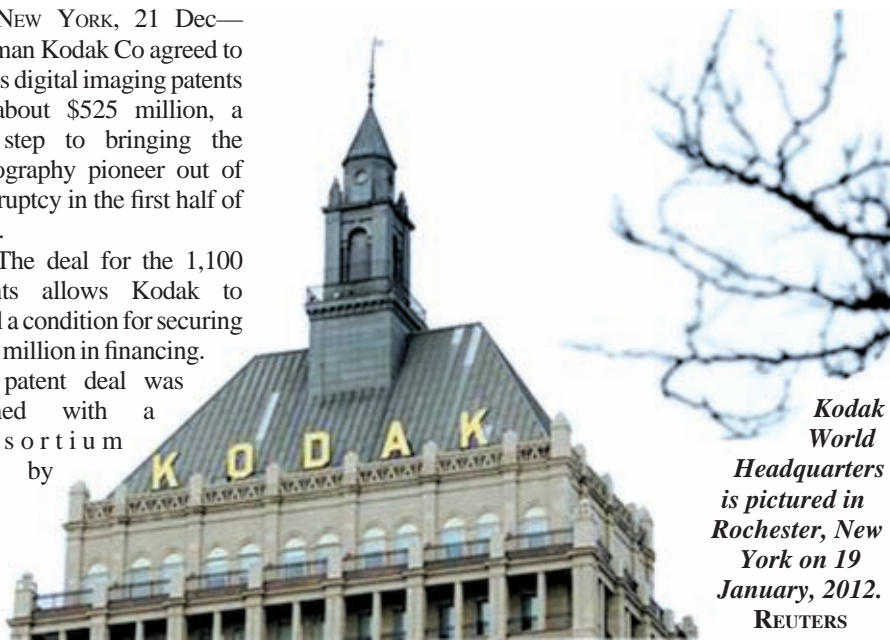
A Twitter page is displayed on an Apple iPhone in Los Angeles on 13 Oct, 2009. —REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

**Kodak in \$525 million patent deal, eyes bankruptcy end**

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—Eastman Kodak Co agreed to sell its digital imaging patents for about \$525 million, a key step to bringing the photography pioneer out of bankruptcy in the first half of 2013.

The deal for the 1,100 patents allows Kodak to fulfill a condition for securing \$830 million in financing. The patent deal was reached with a consortium led by



**Kodak World Headquarters is pictured in Rochester, New York on 19 January, 2012.**

REUTERS

Intellectual Ventures and RPX Corp, and which includes some of the world's biggest technology companies, which will license or acquire the patents.

Those companies are Adobe Systems Inc, Amazon.com Inc, Apple Inc, Facebook Inc, Fujifilm, Google Inc, Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, HTC Corp, Microsoft Corp, Research In Motion Ltd, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd

and Shutterfly Inc, according to court documents.

Kodak still must sell its personalized and document-imaging businesses as part of the financing package, and also has to resolve its UK pension obligation.

Kodak said the patent deal puts it on a path to emerge from Chapter 11 in the first half of 2013.

"Our progress has accelerated over the past several weeks as we prepare to emerge as a strong,

sustainable company," said Antonio Perez, chairman and chief executive of the Rochester, New York-based company.

The patent portfolio was expected to be a major asset for Kodak when it filed for bankruptcy in January. An outside firm had estimated the patents could be worth as much as \$2.6 billion.

Kodak's patents hit the market as intellectual property values have soared and technology companies

**HIV cases decline for black women, increase for gay men: CDC**

Health

ATLANTA, 21 Dec—Fewer black women in the United States are being infected with HIV, but the number of young gay and bisexual men infected is rising, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday.

Between 2008 and 2010, the number of newly infected black women dropped 21 percent, according to the CDC report. Yet despite the decline, they still accounted for 70 percent of all new HIV cases among women, the federal health agency said. The rate of new infections for black women was 20 times higher than the rate for white women, the CDC said.

The number of new infections among young gay and bisexual men increased by 22 percent during that same two-year period, the CDC said.

The number of new HIV infections diagnosed annually in the overall US population remained unchanged between 2008 and 2010 at about 47,500, according to health officials.

Public information campaigns on HIV

prevention and testing seem to be working in lowering the number of new infections among African-American women, said Joseph Prejean, chief of the Behavioural and Clinical Surveillance Branch in the CDC's division of HIV/AIDS Prevention in Atlanta.

"We are encouraged to see some declines among African-American women," Prejean told Reuters. "They've been one of the most severely affected populations. We're cautiously optimistic that this could be part of a longer-term trend."

Among young gay and bisexual men, efforts to

fight HIV have not been as effective, possibly because of advances in treatment for AIDS, the immune disorder caused by HIV, Prejean said.

"We do realize that many men who have sex with men do probably underestimate their personal risk and believe that treatment advances minimize the health threat," Prejean said. Even though treatment can prolong the life of an AIDS patient, Prejean cautioned that "their life really does change. They then begin to take medication and will take medication for the rest of their lives," he said.

Reuters



**Members of the group Sexy with A Goal (SWAG) from the AIDS Service Centre of New York City (ASC/NYC) walk together in New York City's East Village on 7 July, 2012.—REUTERS**

Business

have plowed money into patent-related litigation.

For example, last year Nortel Networks sold 6,000 wireless patents in a bankruptcy auction for \$4.5 billion and earlier this year Google spent \$12.5 billion for patent-rich Motorola Mobility.

But Kodak's patent auction dragged on beyond the initial expectation that it would be wrapped up in August. One patent specialist blamed those early, overly optimistic valuations, which he said encouraged Kodak's team to set their sights too high.

"Unfortunately (Kodak management) was misled into thinking it was worth billions of dollars and it wasn't," said Alex Poltorak, chairman of General Patent Corp, a patent licensing firm. "I think they sold them at a very good price."—Reuters

**FTSE stumbles on fresh US budget concern**

LONDON, 21 Dec—The FTSE 100 index fell on Thursday as investors used renewed tensions in US budget talks as an excuse to lock in profits.

The FTSE 100 was down 5.01 points, or 0.1 percent, at 5,956.58 by 8:06 am British time, having closed up 25.69 points, or 0.4 percent, at 5,961.59 on

Wednesday, scaling fresh nine-month highs.

Sentiment towards riskier assets turned negative overnight, hurting US shares, while mining stocks and banks were pressured on Thursday as talks to avoid a "fiscal cliff" of planned tax hikes and spending cuts in the United States stumbled yet again.—Reuters



**The outside of the London Stock Exchange building is seen in the City of London.—REUTERS**

**Greece's Eurobank posts third quarter loss, provisions hurt**

Business

ATHENS, 21 Dec—Greek lender Eurobank (EFGr.AT) posted an expected third-quarter loss on Thursday as the country's deep economic slump caused a rise in non-performing loans and weaker banking income.

The bank said third-

quarter losses reached 223 million euros \$294 million (180.8 million pounds), bringing its nine-month loss to 1.095 billion euros. Higher funding costs led to a 4 percent fall in net interest income in the third quarter.

Eurobank said non-

performing credit rose to 17 percent of its loan book from 14 percent in the first quarter. Provisions for impaired loans rose 23 percent in the nine-month period to 1.213 billion euros.

The bank said its total recapitalisation need, as set by the country's central bank, was 5.8 billion euros. This includes the impact of two Greek sovereign debt write downs earlier this year.—Reuters



**A woman (L) makes a transaction at an ATM machine outside a Eurobank branch in central Athens on 5 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS**

**US teen smoking declines to record low in 2012**

Health

NEW YORK, 21 Dec—Cigarette smoking among American teenagers dropped to a record low in 2012, a decline that may have been partly driven by a sharp hike in the federal tobacco tax, researchers said on Wednesday.

An annual survey of about 45,000 students in the eighth, 10th and 12th grades found that the overall proportion of those saying they had smoked in the prior 30 days fell by just over a percentage point to 10.6 percent.

"A one percentage point decline may not sound like a lot, but it represents about a 9 percent reduction in a single year in the number of

teens currently smoking," Lloyd Johnston, the principal investigator in the study, said in a statement.

He said reductions on that scale can translate into the prevention of thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of cases of cancer and other serious disease.

More than 400,000 Americans are estimated to die prematurely each year as a result of cigarette smoking — the No 1 cause of preventable US deaths — and most smokers begin their habit as adolescents, experts say. Healthcare advocates hailed on Wednesday's findings as evidence that higher cigarette taxes were

paying off, combined with federal curbs on youth-oriented tobacco marketing and sales and a sweeping anti-smoking media campaign.

The researchers also cited the increase in federal cigarette taxes, raised by 62 cents a pack in 2009, as a likely contributing factor. The findings were part of an annual survey by University of Michigan researchers released by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Smoking rates fell for each of the individual age groups surveyed, most notably among eighth graders — from 6.1 percent in 2011 to 4.9 percent in 2012, the survey found.

Reuters

## WORLD

## Israel complains to UN about rearming by Hezbollah



Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Ron Prosor addresses the United Nations General Assembly during a meeting at UN Headquarters, in New York, on 29 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Dec—Israel's UN envoy urged the Security Council on Thursday to condemn what he described as significant rearming by Hezbollah, saying the Lebanese militant group now possessed an arsenal of tens of thousands of missiles

capable of hitting Israel.

Israel's UN Ambassador Ron Prosor said in a letter to the 15-nation council that the build-up was in clear violation of a UN arms embargo.

Prosor said an explosion in the southern Lebanese town of Tair Harfa on Monday was

at a weapons depot. "This explosion offers yet another reminder to the world about the grave danger before our eyes in Lebanon," he wrote.

"In flagrant breach of (Security Council) resolution 1701, Hezbollah has built its arsenal to unprecedented levels, amassing 50,000 deadly missiles in Lebanon — more missiles than many NATO members have in their possession," he said. "These missiles can reach all of Israel and well beyond."

A Lebanese security source said on Monday's blast was caused by a rocket that had been fired into Lebanon during Hezbollah's 2006 war with Israel but which did not detonate on impact. Israel has long complained that the UN arms embargo on Lebanon has been unsuccessful.

"I call on the Security Council and all responsible members of the international

community to send a clear signal that Hezbollah's rapid rearmament will not be tolerated — backed by concrete steps on the ground," he said.

"A logical first step is to ensure that Hezbollah is placed on relevant terrorism watchlists in all corners of the globe, including in the European Union," Prosor said.

A Reuters reporter in Lebanon on Monday said members of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Army and around 50 members of the UN peacekeeping force UNIFIL were at the site of the blast but that he was prevented from approaching the area.

UNIFIL has about 12,000 troops and naval personnel in Lebanon after its expansion under UN Security Council Resolution 1701 that halted the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war in southern Lebanon. The south remains a Hezbollah stronghold.—Reuters

## French national kidnapped in northern Nigeria

PARIS/ABUJA, 21 Dec—A French energy worker has been kidnapped in northern Nigeria after 30 gunmen attacked a residence and killed a policeman and a security guard protecting the foreign employee, officials said on Thursday.

No group claimed credit for the abduction but Islamist groups linked to Boko Haram, which has killed hundreds in an insurgency this year, have been behind similar kidnappings in the past and become the biggest security threat to Africa's largest oil exporter.

Local Nigerian police spokesman Aminu Sadiq Abubakar said the attack took place on Wednesday in the town of Rimi about 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Katsina, very close to the border with Niger.

A police station nearby had also been bombed and some inmates freed from detention, Abubakar said.

The kidnapped worker was employed by French renewable energy firm Vergnet, officials said. A Paris-based Vergnet executive confirmed the kidnapping.

Vergnet is a French firm specialising in wind power turbines, with 700 globally. The company is currently building Nigeria's first wind farm based in Katsina state.

French President Francois Hollande, on a visit to Algeria, confirmed a French man had been kidnapped and two Nigerians killed during the attack.

"We will use all our means to find our national," he said at a press conference in Tlemcen.—Reuters

## Chavez able to take office on schedule:

## Venezuelan VP

CARACAS, 21 Dec—Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro said on Wednesday that President Hugo Chavez, recovering from cancer surgery, should be fit to be sworn in for a new term on 10 January as scheduled.

Chavez was steadily recovering after the surgery in Cuba, Maduro said in a statement, adding all the official announcements issued so far about his health condition were completely true. "Right now, we are focused on praying and maintaining our faith... so that our commander in chief and president can fulfill his sacred duty of being

sworn in for a new term on 10 January," the vice president said. National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello told reporters the same day that, in view of Chavez's current health, it's his personal view that the possibility of changing the inauguration date could not be ruled out.

Opposition leaders immediately slammed Cabello's comments as a sign the ruling Socialist Party could fiddle with succession rules to accommodate the president's recovery.

Venezuela's Constitution rules that elections are to be called in 30 days if the president

becomes incapacitated.

Chavez, 58, was diagnosed with cancer 18 months ago and had a fourth round of surgery in Cuba's capital earlier this month.

He won the 7 October presidential election with 55 percent of the vote and is due to start his third six-year mandate on 10 January.

Before leaving for Cuba, he named Maduro to be his successor in case he could not fulfill his leadership responsibilities, and asked Venezuelans to vote for Maduro to succeed him as president under such a circumstance.—Xinhua

## Italy prosecutors wind up Costa Concordia ship investigation

GROSSETO, 21 Dec—Prosecutors have concluded their investigation into the shipwreck of the Costa Concordia cruise liner in which 32 people died and are preparing to seek a trial for its captain and seven other people, a magistrate said on Thursday.

Captain Francesco Schettino is accused of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning the ship, which was carrying some 4,000 passengers and crew when it hit rocks and capsized after he brought it too close to the island of Giglio.

Francesco Verusio, who headed the investigation in the Tuscan port city of Grosseto, said he expected to file a request for an indictment at the end of January. He said

Schettino faces up to 20 years in jail. A judge will then decide if there is enough evidence to hold a trial.

The 114,500 tonne liner hit rocks after Schettino tried to perform a manoeuvre known as a "salute" — an attempt to show passengers the island and islanders the ship.

He argues he managed

to prevent a worse disaster by steering into shallow waters even closer to shore after the impact to facilitate the rescue operation. Five other members of the crew, including Schettino's first officer, and three members of a crisis unit set up by Costa to deal with the accident also face indictment and trial.—Reuters



The capsized cruise liner Costa Concordia is seen surrounded by cranes during rescue operation in front of Giglio harbour on 6 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## Ecuador censures Britain for Assange deadlock

QUITO, 21 Dec—Ecuador expressed its concern about the fate of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Thursday and criticized Britain for depriving him of his right to seek asylum.

Ecuador has been pushing for its "full right to offer asylum to Assange," but has failed to get cooperation from Britain, Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said in an interview with the state-run Gama TV.

Ecuador granted Assange political asylum in August, two months after the former hacker turned up at Ecuadorian embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden, where the authorities want to question him over two sexual assault allegations.

The founder of the whistleblowing website has had to hole up at the embassy, as Britain refuses to grant



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange delivers a speech from the balcony of Ecuadorian Embassy in London, Britain, on 20 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

him safe passage out of the country.

Ecuador's diplomatic talks with Britain and Sweden have failed to work out a solution, as neither offered a guarantee that Assange won't be handed over to the United States for prosecution of espionage, which is possibly to incur a death penalty.

"The situation has much to do with Britain's decision," Patino said. "We are concerned that after six months his right to asylum continues to be violated."

Patino said he didn't rule out the possibility of taking the case to an international court after exhausting diplomatic channels.—Xinhua

## UNHCR says fifty-five people drowned off Somali coast

NAIROBI, 21 Dec—Fifty-five people were drowned, or missing and presumed to have drowned, after an overcrowded boat capsized off the Somali coast, the UN refugee agency said on Thursday.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement that the accident on Tuesday was the worst such incident in the Gulf of Aden since February 2011 when 57 Somali migrants perished attempting to reach Yemen.

The UN agency quoted five of the survivors, all

young Somali men, as saying the boat was overcrowded and ran into trouble almost immediately after leaving the port of Bosasso in the northern Somali breakaway region of Puntland.

It capsized just 15 minutes into its journey, spilling all 60 passengers into the sea. Those on board were Ethiopians and Somalis, the UNHCR said.

So far, 23 bodies have been recovered, including those of 14 women, eight men, and a boy said to be less than four years of age. Five of the dead are confirmed to

have been Ethiopians. The 32 remaining passengers are presumed to have drowned.

"Without doubt, the Gulf of Aden is now the deadliest route for people fleeing conflict, violence and human rights abuses in the Horn of Africa," said UNHCR Representative for Somalia, Bruno Geddo.

African migrants often use unseaworthy boats to try to reach Yemen, seen as a gateway to wealthier parts of the Middle East and the West. Hundreds of migrants have perished at sea.

Reuters

NATIONAL

## President U Thein Sein attends cultural concert, dinner hosted by Indian President

NAYPYI TAW, 21 Dec— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the cultural concert and a dinner hosted by President of the Republic of India Mr Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhawan Palace in New Delhi yesterday evening.

Also present at the dinner were Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries, the ASEAN Secretary-General, ministers and high ranking officials, who were attending the ASEAN-India Summit.

At 7.15 pm, President U Thein Sein arrived at

the Rashtrapati Bhawan Palace where he was warmly welcomed by the Indian President and Vice-President Mohammad Hamid Ansari.

After that, the President together with the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries enjoyed entertainment of cultural concert presented

by artistes from India and ASEAN countries.

After the concert, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries posed for a documentary photo with artistes.

Later, the Indian President hosted a dinner to those present.

MNA



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by Indian President Mr Pranab Mukherjee at dinner.

MNA

## Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives ICT Minister of Thailand



Vice-President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Thai ICT Minister Mr Anudith Nakomthap and party.

MNA

NAYPYI TAW, 21 Dec— Vice-President U Nyan Tun received a Thai delegation led by Minister for Information and Communication Technology of Thailand

Mr Anudith Nakomthap at the Credentials Hall of the President Palace, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for

Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Information and Communication Technology U Thaug Tin and departmental heads.

The meeting focused on

boosting cooperation in ICT sector among six Mekong region countries, promotion of ICT cooperation in Dawei SEZ and underwater cable installation tasks.—MNA

## DSMA turns out 14<sup>th</sup> Intake cadets

NAYPYI TAW, 21 Dec— The graduation parade of 14<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy was held at the parade ground of DSMA in Yangon this morning, with an address by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present on the occasion were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife Daw Wai Mar Mar Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and wife Daw Ni Ni, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and their wives, commanders of Triangle Region Command, South-East Command,



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing takes the salute of the cadet companies.—MNA

Coastal Region Command, Yangon Command, South-Western Command, Western Command and Southern Command, the commandant of DSMA and senior military officers of Mingaladon Station, guests and parents and relatives of cadets.

First, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

took the salute of the cadet companies. The cadet companies marched past the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. After that, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services awarded outstanding cadets.

On the occasion, Vice-Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address, saying that the Tatmadaw constantly serving the interest of the national people is

focusing on prevailing peace and stability of the State with vigorous efforts while providing health care services to national brethren from fur-flung areas and regional development tasks. It is genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw is fostering national solidarity. He urged them to actively participate in public welfare

tasks and public health care tasks for ensuring national unity. After taking the salute of the cadet companies, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services left the parade ground.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the academy after the parade.—MNA

## Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends graduation dinner of 14<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSMA

NAYPYI TAW, 21 Dec— The graduation dinner of the 14<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy was held at DSMA in

Yangon at 6 pm today, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the dinner were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife Daw Wai Mar Mar Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein and wife Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and wife Daw Ni Ni, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, commanders and their wives, the commandant of DSMA, guests and parents and relatives of the graduate officers.

At first, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services cordially greeted the graduate officers and had the dinner together with them.

After the dinner, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party enjoyed entertainments of Myawady Band and Myawady Anyent troupe.—MNA

# PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 22 December, 2012

## Over 60 years later

Everything seems to be cool in this December with Christmas decorations at hotels and supermarkets in urban areas as usual. What would it be if you have a chance to choose a Christmas present? As for us, the editorial board, we would like to have “understanding” back.

Over 60 years have elapsed since we regained independence and unfortunately, we still cannot build national consensus to shape our shared future. In the post-independence era, creating an economic miracle turned to be building castle in the air, instead internal armed conflicts emerged as mushrooms in monsoon. Though we, the diverse national races, stood united against the intruders, it has been hard for us to find a common ground to bury the hatchet and shake hands.

Why do the innocent civilians always have to play the role of scapegoat in every conflict throughout the history? Blankets provided could perhaps help them protect against coldness of this ice cold December in makeshift tents or monasteries, but the coldness of fear just too bitter for them to resist. They do not expect much but just want security, a secure and normal life. Children, no matter where he lives and what his race is, should be in classrooms, but not amidst insecurities and bursts of mortar shells and gunfire. The bruises and cuts can be cured, but what about the mental scars left in their mind and heart which we can't see?

Blood, sweat and tears, our ancestors had sacrificed to free the entire nation, not a single division or state, from colonial rule. The long-running armed conflicts are not the things to take pride in for our nation and the continued fighting would not bring victory to either side but only create a loss-loss situation for it is like brothers killing each other in a family.

Kayin people do not alone live in Kayin State, but it is also home to Kachin, Chin, Bamar and people of other national races and it is the same for other regions and states. Since time immemorial, the Union which we call Myanmar has been a haven for diverse national races and we no doubt are the descendants of mixed race, somehow related to one another. Even if there are animosity and enmity among us, they exist only between one person and another and surely not between one race and another. Especially, the younger generations should never ever be misled into believing never-existed animus and hatred.

We are going through a series of daunting challenges which are endangering the life of our infant democracy. We need to be endowed with determination, perseverance, passion, a sense of urgency, and the most important of all, to build national consensus. Now is the time we should and must focus on the future of our younger generations. Let's bygones be bygones. Shall we waste another over 60 years, fighting each other?

*Together we are stronger!*

## NATIONAL

### President U Thein Sein attends...

(from page 1)  
cooperation and thanked India for its cooperation in human resources development of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The President disclosed that the ASEAN-India Car Rally met with success and the rally exhibits the pivotal role of the communication links between the ASEAN and India, and praised the commitments of the host country to participate in the

communication projects between the ASEAN and India.

Myanmar valued the friendly ties that have long been existed between the ASEAN and India as it is a neighbour of India and a member of ASEAN and reaffirmed its resolution in boosting the ASEAN and India relations and in close cooperation with other ASEAN countries.

Then, the Indian Prime Minister announced to

approve ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit Declaration.

After making conclusion speeches by rotating ASEAN chair Cambodian Prime Minister and Prime Minister of the Republic of India, the summit came to an end.

The purpose of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit is the commemoration of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Summit

Level Partnership Relations. ASEAN-India Summits were annually held starting from 2002 and 10<sup>th</sup> Summit has been held in Phnom Penh of Cambodia on 19 November.

The relations between India and ASEAN regularly developed in 1991 in which India adopted its “Look East” policy. ASEAN-India Summit covers ministerial level discussions, people to people relations, coordination on business firm and cultural programmes.—MNA

### President U Thein Sein meets staff, families of Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché Office in New Delhi



President U Thein Sein presents gifts to families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office in New Delhi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar who is in New Delhi of India, met staff and their families from Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office and Myanmar artists who participated at ASEAN-India car rally, at Taj Mahal Hotel

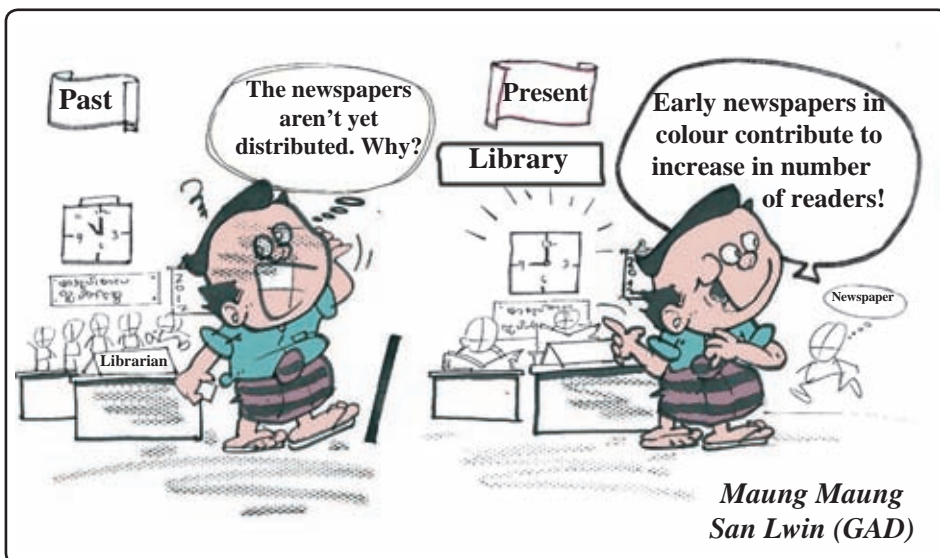
in New Delhi, yesterday evening.

Those present paid respect to the President. In his speech, the President said that Myanmar's reform processes were people-centered, aimed at ensuring individual's interests. Ensuring peace and stability and economic development

was the same wishes of all Myanmar people. So, special emphasizes were placed on national unity and stability for ensuring the stability of the state. For the economic development, the government had made the efforts for the removals of economic sanctions imposed by the Western

countries, relaxation on export taxes and invitations of foreign investments and technologies. The country saw progresses to a certain extent. The opportunities for the future State and the people had emerged.

Myanmar needed to strive for the economic development by maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries, taking advantages of the economic development of super power China and India and appearance of ASEAN countries. Myanmar had established the good relations with the neighbouring countries. He urged officials to maintain the already-existed relations. After that, the President presented foodstuff and gifts through Charge d' Affairs' ai/ Minister Counselor U Ba Hla Aye and Military Attaché Col Thein Lwin.—MNA



Maung Maung San Lwin (GAD)



NATIONAL



President U Thein Sein shaking hands with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. MNA

## Myanmar, India to boost economic, investment cooperation on mutually beneficial basis through people-to-people connectivity

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein held talks with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi of the Republic of India at 9.45 am today.

Also present at the meeting together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Than Htay and U Aye Myint, Charged' Affaires ai of Myanmar Embassy in India U Ba Hla Aye. The Indian Prime Minister was accompanied

by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

Indian Prime Minister said that he warmly welcomed President U Thein Sein's participation in the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit as Myanmar plays an important role in implementation of Look East Policy initiated by the Republic of India.

The President expressed thanks for hospitality of the Indian Prime Minister and informed him of starting implementation of 11-points bilateral agreement signed on

his visit to Myanmar in May this year.

Next, the President and Indian Prime Minister frankly exchanged views on cooperation in border region development and security issue, sooner implementation of India-Myanmar-Thailand road construction project and projects in Myanmar with the assistance of development aid given by India, and boosting economic and investment cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis through people-to-people connectivity.

MNA

## President U Thein Sein graces the flag down ceremony of ASEAN-India Car Rally

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the flag down ceremony of ASEAN-India Car Rally at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi this morning.

The President together with ASEAN leaders took positions on the dais and accepted ASEAN-India Rally commemorative flags. The President flagged down while the car representing Myanmar crossed the finishing line of the rally and so did ASEAN leaders and

ASEAN.

Afterwards, ASEAN leaders and Indian Prime Minister posed for a documentary photo on the dais.

After the ceremony, Indian Prime Minister hosted a luncheon to ASEAN Leaders at Durbar Hall of Taj Palace.

The second ASEAN-India Car Rally started on 26 November in Indonesia, and the participants of the rally arrived in Guwahathi in Assam of India on 16 December, after passing



President U Thein Sein and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh waving hands at the flag down ceremony of ASEAN-India Car Rally.—MNA

## Union Border Affairs Minister meets Turkish ambassador, expert of TIKa

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay met with Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar Murat Yavuz Ates and expert Mr Mikail Tasdemir from Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) at the ministry here this morning. They frankly discussed matters related to construction of low-cost housing projects for both communities regardless of religion

and race who lost their homes due to incidents occurred in Rakhine State in cooperation with the Ministry of Border Affairs and TIKa, aid for educational infrastructure for educational opportunities for children and women in those region and boosting living standard, job opportunities and socio-economic development of local people.

Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency

(TIKA) will make arrangements not only for relief, rehabilitation and sustainable development in Rakhine State but also agriculture, education, health, water and sanitation sectors across the country and will make field trip to Rakhine State for humanitarian assistance.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, directors-general and officials.

MNA



Indian Prime Minister while crossing the finishing line by cars representing ASEAN countries and India.

Next, the Indian Prime Minister delivered an address at the ceremony, and ASEAN Alternate Chairman Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen spoke on the occasion on behalf of

Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. A total of 112 participants from eight ASEAN countries took part in the rally. Academy Wai Lu Kyaw, May Thinzar Oo, Su Panhtwar and Ko Pauk represented Myanmar.

The rally was aimed at cementing friendships

between ASEAN countries and India, fostering regional cooperation and better infrastructural development, especially road transportation between India and ASEAN countries, thereby contributing towards promotion of trade, investment and tourism sectors.—MNA

**Press Release No. 3/2012...***(from page 1)*

11. Commission members visited the office of Myanmar-Yangtzi Copper Limited that is responsible for Sabeitaung and Kyayzintaung projects, first phase of Monywa copper mine project, and two pits at Sabeitaung and Sabeitaung (South) copper mines, and inspected matters related to the project, ISO-14001 certificate, ISO-90001 certificate and OHSAS-180001.

12. They looked into the condition of seeping into the soil from production of copper sulphate/copper by villagers with the use of waste materials from dumping ground during the period from 1984 to 1997.

13. They visited Myanmar-Wanbao Copper Limited where they enquired about EIA, SIA and Reassessment of EIA and SIA and social and health care matters being carried out by Myanma Economic Holdings Limited and Myanmar-Wanbao Copper Limited for local people.

14. For conducting laboratory test, the commission took water samples from the dumping lake in the compound of sulphuric acid plant, the water leaking from the Sabeitaung and a drain which is situated at the foot of Sabeitaung and the tubewell in which the water is alleged to be polluted in Donetaw village.

15. The investigation commission held a plenary meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 December where findings of field trips were presented to the Chairperson of the commission and follow-up tasks of the commission were discussed.

16. Findings of the commission are preliminary investigations, and the commission will make further investigations regarding EIA and SIA by forming teams comprising experts concerned.

17. The commission will conduct enquires regarding compensations given for confiscation of lands for copper mining project and economic, social and health matters of local people.

**US emphasizes military cooperation with Lebanon**

BEIRUT, 21 Dec—Visiting US Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT) Commander Lieutenant General David L Goldfein emphasized on Thursday the strong and sustained military cooperation between the two countries.

According to a statement by the US embassy in Lebanon, Goldfein met with Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Jean

Qahwagi and other senior military officials.

It added that Goldfein underscored the continuing joint effort to strengthen the capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces, recognizing its importance, as Lebanon's sole legitimate defence force, in securing Lebanon's borders and defending the sovereignty and independence of the state.

In his meetings, Goldfein



discussed the political and security situation in Lebanon and other regional issues, and renewed the United States' commitment to a stable, sovereign and independent Lebanon.

Xinhua

**No changes to HK, Macao policies: Xi**

BEIJING, 21 Dec—Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday stressed that the central authorities' policies on Hong Kong and Macao will not change after the transition of power.

Xi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting with CY Leung, chief executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), in Beijing.

The central authorities' adherence to the "one country, two systems" principle and the two Basic Laws will not change, said Xi, also vice president of China.

Xi also reiterated "unchanged support" for the chief executives and governments of the two SARs in carrying out their legal duties, as well as support for the SARs' policies on promoting

economic growth, social welfare, democracy and harmony.

The policies adopted last month at the 18th National Congress of the CPC are continuations of the long-term policy that focuses on the precise understanding and implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle and genuine respect for, and maintenance of, the authority of the Basic Laws, said Xi.

Xi recognized the work of Leung and the SAR government and pledged firm, continued support.

Xi recalled his notion that realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the Chinese nation's greatest dream in modern history, adding that he believes compatriots in Hong Kong share this dream.

"I believe Hong Kong compatriots will contribute to the great rejuvenation," said Xi.—Xinhua

**Cuba expands biofuel production to cope with energy shortage**

HAVANA, 21 Dec—Cuba has opened its second biodiesel plant and plans to build three more to produce green fuel from inedible plants, the state-run TV reported on Wednesday.

The new plant is now in trial run in the town of Cabaiguan in the central province of Sancti Spiritus, the report said, adding the authorities have planned to install three more in the western province of Matanzas.

Currently, there are on the island about 110 hectares of land cultivated with jatropha curcas, an oil-rich plant that

will be used as the raw material to feed the plants.

The seeds of the shrub known as "milk nut," are rich in oil but toxic for human consumption, Jose Sotolongo, director of the Centre for Applied Technology for Sustainable Development in the eastern province of Guantanamo, was quoted by Cuban television as saying. "It offers the additional advantage that its cultivation is feasible in areas of little or no agricultural value." Jatropha curcas is considered a convenient alternative to edible plants, such as

sunflower or soybeans, in the production of biofuels, the report said, adding this biofuel has been applied successfully in farm machinery.

Cuba installed with Swiss support its first biodiesel plant in the eastern province of Guantanamo last July. The expansion of biodiesel is the latest attempt by the Cuban government to tap clean energy resources like wind, sunlight and biomass of sugarcane and woods.

Cuba meets about 50 percent of its energy needs with a domestic production of about 4 million tons of oil

and accompanying gas a year, with the rest supplemented by imports from its major political and economic ally Venezuela.

The poor health condition of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and the possibility that he is unable to take office for his new six-year term has raised concerns that Cuba's fuel supply would be adversely affected.

The government's goal is to generate one-sixth of the domestically consumed electricity with renewable sources before the end of this decade.—Xinhua

**Workshop on FESR launched**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—"The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development conducted the workshop on Framework for Economic and Social Reform as it aims at attaining success in a series of reform process in administration and working process at the bottom-to-top level at the departmental organizations apart from emergences of good governance and clean government", said Union Minister for National Planning and Economic

Development Dr Kan Zaw at the opening of the workshop held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning.

Afterwards, Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein and U Hla Tun, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Affairs Committee U Maung Oo gave their comments on supplementary implementation tasks for socio-economic development and

public security and freedom of action; expression and participation without being annoyed by anyone.

The resource persons read out their papers at the workshop chaired by Chairman of National Economy and Social Development Consultation Council U Tin Htut Oo, and answered the queries raised by the participants.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi administered the session with three resource persons.—MNA

**Fire breaks out on Yangon-Mawlamyine Up-train**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—A fire broke out in the engine room of DF No.1631 on No.89 Yangon-Mawlamyine Up-train

while arriving at Mile Post No.175/12, at about 6.30 pm today.

The fire engines managed to put out it at about 6.50

pm. Nobody got injured in the accident.

The case is now under investigation.

MNA

**KIA attacks Mandalay-Myitkyina cargo train**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—A No.937 cargo train leaving Mandalay for Myitkyina, was attacked by KIA group at Mile Post No.643/22, at about

1.15 am today. The attack has damaged about 70-ft rail track, overturned four coaches, tilted one coach, injured three staff of Myanma Railways.

According to MR, departmental officials are repairing damaged rail road section with the help of local battalion.

MNA

**US airline traffic dips in September**

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec—US airline system traffic in September shrank from a year ago, the Transportation Department reported on Thursday.

US airlines carried 57.4 million domestic and international passengers in September 2012, 1.1 percent fewer than in the same period of 2011, said the department. But the number of passengers was still 0.1 percent above that of two years ago in September 2010.

Specifically, there

were 1.7 percent fewer domestic passengers and 2.8 percent more international passengers in September than a year ago.

Delta Airlines carried more total passengers than any other US airlines in September, reaching 9.396 million. Southwest Airlines carried the most domestic passengers, with 8.707 million. United Airlines took the first place in terms of international passengers, with as many as 1.9112 million.—Xinhua



Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua speaks during a farewell and welcome party of old and new ambassador to China held in Tokyo, on 20 Dec, 2012. Japanese new ambassador to China Masato Kitera and his predecessor Uichiro Niwa said on Thursday that they believe relations between Japan and China will be improved.—XINHUA

## REGIONAL

## India's main opposition BJP wins western state of Gujarat for 3rd consecutive term

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec—India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in the western state of Gujarat scored a political hat-trick by winning the state assembly elections by a huge margin under the leadership of controversial Hindu nationalist Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP got the mandate to rule Gujarat for another five years, bagging 116 seats in the 182-member state assembly while the state's main opposition Congress party won only 60 seats. After his emphatic win, the BJP Chief Minister tweeted, "no need of look-

ing behind... We want infinite energy, infinite courage, infinite patience..."

Modi, in power since 2001, has been tipped as a potential future prime minister. Under his leadership, Gujarat has developed highly and progressed into one of India's economic powerhouses.

However, he is often been described by his critics as a divisive figure and blamed for doing little during the 2002 communal riots in the state, in which over 1,000 people, mostly minority Muslims, were killed. Modi, who was at the helm at the time, denies all allegations.—Xinhua

## More employers providing leave benefits in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Dec—A survey conducted by Singapore's Ministry of Manpower showed that more employers in this city-state have provided various leave benefits and work-life arrangements to help their employees cope with family commitments.

According to the main findings of the survey released on Thursday, 41 percent of establishments offered at least one form of work-life arrangement to their employees in 2012, up from 38 percent in 2011.

Among them, part-time working was the most common work-life arrangement offered by 33 percent of establishments, while the flexitime, the staggered hours and the tele-working are following behind.

Meanwhile, employers were also going beyond statutory requirements to provide various leave benefits for happier workforce. About 89 percent of the establishments gave compassionate leave, while 73

percent of them gave marriage leave. Paternity leave, study or examination leave, parental care or sick leave were also among the provided leave benefits.

The survey also said that 5-day work-weeks continue to be the norm, with 44 percent of full-time employees in 2012 under such a work-week arrangement.

Some survey released these days had said that Singapore is the most unemotional country in the world, and at the same time, fewest adults in this city-state experiences positive emotions in the world.

Some citizens thus said the top officers should review this issue and try to figure out how to reverse the trend. On the official hand, they has encouraged the establishments, both private sector and public sector, for a long time to provide their employees more opportunities to spend with their family members and as a result, to make them happier.—Xinhua



Pakistani men craft hand-made carpets at a local carpet factory in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 20 Dec, 2012. According to reports, Pakistan's carpet exports have witnessed a huge decline of more than 50 percent during the last five years.—XINHUA



Participants perform during a parade to mark the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) in Macao, south China, on 20 Dec, 2012. Artists and groups from all over the world, accompanied by numerous local talents, set out on their performing journey from the city's iconic Ruins of St Paul's and across the city.—XINHUA

## Sri Lanka seeks expanded ties with Indian army

COLOMBO, 21 Dec—Sri Lanka seeks to expand ties with the Indian army particularly in training, the army said on Thursday.

Indian Army Commander General Bikram Singh, who is on a five-day visit to Sri Lanka, had discussions with his Sri Lankan counterpart Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya.

Sri Lankan army media unit said that the discussions centered largely on further expansion of the newly-established Diyatalawa Army Training Command (ARTRAC) with Indian support at different levels.

The meeting also explored avenues of receiving more training opportunities for Sri Lankan officers in India, in addition to ongoing training programmes.

During the discussion

views were explored on the possibilities of launching one-to-one correspondence between service regiments of the Sri Lankan army and those of the Indian army as measures to further broaden the spectrum of military interests, benefiting both countries.

The visiting Indian army chief in response to a request of the Sri Lankan counterpart, pledged to provide a few horses to the Diyatalawa Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) for training purposes and all possible assistance to further improve training slots to the Sri Lanka Army in various training programmes.

"Several other military matters of mutual and regional interest, including the present day Sri Lanka Army's post-conflict nation

building roles came under close scrutiny during the meeting," the army media unit said.

Jayasuriya and Bikram Singh during discussions also focused on reviving the old practice of sport programmes between the two parties like the past, since such approaches would further help broaden bilateral understanding and goodwill among officers.

Xinhua



Vehicles drive past the construction site of a viaduct bridge in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 Dec, 2012. Indonesia's economic growth is expected to reach 6.6 percent in 2013, according to an official of Asian Development Bank.—XINHUA

## Seven killed as bomb hits police vehicle in SW Afghanistan

ZARANJ, (Afghanistan), 21 Dec—Five civilians and two policemen were killed on Thursday afternoon when a bomb hit a police mobile in Zaranj, the Provincial capital of southwestern Afghan Nimroz Province, police said.

"A police unit was on routine patrol in police district 3 of Zaranj City at about 3:30 pm (local time) when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was detonated through a remote control device, killing two policemen and five civilians near the scene," police

## Japan to withdraw peacekeeping troops in Golan Heights

TOKYO, 21 Dec—The Japanese government decided to withdraw its Self-Defence Forces (SDF) from UN peacekeeping missions in Golan Heights due to severer security conditions there, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said on Friday.

The decision was made at a security conference, asking all 47 SDF members who currently engaged in peacekeeping operations in the plateau to return Japan in about a month.

The SDF mission in Golan Heights, where was captured and occupied by Israel from Syria in 1967, began in 1996. The forces mainly take transportation and other operations.

Besides the Golan Heights, the Japanese government had decided to withdraw its peacekeeping forces from East Timor and Haiti and it now still has about 350 SDF members on the UN missions in Sudan.

Xinhua

## Floods claim 23 lives in Sri Lanka, 68,000 families displaced

COLOMBO, 21 Dec—Ongoing torrential rains and heavy floods have killed 23 in Sri Lanka with 15 others missing and over 68,000 families displaced from their homes, an official said here on Thursday.

On the fifth day of monsoon rains lashing the Indian Ocean island, relief workers were struggling to get assistance to the flood affected people in 11 districts, according to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC).

The navy, army and police are working around the clock to assist thousands of people, noted DMC Spokesman Sarath Lal Kumara.

"An estimated 358 houses had been destroyed and 1,907 partly damaged. We are providing the displaced families with cooked food and assisting them to return home when the flood waters recede," he added.

Several regions have also received landslide warnings. Local media reported that 31 out of 72 major irrigation tanks around the country are reaching overflow levels and could increase flooding in nearby areas.

The former war torn eastern province is reported to be particularly hard hit with over 15,000 acres of paddy under water.

Xinhua

chief of the district Abdul Haq told Xinhua.

He said two policemen were also wounded in the attack and the police mobile was destroyed in the incident in the province 790 km southwest of Kabul.

The police have rolled out a search operation to find the people behind the attack, the police official added.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Taleban suspects routinely claim responsibility for such attacks.

Xinhua

## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012 (Christmas Day) and Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (323)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (323) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (004)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1252)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1252) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.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: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-  
SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

**AVENTIS PHARMA S.A.**, a company incorporated in France, of 20, Avenue Raymond Aron-92160 ANTONY FRANCE, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

**FLAGYL**

Reg. No.679/2000

in respect of "Pharmaceutical products".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for **AVENTIS PHARMA S.A.**  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 22 December 2012

**No Pain,  
No Gain****Invitation to open tender for purchase  
of related parts of Chiller Units for  
maintenance of air-conditioners at  
Myanma Radio and Television  
(Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon) of  
Ministry of Information**

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase following spare parts to be used in maintenance of air-conditioners at Myanma Radio and Television (Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon) of Ministry of Information-

- Spare parts and 14 related parts for Chiller Unit (Model No. 30 GTN 210-933 and 30 GTN-100)

2. Open tender forms may be drawn from Ministry of Information, Office No (7), Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:30 hr to (6:30) hr during the office days from (21-12-2012) to (1-1-2013).

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of the Tender Board at Ministry of Information, Office No. 7, from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 2-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.

4. The open tender forms and detailed information are available at the following address-

**Procurement Committee  
Ministry of Information  
Office No (7), Nay Pyi Taw  
Tel: 067-412327, 067-79474**

**Drive  
Safely****Ministry of Information  
Myanma Radio and Television  
Invitation for Open Tender**

- The Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information prefers to purchase the following equipment:-
 

(a) 100 KW MW Radio Transmitter	- 1 Set (USD)
(b) Camera, Video Player and Recorder	- 1 Lot (USD)
(c) Compact Video Recorder	- 10 Nos. (Kyat)
- The applications forms for the open tender will be available at the Ministry of Information, Office No. (7), Nay Pyi Taw in office hours (9.30-16.30) during office days from 21-12-2012 to 30-12-2012.
- The forms are to be submitted to the members of the tender board at the Ministry of Information, Office No (7), Nay Pyi Taw between 9.30 and 16.30 on 31-12-2012. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.
- For scrutiny of the quality of equipment, bidding companies are to inform the Ministry of Information, Office No (7), Nay Pyi Taw by 9 am on 3-1-2013.
- Further details are available at the following address:-

**Procurement Committee  
Ministry of Information  
Office No. (7), Nay Pyi Taw  
Ph: 067 412327 and 067 79474**

**Ministry of Information  
Myanma Radio and Television****Invitation for Open Tender**

- The Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information prefers to purchase the following equipment:-
 

(a) 3 Cameras DSNG Van	- 1 Set
(b) Fibre Interface Unit	- 1 Lot

 (For Multi Channel Playout System Head-end)
 

(c) ProLine StagePro Presidential Style Teleprompter	
-Pair of Displays-19" Reversing Monitors	- 2 Sets
-Pair of Displays-19" High Brightness Monitors	- 2 Sets
- The application forms for the open tender are available at the Ministry of Information, Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw in office hours (9.30-16.30) daily from 20-12-2012 to 30-12-2012.
- The forms are to be submitted to the tender board at the Ministry of Information, Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw between 9.30 and 16.30 on 31-12-2012. The overdue tenders will not be accepted.
- For scrutiny of the quality of equipment, bidding companies are to inform the Ministry of Information, Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw, by 9 am on 3-1-2013.
- Further details are available at the following address:-

**Procurement Committee  
Ministry of Information  
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw  
Ph: 067-412327 and 067-79474**



*Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano spews large clouds of gas and ash near Banos, south of Quito, on 17 Dec, 2012.*

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT



Drew who recently welcomed her first daughter Olive with husband Will Kopelman — was surprised to hear her friend Kristen was dating the Strokes drummer. PTI

Drew Barrymore fine with friend Kristen Wiig dating her ex

LONDON, 21 Dec—Drew Barrymore is happy for Kristen Wiig and Fabrizio Moretti.

At first Drew, 37 — who recently welcomed her first daughter Olive with husband Will Kopelman — was surprised to hear her friend Kristen was dating the Strokes drummer, as he was her boyfriend for five years, but on reflection Drew believes they are perfect for

each other.

Speaking in the January 2013 issue of *Allure* magazine, she said: “It all seems so wacky and incestuous but that’s kind of how life works. It seems fitting that they would find each other. I was like ‘Right, of course. That makes perfect sense.’”

Earlier this year Kristen revealed she feels so “very lucky” to be in a relationship

with the musician, that she was keen to make her feelings known about him, despite insisting she is usually reluctant to talk about her personal life.

She said: “I am shyer than most people think. I will say that I’m happier than I’ve ever been and I feel very lucky right now. Where I am now. Who he is. Those are the two big ones.”—PTI

Madonna leads Billboard’s top-grossing tours

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec— While this year’s pop charts have been dominated by young singers, it is veteran music stars, led by Madonna, who are commanding big money in tour ticket sales, according to a new Billboard list released on Tuesday.

Madonna, 54, topped Billboard’s list of highest-grossing live tours, earning an estimated \$228.4 million (140.5 million pounds) in ticket sales from her sold-out ninth worldwide tour in support of her 12th studio album “MDNA.” The singer will wrap her tour in South America this weekend, after performing more than 80 shows across the world starting in Israel in May.

Madonna came ahead of pop star Lady Gaga, who landed at No 6, with ticket sales of \$124.9 million from her worldwide “Born This Way Ball” tour. Gaga, 26, is currently midway through her tour, which kicked off in South Korea in April, and will wrap in Oklahoma in March 2013.

Music publication Billboard compiled its list through estimated gross ticket sales figures from

Billboard box scores, which tracks concert tours, ticket prices and sales.

The top five highest-grossing tour acts of 2012 included Bruce Springsteen, 63, and the E Street band at No 2 with \$199 million from 72 shows and Pink Floyd’s Roger Waters, 69, at No 3 with \$186 million.

Cirque Du Soleil’s

The only other young stars in the list of 25 top-grossing tours was Canadian pop star Justin Bieber, 18, at No. 20 with \$30 million from 29 shows as part of his ongoing “Believe” tour, and country-pop darling Taylor Swift, 23, who raked in \$26 million from 21 shows from her “Speak Now World Tour.”



Singer Madonna performs at Staples Centre as part of her MDNA world tour in Los Angeles, California on 10 Oct, 2012.—PTI

homage to late singer Michael Jackson in “The Immortal World Tour” ranked No 4 with \$147.3 million over 183 shows, and British rock band Coldplay was fifth with \$147.2 million over 67 shows.

Last year, Swift ranked No 5 on Billboard’s list with an estimated \$97 million in ticket sales from her “Speak Now World Tour,” while Bieber came in at No 15 with \$44 million.

PTI

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson host a Christmas tree decorating party

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec— Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson hosted a Christmas tree decorating party on Sunday (16 December).

The couple — who reconciled recently following a brief split when Kristen, 22, cheated on the 26-year-old actor with director Rupert Sanders — invited friends and family to Kristen’s Los Feliz home for a festive party.

A source told *HollywoodLife.com*: “Kristen and Rob had a small, intimate Christmas tree decorating party on Sunday. They have a gorgeous tree set up at Kristen’s where Rob pretty much lives now.”

“Kristen was really happy to be back home and be with Rob. They want to spend as much time as possible together before Rob leaves in January to film his next movie.”

While the couple aren’t officially living together, friends say they are happier than ever since getting back together.

A pal previously said: “They are not living with

each other but they are spending plenty of time with each other and they do sleep over often. Rob usually sleeps over at Kristen’s new home in Los Feliz, rather

than the other way around. They are in a really magical place right now despite some lingering trust issues on Rob’s side.”

PTI



While the couple aren’t officially living together, friends say they are happier than ever since getting back together.—PTI

Tom Cruise loves to shoot in London

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec— Tom Cruise loves filming in London. The 50-year-old actor has had a blast over the past five months shooting his new action flick *All You Need Is Kill* in the UK capital and other parts of the country and thinks British crews and set designers are among the best in the world.

Speaking in the new issue of Britain’s *OK!* magazine, he said: “I’ve been here for almost five months. I love it here. I’ve made so many films here and the time I’ve spent, it’s wonderful, you’ve got so many great crews here, great craftsmen. Of course, I’ve worked with so many of the actors here and it’s a wonderful place to live.”

The Hollywood icon — whose divorce from Dawson’s Creek star Katie Holmes was finalised in July — admits one of his motivations for getting into acting was to experience a jet-set lifestyle, because he loves to travel.

Even though Tom misses his six-year-old daughter Suri — who lives in New York City with her mother Katie — while he is in England, he insists the cast and crew on ‘*All You Need Is Kill*’ have become like a family because they have bonded so well.

Tom enthused: “I love travelling. I dreamed of being able to travel to different places, there’s not just one particular thing. I’ve made a lot of films here so a lot of the crew I’ve known since I was a kid, so it’s just a real pleasure.”—PTI



He says: “I’ve been here for almost five months. I love it here.”—PTI

Kate Winslet’s Titanic dress fetches \$330,000 at auction

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec— The iconic red dress that Kate Winslet’s character Rose DeWitt Bukater wore in *Titanic* fetches \$ 330,000 at a Hollywood auction. The ‘Drama Action, Romance—The Hollywood Auction’ by Profiles in History saw some contemporary memorabilia fetch eye-popping prices during the weekend, reported *Hollywood Reporter*.

Kate Winslet’s exquisite red chiffon dress was designed by Deborah L Scott and took more than 1,000 hours to sew. This costume featured in one of the most memorable scenes of the movie when Rose and Jack meet for the first time on the windswept deck of

the *Titanic*.

It originally was sold by clothier J Peterman in 1998, the year after the hit movie’s original release, as part of promotional sale of costumes and props from the movie.

Profiles in History describes it as the only screen-used “jump dress” in private hands.

The top seller during the auction was the bow used by Legolas (Orlando Bloom) in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, which sold for \$ 372,000. The presale high estimate was \$120,000.

Orlando Bloom used the brown-painted composite plastic bow made in Weta’s New Zealand workshop in all three films.



It originally was sold by clothier J Peterman in 1998, the year after the hit movie’s original release, as part of promotional sale of costumes and props from the movie.—PTI

A screen-used X-Wing model from the first *Star Wars* movie in 1977 sold

for \$ 270,000 more than twice its high estimate of \$ 120,000.—PTI

## Swansea's Michu happy to get hurt against Man United

LONDON, 21 Dec—Swansea City striker Michu says he will keep going for the ball even it means getting hurt after being knocked flat by Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Hugo Lloris on Sunday.



Swansea City's Michu scores a goal during their English Premier League football match against Swansea City at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, South Wales on 8 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Lloris caught Michu on the head when punching clear late in Tottenham's 1-0 win and the Spaniard lay motionless on the pitch for a while before recovering.

Michu, the joint top

scorer in the Premier League, said his headache did not clear until Tuesday but he would not pull out of a similar situation against Manchester United at the Liberty Stadium this Sunday.

"It was a big collision between me and Lloris," Michu told the Swansea club website (www.swansea-city.net) "We both went after the ball and it was unfortunate for me that he just got there first.—Reuters

## Irish winger Bowe to miss Six Nations with knee injury

PARIS, 21 Dec—Ireland winger Tommy Bowe will miss next year's Six Nations championship after undergoing knee surgery that will keep him out of the



Ireland's Tommy Bowe escapes to score a try against France during their Six Nations rugby union match at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis near Paris on 4 March, 2012.—REUTERS

game for up to four months. Bowe, who has made 51 appearances for his country, fell awkwardly during Ulster's Heineken Cup defeat by Northampton on 15 December.

He suffered lateral ligament damage and is expected to be out of action for approximately four months, a statement on the club's website (www.ulsterrugby.com) said.

Bowe, 28, toured South Africa in 2009 with the British and Irish Lions and was expected to be a leading contender for next year's series in Australia.

Reuters

## Nehwal courts controversy with match point retirement

NEW DELHI, 21 Dec—India's Saina Nehwal has kicked up a storm by retiring from a match she was on the verge of winning because of a knee injury.

The London Olympic bronze medallist had reached match point against Russian Ksenia Polikarpova in the first round match at the India Grand Prix in the northern city of Lucknow on Wednesday when she decided to retire.

"Even when I was playing at

the Super Series Finals (in China last week), I was playing with a taped knee," the world number three was quoted as saying by the *Times of India* newspaper.

"I have been facing this problem since then. This could have aggravated if I had continued. So I decided to back out," she added.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) said it would investigate the incident but maintained it had no reason to doubt Nehwal's sincerity, vice president TPS Puri told Reuters on Thursday. "We are looking into her pullout but her

India's Saina Nehwal reacts after being defeated by China's Wang Shixian during their women's single quarter final match at the 2010 Badminton World Championships at the Coubertin stadium in Paris, on 27 August, 2010.—REUTERS

## Soccer

PARIS, 21 Dec—Montpellier defender Cyril Jeunechamp has been banned for a year for hitting a reporter after a Ligue 1 game last month, the French League (LFP) said on Thursday.

The League said after a meeting of its disciplinary committee that the sanction would take effect from 24 December.

Jeunechamp, 37, had

## Juve defender Chiellini faces lengthy layoff

ROME, 21 Dec—Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini has confirmed that he will miss Friday's Serie A meeting with Cagliari due to a calf injury. The 28-year-old Chiellini underwent a scan on Thursday and while an exact timeline for a possible return is unknown, he could be facing up to three months on

the sidelines. "Unfortunately the calf injury has been confirmed and I have to stop for a while," Chiellini wrote on his Twitter page.

"But I am going to do my best to come back as soon as possible and stronger than

Juventus' Giorgio Chiellini (front R) challenges Napoli's Goran Pandev during their Italian Serie A football match at the Juventus stadium in Turin on 20 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

before! Thank you all very much for all the messages for a fast recovery that you are

already been suspended indefinitely after the argument with a L'Equipe reporter over a story published in the newspaper before the 1-1 league draw at Valenciennes.

Champions Montpellier had apologised to the reporter and condemned their player's behaviour. The club are currently ninth in the 20-strong league.

Reuters

sending me!"

Friday's match will take place at Parma's Ennio Tardini stadium after Cagliari's usual home ground, the Is Arenas stadium, failed to receive clearance from the local council.

Juventus are top of Serie



A with 41 points, seven clear of the second-placed Inter Milan.—Reuters

## Montpellier defender Jeunechamp handed one-year ban

Montpellier's Cyril Jeunechamp (R) challenges Lille's Florent Balmont during their French Ligue 1 match at the Mosson stadium in Montpellier on 20 Feb, 2011.

REUTERS



## Thailand now aiming for F1 race in 2015

BANGKOK, 21 Dec—Thailand expects to host a floodlit Formula One Grand Prix in Bangkok in 2015 after plans were pushed back a year, the governor of the national sports authority said on Friday.

"An F1 race is likely to take place here in early 2015 instead of in 2014 in our initial plan," Kanokphand Chulakasem told the *Bangkok Post* newspaper.

The 2014 season is due to see two new races,

at Sochi in Russia and at a New Jersey street circuit, on a calendar which already has a record 20 rounds, but Thailand would be a novelty for the year after.

Bangkok's Rajamangala stadium recently hosted the annual Race of Champions event with Red Bull's triple world champion Sebastian Vettel teaming up with Michael Schumacher to win the team title for Germany.

Reuters

## Italy's Ballan has surgery after training crash

ROME, 21 Dec—BMC Racing rider Alessandro Ballan was undergoing surgery to remove his spleen on Thursday after a training crash in eastern Spain that also left the Italian with a broken leg and rib.

"The broken rib actually made a small puncture in his lung," said the team's chief medical officer Max Testa in a statement. "The first priority is the spleen injury — that is considered a medical emergency."

The doctor said a decision on when and where to operate on the rider's leg would be made later.

Ballan was 2008 world road champion and finished

third in this year's Paris-Roubaix classic.

He also won the one-day Giro della Toscana in Italy and had been due to compete in the season-opening Tour Down Under in Australia next month.

"His loss means a lot since Alessandro is one of our key riders for the classics," said BMC team sporting director John Lelangue. "But most important right now is that he can recover and just get back to his normal process. "We'll wait for all the medical information before even beginning to think about what could be his plan for coming back."—Reuters



BMC Racing Team rider Alessandro Ballan (L) of Italy celebrates winning the last stage of the Eneco Tour cycling race in Geraardsbergen on 12 Aug, 2012.

REUTERS

GENERAL



Senior Engineer U Than Tun (Civil) and supervisors gave educative works and demonstration on system of closing gate at level crossing before arrival of trains in the area of Division 5 of Myanma Railways in Toungoo on 17 December. MYANMA ALINN

Maradona wants to take Iraq to World Cup finals

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Dec—Diego Maradona is on the brink of becoming coach of Iraq and wants to take the country to the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil, Argentine agent Hernan Tofoni told Reuters on Thursday.

Maradona, who is acting as a consultant for the UAE club Al Wasl that he used to coach, is awaiting the outcome of a meeting of the Iraqi Football Federation to be held on Friday to discuss the Argentine's candidacy for their

vacancy. "Diego is really enthused and phones us every day. He doesn't just want to coach (Iraq) for the next six months but long term," said Tofoni, who is heading up talks with Iraq for the Argentine company World Eleven.

"He is excited by the fact that it's a challenge and that he'd be going to replace Zico," added Tofoni, referring to the Brazil great who quit as Iraq's coach last month. Tofoni, a registered FIFA agent, said he put Maradona's name on the table when Iraq approached World Eleven looking for an Argentine

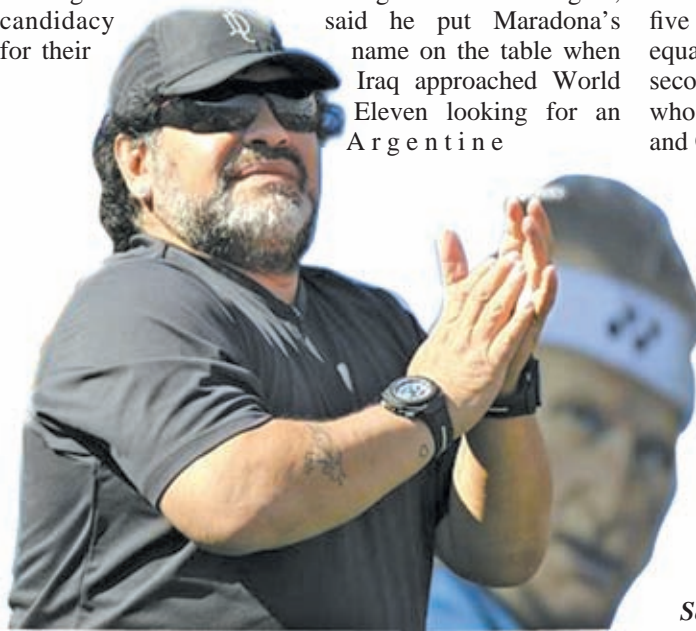
coach and "they liked the idea".

He said there would be no obstacles for Maradona to leave Al Wasl, where he coached for 14 months until last July, to take up the Iraqi post.

Iraq have played at one World Cup finals, in 1986 in Mexico where Maradona led Argentina to their second title.

The Middle Eastern nation are third in Group B in the fourth round of Asian World Cup qualifiers. Japan lead with 13 points from five matches, while Iraq are equal on five points with second-placed Australia, who have a match in hand, and Oman.—Reuters

Former Argentine football star Diego Maradona applauds in front of an image of Argentine tennis player David Nalbandian during the Davis Cup World Group tennis match between Carlos Berlocq of Argentina and Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic in Buenos Aires on 16 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS



Foster fit to return for West Brom after hernia operation

LONDON, 21 Dec—West Bromwich Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster is fit to return against Norwich City on Saturday after recovering from a double hernia operation.

Foster, who played five internationals for England, has missed Albion's last seven games with an injury which stopped him kicking. But after a two-part operation the 29-year-old is ready to challenge Boaz Myhill for the keeper's jersey.

"It's been a whole lot longer than I thought it was

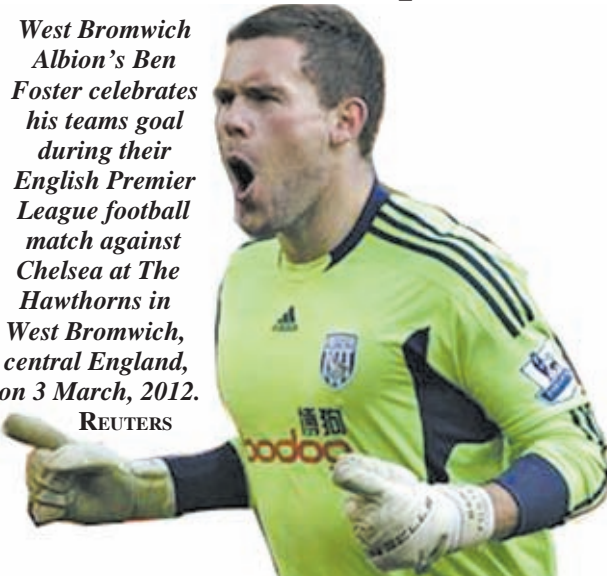
going to be but hopefully it's all sorted now and we can crack on," Foster told West Brom's website on Thursday.

"I trained fine yesterday, I felt absolutely fine. The team has been doing well, Boaz has been doing great, so we will just see how it goes."

West Brom have been one of the surprise packages of the Premier League season and are seventh on 27 points, equal with Everton in sixth place and Arsenal in fifth.

West Bromwich Albion's Ben Foster celebrates his teams goal during their English Premier League football match against Chelsea at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England, on 3 March, 2012. REUTERS

REUTERS



MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-12-12 09:30 am ~ 23-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* The Stories of the Great Souls Daw Saw Mone Nyin: A Living Literary
- \* News
- \* 6th Yankin Township Essence of Snow Art Exhibition
- \* News
- \* Kid's Talent
- \* Press Release of New Year's Eve Celebration A Gala Night with the Stars
- \* News
- \* A Visit to Mandalay
- \* News
- \* Hand Down Arts Heritage
- \* News
- \* Taste of Myanmar "Mandalay Noodle"
- \* News
- \* Large Parasol "A Souvenir of Patheingyi"
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Movie "Rain Clouds on the Horizon"

MYANMAR TV

(22-12-2012, Saturday)

- |                 |   |                |   |
|-----------------|---|----------------|---|
| <b>7:00 am</b>  | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | <b>2:00 pm</b> | 13. Dance of National Races   |
| <b>7:15 am</b>  | 2. Dhama Puja Song                            | <b>2:25 pm</b> | 14. Teleplay  |
| <b>7:25 am</b>  | 3. To Be Healthy Exercise                     | <b>4:25 pm</b> | 15. Cultural Dance  |
| <b>7:40 am</b>  | 4. Nice & Sweet Song                          | <b>4:35 pm</b> | 16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Eco)              |
| <b>7:50 am</b>  | 5. Health Programme                           | <b>4:50 pm</b> | 17. Songs For Upholding National Spirit   |
| <b>8:00 am</b>  | 6. Documentary                                | <b>4:55 pm</b> | 18. State Traditional Orchestra and Maha Gita Troupe Myanmar Radio and Television |
| <b>8:10 am</b>  | 7. Poem Garden                                | <b>6:20 pm</b> | 19. Celebrity and Dinner  |
| <b>8:20 am</b>  | 8. "Road to 27th SEA GAMES" (Gymnastics)      | <b>7:00 pm</b> | 20. TV Drama Series   |
| <b>11:00 am</b> | 9. Martial Song                               | <b>8:00 pm</b> | 21. News  |
| <b>11:10 am</b> | 10. Musical Programme                         |                | 22. TV Drama Series   |
| <b>11:50 am</b> | 11. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News      |                | 23. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn  |
| <b>1:00 pm</b>  | 12. TV Drama Series                           |                |   |

Australian Open prize money raised to record levels

SYDNEY, 21 Dec—Australian Open organizers increased prize money for the early losers at the opening grand slam of the season to record levels on Thursday, a move which is likely to quell player unrest and end talk of a strike.

The Australian Open will now pay more prize money per round than any other tournament, with increases also coming in doubles and qualifying matches, but mixed doubles saw a money freeze.

The biggest increases were for first round losers in the men's and women's singles, who will now receive A\$27,600 (17,829 pounds), representing a 32.7 percent boost from



The court is being dried during a rain delay at the men's singles final match between Novak Djokovic of Serbia and Rafael Nadal of Spain at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 29 January, 2012. REUTERS

2012, with those exiting in the second round taking home \$45,500, up 36.6 percent.

The move is likely to appease the players council, led by 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer, who had been calling for more revenue from the four elite tournaments to be passed down to those hitting the shots.

"Our motivation is to make a major contribution toward helping ensure professional tennis players can make a decent living," Craig Tiley, the Australian Open tournament director, said in a statement.

"As we have said in the past, it is a real issue and needs to be urgently addressed throughout the sport."

In October, Tiley's team announced that the players would be vying for a share of a record A\$30 million for the January 14-27 event without giving the breakdown of how that money would be divided.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka of Belarus pocketed A\$2.3 million each for their singles successes and a repeat next month in Melbourne would give them A\$2.43 million.

While the multi millionaires at the top of the game will appreciate the extra rewards, the players scrambling to make the top 100 of the men's and women's rankings and those who mainly compete in doubles will be happier.

Reuters

## Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses 2<sup>nd</sup> coord meeting on holding 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day-2013



*Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses the second coordination meeting of Central committee for holding 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Chairman of the Central Committee for holding the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day-2013 Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the second coordination meeting of the Central committee for

holding the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day, at the meeting hall of the Union Government Office, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were the Central Committee members Union Ministers U Aung Kyi,

U Thein Nyunt, Dr Mya Aye and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, sub-committee members and departmental heads.

The Vice-President said, in his speech, that the second meeting was called

as Independence Day was the most important one among any other ceremonies. It needed to hold the Independence Day-2013 on a grand scale. Being a State-level ceremony, systematic preparations were to be made for successful holding of it.

The Sub-Committee Chairmen and officials concerned respectively reported to the Vice-President on the progress of their tasks and the ongoing tasks.

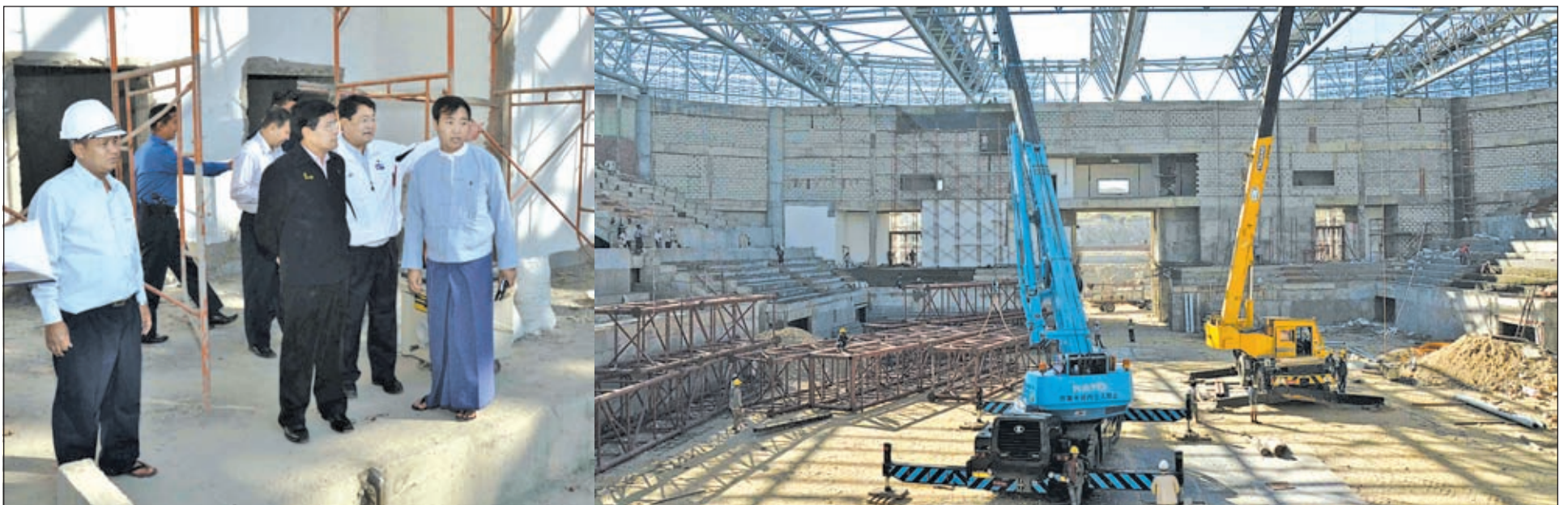
The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the Vice-President.

State-level ceremonies will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on a grand scale on Independence Day.

Arrangements are being made to hold funfairs and sports competitions not only in Nay Pyi Taw but also nationwide

MNA

## Vice-President U Nyan Tun on inspection tour of sports complexes in Zeyathiri, Zabuthiri townships



*Vice-President U Nyan Tun inspecting construction of gymnasium in Zeyathiri Township.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun inspected progress of building the international standard stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pools and sports training camps in Zeyathiri and Zabuthiri townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today.

In Zeyathiri Township, the Vice-President looked into progress of the international

standard stadium in Zeyathiri Sports Zone, gymnasiums for basketball, volleyball, badminton and swimming pool. In Zabuthiri Township, he also visited archery shooting range, Sepak Takraw, Futsal and boxing halls. The Vice-President also inspected progress of the horse race course.

After inspecting the hostels for athletes, medical center, multipurpose hall and training of liaison officer course, the Vice-President gave necessary instructions.

At Wunnatheikdi Sports

Zone, the Vice-President viewed round construction of basketball, volleyball, badminton halls, swimming pool and Wunnatheikdi stadium.

At the meeting hall of the stadium, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan reported on preparations of sports events to take part in the coming SEA Games.

Chairman of the Opening and Closing Sub-committee Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu submitted the report on preparations for opening and

closing ceremonies.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President stressed the need to construct the buildings meeting standards for safety of spectators and athletes. He said that it is necessary to group the athletes of respective sports if there are difficulties to accommodate foreign athletes. He noted that requirements of sports infrastructures, materials and professional coaches are to be fulfilled for securing victory in the Games.

Zeyathiri and

Wunnatheikdi stadiums will have over 30000 seats for spectators each. Construction of these structures have completed by 90 per cent each. Zeyathiri basketball and volleyball gymnasium has completed by 74 per cent, Wunnatheikdi basket and volleyball gymnasium 60 per cent and swimming pool 58 per cent. A total of 100 buildings to accommodate 48 athletes each, Nay Pyi Taw Training Camp and Archery Shooting Range have completed.

The stadium in

Chamyathazi Township of Mandalay has completed by 55 per cent and beach of sailing at Ngwehsaung Beach 49 per cent, Youth Training Centre in Yangon 90 per cent, National Indoor Stadium-1, Theinbyu Gymnasium, Myanmar Convention Centre (Yangon) and Dagon North Shooting Range have built cent per cent completion.

At present, 14 subcommittees have been formed for successfully and smoothly holding the SEA Games.

MNA