

## President U Thein Sein leaves for Japan to attend ASEAN-Japan Summit, Japan-Mekong Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — President U Thein Sein and party left here for Yangon before their departure for Japan to attend the ASEAN-Japan Summit to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties and Japan-Mekong Summit at 9 am today. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Union ministers and officials.

At 10.10 pm today, the President and party left for Tokyo via Yangon by the passenger flight of All Nippon Airways (ANA).

Together with the President, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Maung Myint and Dr Kan Zaw, Chief Ministers U La John Ngan Sai and U Ohn Myint, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut, Dr Maung Maung



Htay and Dr Daw Thein Htay, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of My-

anmar U Set Aung and officials also left for Japan on the same flight. —MNA

*President U Thein Sein being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party. —MNA*

### Myanmar picks up first gold in shooting event

YANGON, 12 Dec — Myanmar won gold medal in individual shooting contest and silver medal in team shooting contest of 50-M Women's Rifle Prone event at the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games today.

A total of 18 participants including Thu Thu Kyaw, Aye Aye Thin and Than Than Saw of Myanmar took part in 50-M Women's Rifle Prone event at International Shooting Range in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning. Thu Thu Kyaw seized gold in individual event and Myanmar bagged silver in team event.

Thu Thu Kyaw, an employee of Fire Services Department, was a gold and bronze medalist in SEASA held in Malaysia and Open Championship in Thailand.

MNA

*Smiling Gold medalist Thu Thu Kyaw poses with thumb-up sign for her victory in 50-M Women's Rifle Prone (Individual).—MNA*



### Myanmar satisfied with one silver, one bronze in third day wrestling events

YANGON, 12 Dec—The wrestling events of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games continued at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

The wrestlers from Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore took part in third day competitions.

Vietnam bagged gold medal in men's 60 kg freestyle wrestling contest, Indonesia secured the silver and Cambodia and the Philippines the joint bronze.

The Vietnamese wrestler snatched gold in men's 55-kg freestyle wrestling event, Indonesian wrestler took the silver and Aung Aung of Myanmar and

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LOCAL NEWS

**Detour under construction in Mohnyin Township**

MOHNYIN, 12 Dec—As trucks with loads of logs and oil bowsers may cause danger to the people at any time in downtown Mohnyin, it is necessary to construct a detour for the town.

Spending K200 million allotted by Kachin State government, the detour is being constructed with the use of heavy machinery starting from the Directorate of Road Administration.

Up to 10 December, the five miles and two furlongs long and 60 feet wide road has been constructed.

The detour from end to end will be eight miles and two furlongs long.

The local people donated their farmlands included in the area of constructing the detour as it is the town



*A heavy machinery at work at the detour construction site in Mohnyin.*

development matters for them, said a local farmland owner.—Kyemon-Hnget Kha (Mohnyin)

**Mandalay Region Hluttaw MP donates K 10 million for BEPS in Pyawbwe Tsp**

PYAWBWE, 12 Dec—Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo and family donated K 10 million to the fund for construction of self-reliant Basic Education Post-Primary School in Pawaingyoe Village of Phaungdaw Village of Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region recently.

The Region Hluttaw

representative said, “As there was no school in Pawaingyoe Village, the local children faced difficulties to attend school in other village. As there were too young, they were very tired. To be free from these difficulties, we donated cash to the fund for construction of the reliant school.”

Next, Township Administrator UKyaw Aung Hsan, Deputy Township Education Officer U Aung Lwin and town’s elder U Ba Nyunt urged all to join hands in construction of the school.”

Next, the Region Hluttaw MP presented K 10 million for the 100 feet long school building.

Phaungdaw Village-tract administrator U Maung Maung and Pawaingyoe Village administrator U Win Bo accepted the donation.

MMAL-Min Min Htwe



*A ceremony to provide uniforms to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade was held at the office of Township Fire Services Department in Kyimyindine Township in Yangon West District on 10 December. It was attended by Township Administrator U Kyaw Ye Thway, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Soe Thin, members of Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade. Officials presented 217 sets of uniforms to fire brigade members.—KYEMON-SHWETI-TIN OO LAY*

**Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar), LDSC donate artificial limbs**

MANDALAY, 12 Dec—With the aim of lifting life of disabled persons across the nation, Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar) and LDSC (Latter-Day Saint Charities) donated artificial

limbs and equipment at the hall of Shan national welfare association on 35<sup>th</sup> Street in Chanayethazan Township on 10 December.

On the occasion, the foundation and

LDSC donated artificial limbs to 48 persons, adult wheelchairs to 14 persons and child ones to 8 children.

Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**Deputy Commerce Minister attends 13<sup>th</sup> China-Myanmar Trade Fair**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan received a delegation led by the Ruili Mayor of Yunnan Province of People’s Republic of China in Ruili on 5 December and they discussed bilateral trade, investment and mutual cooperation between the two countries.

The Deputy Minister together with the Ruili Mayor cut the ribbon to open the 13<sup>th</sup> China-Myanmar Trade Fair and they looked round the displays of over 50

booths including the booth of Myanmar traditional medicines on 6 December.

The Myanmar delegation then visited Wang Tain commodity yard in Kyal Guang where they were clarified by Vice-Mayor Ms Li Hong on construction of design and area of the building. They viewed agriculture produce and fruits yard.

The Deputy Minister and party enjoyed the performance of China-Myanmar cultural show in the evening.

MNA



*Myawady Township Development Affairs Committee member U Tha Sein, member of Township Development Supportive Committee U Maung Ni and Chairman of the Night Market Committee U Than Zaw formally opened the night market in Ward 3-4 of Myawady, Myawady District of Kayin State on 11 December.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY)*

**Illegal timber seized in Shwegu Township**

SHWEGU, 12 Dec—According to the information that illegal timber pieces were transported along Bhamo-Shwegu-Mandalay strategic road by car, Captain Aung Soe Tun and party of security troop from Udaung Hill microwave of No 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and IP Ngwe Oo of police member, forester Thaug Min Oo and party of Forest Department of Zinboton area and local authorities searched the truck that stationed near Zinbon Village of Shwegu

Township of Kachin State on 5 December morning.

They found various pieces of ownerless Tamalan sawn timber on board and carried them to Shwegu Township Forest Department.

The seized timber pieces

were 152 logs of illegal Tamalan timber weighing 6.992 tons, 50 logs of Tamalan weighing 1.202 tons worth K 2,458,200.

The squad also seized the ownerless 10-wheeled Hino Ranger truck worth K 15 million.

**Crime**

The seized illegal Tamalan timber pieces and truck were handed over to Shwegu Township Forest Department on 5 December evening.

Kyemon-Shwegu Township Police Force





## WORLD



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif (R) shakes hands with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov during a joint Press conference in Teheran, Iran, on 11 Dec, 2013. Lavrov said here Wednesday that his country support invitation of Iran to Geneva II talks on Syria.—XINHUA

## Thai military chief rebuffs meeting request in blow to protesters

BANGKOK, 12 Dec—The head of Thailand's armed forces has turned down a request for a meeting in a huge blow to the leader of anti-government protesters who had asked police and military chiefs to choose sides in the crisis amid dwindling public support.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has called a snap election for February 2 but that has not satisfied the protesters, whose leader, Suthep Thaugsuban, wants an unelected "people's council" to run the country.

But the number of demonstrators on the streets is falling. On Monday, 160,000 had gathered round Yingluck's office but the number has dropped to just a few thousand since then.

The politically powerful army has staged or attempted 18 coups in the past 80 years, including the ousting of Yingluck's brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, in 2006, but it has said it does not want to get involved this time although it may mediate.

"The chief of the armed services will not

meet Mr Suthep today," deputy army spokesman Werachon Sukondhapatipak told Reuters, implying that the heads of the army, navy and air force would not meet Suthep either.

It was not immediately clear if the police chief would meet Suthep, but this appeared unlikely as the police are traditionally aligned with Thaksin.

The eight-year, on-and-off political conflict centers on Thaksin, a former telecommunications tycoon popular among the rural poor. The protesters view Yingluck as his puppet. Thaksin, who lives in self-imposed exile, courted

rural voters to win back-to-back elections in 2001 and 2005 and gained an unassailable mandate that he used to advance the interests of major companies, including his own.

He was convicted in absentia of graft in 2008 but has dismissed the charges as politically motivated.

His opponents are Thailand's royalist elite and establishment who feel threatened by his rise. Trade unions and academics see him as a corrupt rights abuser, while the urban middle class resent what they see as their taxes being used as his political war chest.—Reuters



Riot policemen stand guard at the Government House during an anti-government protest in Bangkok 12 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Blast near US Embassy in Kabul was accident, Afghan official says

KABUL, 12 Dec — An accidental detonation of explosives stored in an Afghan facility beside the US Embassy in Kabul sparked a brief panic early on Thursday, triggering concerns of an attack, but no immediate reports of casualties.

The blast happened about 10.30 am (1 am ET), and the US embassy's alarm was heard blaring across the diplomatic area of the Afghan capital immediately afterwards.

But Farid Shamal, a spokesman for Afghanistan's

National Directorate of Security, allayed the worries, saying an electrical fault had accidentally ignited explosives stored in the agency's main compound in Kabul.

"There was an explosion inside an ammunition and weapons cache we had

## Ruling bloc OKs FY 2014 tax reform plan, vague on key measure

TOKYO, 12 Dec — Japan's ruling parties on Thursday adopted tax reform policies for fiscal 2014, putting off a decision on when to lower the tax rate on daily necessities to cushion the impact of the sales tax hike to 10 percent the following fiscal year. But Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party agreed to increase taxes on company workers and car owners in an effort to restore Japan's fiscal health, the worst among developed nations.

In the tax reform plan for the next fiscal year starting April, the two parties

pledged to reduce taxes on daily necessities such as food "at a time when the (sales) tax rate is at 10 percent."

The ambiguous expression, reflecting discord between the two parties on the measure, does not make it clear whether the rate will be cut simultaneously with the consumption tax rise in October 2015 or at a later stage.

The LDP has been reluctant to introduce the reduced tax rate, which New Komeito has proposed to prevent the sales tax hike from hurting households.

The ruling parties will aim to reach a conclusion on which items to make subject to the reduced tax rate and

how to implement it in their tax reform outline for fiscal 2015, which is to be crafted in late December next year.

Under the tax policy guideline for fiscal 2014, the LDP and Komeito also agreed to increase the tax burden on company employees who make more than 12 million yen a year from 2016 and on those earning over 10 million yen from 2017 by trimming tax credits.

The two-stage tax hike on salaried workers is expected to trigger a public backlash, given that the number of people in Japan who make more than 10 million yen a year is around 1.72 million.—Kyodo News

## Pro-sanctions US lawmakers will introduce new Iran bill soon

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — US senators will introduce legislation to impose new sanctions on Iran as soon as this week, Senate aides said on Wednesday, despite the Obama administration's insistence that such a measure would violate terms of an interim agreement to curb Teheran's nuclear programme.

Iran's foreign minister has also said a new sanctions law would kill the agreement. In the interim agreement, Teheran agreed to limit uranium enrichment in return for an easing of international sanctions.

Robert Menendez, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Republican Senator Mark Kirk are finishing legislation that would target Iran's remaining oil exports and foreign exchange and seek to limit President Barack Obama's ability to waive sanctions.

However, the measure would impose the new sanctions only if the interim deal has gone nowhere in six months or Iran violates terms of the agreement. Supporters said that would comply with the adminis-



US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew (R) arrives to brief members of the US Senate on talks with Iran during a closed-door meeting at the Capitol in Washington, on 11 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

tration's request to allow negotiators to pursue a comprehensive diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear crisis.

But the measure faces an uphill battle to become law. Administration officials have been pushing Congress hard not to go ahead, including a classified briefing for the entire 100-member Senate on

Wednesday by Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.

The session seemed to have done little to change lawmakers' minds.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, a supporter of the Menendez-Kirk plan, said after the meeting that the sanctions bill should go ahead.

Reuters

## Syrian chemical weapons disposal plan to be released next week

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Dec — The plan for the destruction of all Syrian chemical stockpiles outside the country will be released on 17 December, a UN spokesperson said on Wednesday.

"Practicalities are currently being discussed and the final details are being worked out," UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here. He said that what must be eliminated are the

chemicals stored or prepared by Syria for the production of chemical weapons. "These chemicals are not weapons in the traditional meaning of this word ... They cannot be fired as such and they are not weaponized—in other words, they have not been put into munitions." The final report would first go to UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who would then present it to the UN Security Council, he added.

Xinhua



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Cisco loses court challenge to Microsoft's takeover of Skype



Microsoft Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Steve Ballmer (L) and Skype CEO Tony Bates shake hands at their joint news conference in San Francisco, on 10 May, 2011 file photo.—REUTERS

LUXEMBOURG, 12 Dec — Microsoft fended off a challenge to its \$8.5 billion takeover of messaging service Skype as Europe's second-highest court ruled against claims by rival Cisco that the 2011 deal would harm competition. The decision on Wednesday means Microsoft can continue to market Skype's video calls to consumers and businesses without making any concessions to Cisco or others offering similar products. Cisco's concern about the Skype deal stems from the

fact it sells more expensive hardware to help companies with video conferencing, while Microsoft's alternative, based on Skype, can do much the same via a computer equipped with a webcam.

Cisco, the world's top network equipment maker, said at a hearing in May that Microsoft's acquisition of Skype, the largest Internet video and voice messaging provider, created a monopoly. Cisco said the European Commission was wrong to approve the deal

without demanding concessions from Microsoft. The Luxembourg-based General Court said Cisco had failed to show that the takeover would harm competition. "Microsoft's acquisition of Skype is compatible with the (European Union's) internal market. The merger does not restrict competition either on the consumer video communications market or on the business video communications market," the judges said. The court said Cisco's large share of the enterprise communications market and the existence of other rivals prevent Microsoft from impeding competition in this sector.

Cisco, which filed its challenge together with Italian fixed-line and Internet telephone provider and Skype rival Messagenet SpA, originally said it would not appeal to the EU Court of Justice, Europe's highest. But it later withdrew that comment. To defend itself against Microsoft, Cisco had pushed for a common

set of technology standards in video conferencing to make sure that products offered by different firms work together. It had hoped to get backing from the EU case to ensure such "inter-operability" of video calls. "We are hopeful that in the interest of customers and consumers, Microsoft and others in the industry will join us and continue to rally around this ideal and work together to achieve an open, interoperable video community," said a spokeswoman. "We have no comment about an appeal."

Consumers and companies have been switching to cheaper Internet-based voice and video services such as Skype, Viber, Google Talk and WhatsApp. A third of the world's voice calls are now made on Skype, with more than 280 million users spending more than 100 minutes monthly, Microsoft Chief Operating Officer Kevin Turner said in March. *Reuters*



## International Space Station reports cooling system failure

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — US space agency NASA said that one of the International Space Station's cooling systems failed on Wednesday but it posed no danger to the crew on board. "The pump module on one of the space station's two external cooling loops automatically shut down when it reached pre-set temperature limits," NASA said in a statement. "The flight control teams ... suspect a flow control valve actually inside the pump itself might not be functioning correctly."

According to the US space agency, the external cooling loops circulate ammonia outside the station to keep both internal and external equipment cool."

Although there is no danger to the crew on board, the ground teams did work to move certain electrical systems over to the second loop and some non-critical systems have been shut down while the teams work to figure out what caused the problem and how to fix it," NASA said.

The crew was now preparing to begin a normal sleep shift while experts on the ground collected more data and considered what troubleshooting activities might be necessary, NASA added. Three astronauts returned to Earth from the ISS after completing a 166-day mission and bringing the Olympic torch back with them after a historic space walk.—Xinhua

## Google executives' planes saved millions in costs due to error

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec — The company that manages a fleet of airplanes owned and leased by Google Inc executives Larry Page, Sergey Brin and Eric Schmidt improperly bought fuel from the government at below-market rates, for a savings of up to \$5.3 million according to a report released by the NASA Inspector General on Wednesday. The 10-page report said the discounted fuel purchases were the result of a "misunderstanding" between a Defence Department fuel provider and the NASA Ames Research Centre, which manages the California airfield where a Boeing 767, a military-type Alpha Jet and several other

aircraft are stored.

The report found that overall, NASA benefited from leasing 70,000 square feet of space to H211, the private company that manages the Google executives' aircraft. The \$1.4 million a year that H211 paid NASA was at a fair market value. And NASA has flown more than 200 flights using some of the aircraft to collect climate data at no cost to the agency. But while NASA did not lose any money on the fuel it sold to H211, the report said that H211 received a monetary benefit to which it was not entitled and recommended that NASA and H211 explore options to "remedy" the situation. Google referred



Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt speaks at the Google Big Tent event at the Grove Hotel, on the outskirts of London on 22 May, 2013.

REUTERS

all questions to H211 Vice President Ken Ambrose, who said he was reviewing the report, which the company received Wednesday morning.

Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley, who has looked

into the allegations, said NASA should seek repayment for the fuel and he has asked the Defence Department's inspector general to take a broader look at such contracts.

Reuters

## Facebook to join S&P 500



A man is silhouetted against a video screen with an Facebook logo as he poses with an Dell laptop in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 14 Aug, 2013. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Standard & Poor's on Wednesday said Facebook Inc will join its S&P 500 stock index after the close of trading on 20 December, cementing the social media network's rise into one of the biggest, most powerful US companies.

The decision follows Facebook reporting its fourth straight profitable

quarter in October, one of the criteria that S&P uses to determine eligibility for the index.

Facebook shares rose 4.3 percent to \$51.51 following S&P's announcement after regular market hours. Shares often rise after a company is tapped for inclusion in the S&P 500, because many investors track the index and buy

shares of companies that enter it.

The Menlo Park, California-based company's shares had closed Wednesday down 87 cents at \$49.38, about 30 percent above their \$38 initial offering price in May 2012, and giving it a roughly \$121 billion market value, *Reuters* data show.

Reuters

## Wild animals double in Tibetan nature reserve

LHASA, 12 Dec — The populations of wild Tibetan antelopes, donkeys and yaks in a nature reserve in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region have roughly doubled thanks to effective protection efforts in the past 20 years, showed figures released on Tuesday. The number of Tibetan antelopes in the area has increased to 150,000 from 80,000 when the Qiangtang Nature Reserve was established in 1993. Wild yaks and Tibetan donkeys have increased to 40,000 and 90,000 respectively, compared with 20,000 and 50,000 at the establishment of the reserve.

However, the strengthened protection efforts have also meant more cases of injuries to humans or property losses caused by wild animals in the nature reserve and its surrounding areas. But

government departments have offered timely compensations to local herders for the losses, which have boosted their environmental protection awareness, according to a wildlife protection official with the Tibet Forestry Department.

Forestry authorities have also stepped up law enforcement among residents in the reserve and confiscated hunting equipment such as rifles to prevent poaching and smuggling, he added. With an average altitude of more than 5,000 meters, the Qiangtang Nature Reserve has an area of 298,000 square km. It became a state-level nature reserve in 2000. It is a habitat for wild animals such as Tibetan antelopes, donkeys, yaks and snow leopards on the state protection list.

Xinhua



## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Yelling, threatening parents harm teens' mental health

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Threatening or screaming at teenagers may put them at higher risk for depression and disruptive behaviors such as rule-breaking, a new study suggests. “The take home point is that the verbal behaviors matter,” Annette Mahoney, who worked on the study, said. She’s a professor of psychology at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. “It can be easy to overlook that, but our study shows that the verbal hostility is really relevant, particularly for mothers who scream and hit, and for fathers who do either one,” Mahoney told *Reuters Health*. All of the kids in her study

had been referred to a community clinic due to mental health or behavioral problems.

Their mothers had to be both verbally and physically abusive to increase the kids’ risk for depression and behavior issues. But either kind of behavior alone from a father was sufficient to produce lasting ill effects. The researchers realize that parents can be trapped in a vicious cycle. Verbal abuse “has a cyclical nature to it,” said Mahoney. Kids with behavioral or mental health problems can be tough to handle, she said. Not surprisingly, her team found, adolescents whose parents were also physically vio-

lent toward them — hitting, choking, or threatening them with a gun or knife — had an even higher risk for mental illness and behavioral problems.

“Parental verbal aggression towards adolescents is just as — if not more — destructive than severe physical aggression, particularly in families seeking mental health services,” said Michelle Leroy, also of Bowling Green State University who led the research. For the study, which was published in the journal *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 239 troubled adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18 filled out surveys that asked if they

were hit, called names, or subjected to other forms of physical or verbal violence over the past year. Parents of the youths also participated, reporting their behaviors in the same time frame. Fifty-one percent of the adolescents said they’d experienced serious physical or verbal aggression, or both, from one or two parents.

Having a mother who both screamed and hit increased kids’ risk for mental health problems (such as anxiety, depression, and rule-breaking behaviors) to an even greater extent than having a mother who was aggressive in only one way. In other words, the effect

of a mother’s verbal hostility may be worsened if she also hits her child, Mahoney said. That may be because teens likely feel more traumatized and threatened when physical violence is a real possibility. In contrast, screaming by mothers who had not previously escalated to serious physical aggression did not appear to increase the risk of psychological problems among teens getting counseling in this study, Mahoney told *Reuters Health*.

On the other hand, fathers who were verbally abusive affected the adolescents’ mental health, regardless of whether the threats were accompanied

by physical violence. The study’s results may indicate that doctors should be on the lookout for verbal aggression at home, particularly in families with an adolescent who may be having mental health or behavioral problems, the researchers say. Many doctors make it a habit to ask their patients about acts of physical abuse. They should also ask about verbal violence, Mahoney’s team adds. “You have to break the cycle; someone has to crack it open. It doesn’t excuse the parents’ behavior, but (doctors and therapists) have to not be judgmental (and) get the facts out.”—*Reuters*

## E-cigarettes: a burning question for US regulators

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — At the Henley Vaporium, one of a growing number of e-cigarette lounges sprouting up in New York and other US cities, patrons can indulge in their choice of more than 90 flavors of nicotine-infused vapor, ranging from bacon to bubble gum. The lounge, located in Manhattan’s trendy Lower East Side, features plush seating, blaring rock music, and fresh juice and coffee. A sprawling sign on one wall lists all the carcinogens that e-cigarette users avoid by kicking their smoking habits and using the e-devices instead.

But the growing popularity of e-cigarettes has not escaped the notice of the industry’s critics, who have stepped up calls for new regulations, including bans on their use in public places, even though the scientific evidence about exposure to their vapors

remains inconclusive. Selling for about \$30 to \$50 each, e-cigarettes are slim, reusable, metal tubes containing nicotine-laced liquids that come in exotic flavors. When users puff on the device, the nicotine is heated and releases a vapour that, unlike cigarette smoke, contains no tar, which causes cancer and other diseases. The product, introduced in China in 2006,

has become a worldwide trend at least in part because it may help smokers break the habit. “It’s an addiction — not everyone can quit cold turkey,” said Nick Edwards, 34, a Henley employee who says he kicked a 15-year cigarette habit the day he tried his first e-cigarette. “E-cigarettes give you a harm-reduction option.” That’s one reason why the market

for e-cigarettes is expected to surge, reaching \$2 billion by the end of 2013 and \$10 billion by 2017, according to Bonnie Herzog, an analyst at Wells Fargo Bank in New York.

Herzog said the US market alone could top \$1 billion this year. She predicts that by 2017 e-cigarettes sales will overtake sales of regular cigarettes. That estimate does not take into account the impact of potential government regulations on sales, too. Edwards, for one, says he cut his \$60 monthly cigarette bill in half when he switched. On top of the cost of the device, the smoking liquids cost around \$10 per refill. Despite the perceived benefits, critics worry that the addictive nicotine found in e-cigarettes could lure more people into smoking and discourage others from quitting all together.

Reuters



A man uses an E-cigarette, an electronic substitute in the form of a rod, slightly longer than a normal cigarette, in this illustration picture taken in Paris, on 5 March, 2013. —REUTERS

## CVS, Cardinal Health form US generic drug venture

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Pharmacy chain CVS Caremark Corp and pharmaceutical distributor Cardinal Health Inc on Tuesday announced a 10-

year agreement to form the largest generic drug sourcing operation in the United States, the world’s biggest generic drug market. The 50-50 joint venture, which

combines the generic drug purchasing power of two of the largest companies in the market for the cheaper medicines, will be operational as soon as 1 July, 2014. Under the agreement, Cardinal will pay CVS \$25 million on a quarterly basis for the duration of the contract, with an estimated after-tax value to CVS of \$435 million.

“We view this agreement positively as it provides an effective way to drive better purchasing through increased scale without a large capital commitment or increased complexity of international markets,” JP Morgan

analyst Lisa Gill said in a research note. The companies also announced a three-year extension of their existing distribution agreements, taking them through June 2019. The US market for medicines has seen a major shift toward cheaper generic drugs following a wave of patent expiries in recent years for major brand-name treatments and a growing effort to lower costs throughout the health-care system. Generic drugs now account for more than 80 percent of all prescriptions filled, according to data from IMS Health, which tracks prescription drug data.—*Reuters*



A CVS pharmacy is seen in New York City on 28 July, 2010. —REUTERS



A stop sign is seen near a General Motors (GM) Holden storage facility in Melbourne on 2 June, 2009 file photo.—REUTERS

## GM to halt car production in Australia, industry in crisis

SYDNEY/MELBOURNE, 12 Dec — General Motors Co said it would stop making cars in Australia by 2017 due to high costs and a crippling strong currency, fuelling fears rival Toyota Motor Corp will follow suit and put the entire local autos industry at risk. The decision by the world’s second-largest auto maker to close its Holden plants in South Australia and Victoria states is the latest blow to Australia’s manufacturing industry and the auto sector in particular.

“No matter which way we apply the numbers, our long term business case to make and assemble cars in this country is simply not viable,” General Manager Mike Devereux told reporters at GM’s car plant in Adelaide on Wednesday.

The decision to halt domestic production of Holden cars, long a source of national pride, will pile more pressure on Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s conservative government, which is seeking to manage a slowdown

in the \$1.5 trillion economy as a decade-long mining investment boom slows.

GM Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson said the decision reflected a “perfect storm” of negative influences facing the Australian automotive industry including the sustained strength of the Australian dollar, high cost of production, and a small, fragmented and highly competitive domestic market. In May, Ford Motor Co said it would shut its two Australian auto plants in October 2016, blaming similar factors.

There have been widespread concerns that an exit by GM Holden would be followed by the sole remaining producer, Toyota, threatening around 150 parts and component suppliers directly employing more than 40,000 people. “You need two manufacturers to get that critical mass,” said influential independent Senator Nick Xenophon. “You lose that critical mass, they fall like dominos.”

Reuters





# The New Light of Myanmar

## XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games today

### XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



Vietnamese women pose for photo outside Wunna Theikdi Stadium.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Thet Hter San of Myanmar (Right) lands a blow to Beatrix Suguro of Indonesia during the Women's Light Fly (45-48 kg) event. Beatrix Suguro won Thet Hter San on points.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Fans from Thailand cheers as they enjoy the fighting between Sopida Sattumrum of Thailand and Maricris Igam of the Philippines during Women's Fly (48-51kg) event.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Women's Sepak Takraw match between Myanmar and Malaysia at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Aung Naing of Myanmar plays chess against Uaychat of Thailand during round 1 of ASEAN Chess Individual Standard Men Event.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE







The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games



Myanmar rowing team bags one more gold, three silver

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Men's and women's rowing events of the 27th SEA Games continued at Ngalike Dam in Nay Pyi Taw today. Myanmar bagged one gold in women's K-4 contest, secured the silver in men's C-1 event and earned the bronze in women's K-2 event. Moreover, Myanmar snatched one silver medal in men's C-2 event.

Zaw Myo Naing

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Myanmar men's and women's rowing teams celebrate victory after securing medals in the 27th SEA Games at Ngalike Dam in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: ZAW MYO NAING

2013 SEA Games swimming event kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — The 27th SEA Games' swimming competitions in which the highest numbers of medals will be awarded kicked off at Wunna Theikdi Swimming Pool today.

In Men's 400 M Individual Medley contest, Ketin Nuttapon of Thailand stood first followed by Quah Zheng Won of Singapore and Navata Matt Louis of the Philippines.

In Women's 100 M Freestyle contest, Lim Xi-ang Qi Amanda finished first while Alkhaldi Jasmine of the Philippines second and Srisa Ard Jenjira third. Myanmar swimmers, Kay Zin Win and Ei Ei Thet, stood tenth and eleventh in the contest.

Nguyen Thi Anh Vein of Vietnam stood first at Women's 200 M Individual Medley, powering past Indonesian and Thai swimmers who finished second and third respectively. Two swimmers of host Myanmar were ranked ninth and tenth place.

In Men's 200 M Backstroke contest, Malaysian swimmers stood first while second and third places were occupied by two Singapore swimmers. Myanmar swimmer Kaung Htut was ranked only ninth place.

Swimming competition will present 32 gold and it continues at Wunna Theikdi swimming pool until 16 December.

Maung Shwe Yoe

Quarter-finals of badminton ...

(from page 16)

In the women's double events, Indonesia thrashed Vietnam with 21-15 and 21-11 points, Thailand beat Malaysia with 21-10, 20-22 and 21-14 points, Malaysia won over Myanmar with 21-8 and 21-8 points and Singapore defeated Indonesia with 21-16, 20-22 and 26-24 respectively.

Indonesia won Ma-

laysia with 17-21, 21-10 and 21-11 points, Thailand beat Cambodia with 21-14 and 21-4 points, Malaysia thrashed Vietnam with 21-14 and 21-16 points and Thailand won over Indonesia with 19-21, 24-22 and 21-17 points in mixed doubles events. After the matches, the winning teams went to the semi-finals.

MNA

Sanda Htwe of Myanmar net against Malaysian team during Futsal event of 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium on 12 Dec, 2013. Malaysia defeat Myanmar 4-2.

PHOTO:

AYE MIN SOE



Basketball tournament continues



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec —The basketball tournament continued at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A), here, today.

With regard to the basketball preliminary results, In the men's event, Cambodia was defeated by Thailand 67-80 and Indonesia lost to Singapore 48-62.

In the women's event, Myanmar lost to Malaysia 32-95. Myanmar men was also defeated by the Philippines 43-118.

Myo Than (NLM)

Thai and Cambodian players pouring out vigorous efforts in basketball men's event.

PHOTO: MYO THAN (NLM)





## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 13 December, 2013

**Distinguish what are important from what are not**

Many different things we encounter in our daily life, some sound trivial, some sound important. A trivial thing is sometimes subtle and complex and calls for more efforts. Such a trivial thing cannot be regarded unimportant. People often get into trouble as they lead an austere and easy-going life, disregarding trifles that unexpectedly erupt in their daily life.

As the luck of future generations hangs in the balance, we need to work harder to remain competitive with others to have the upper hand over them. Lacking of diligence and punctuality has ever been a major hindrance to success and prosperity. There has been a string of lessons for us to draw, some leave us with a smile while some leave us with a cry. Whatever may be, we know this and yet, far too often, time remains important. For example, a delayed arrival of ambulance and fire engines could make a big difference and cause a great deal of loss. So, any mission should be accomplished in time. Delay in the issue of early warning of flesh flood could beget the same fate.

Whatever you do you need to have a good understanding of what are important or what are not. Only then, will you be able to hold the keys to a better future for all. There should be a sense of urgency in the minds of those who want to be successful and prosperous in life, for success will kill itself if those who don't respect the time happened to secure it.

Some have missed the chances as they do not undertake the activities what to be carried out in time immediately. With this, they suffer from feelings of insecurity. And the most important thing is that whatever we do we are to complete it in time, distancing ourselves from acting out of expediency and we should not be busy ourselves with trifles.

**Myanmar secure gold in debut of chess**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Win Zaw Htun of Myanmar secured gold medal in his opening day assignment against the rival chess players in round-robin matches of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games' chess events held at Zabuthiri Hotel, here, today. Players from Thailand secured silver and bronze medals in traditional chess rapid men's event. There are three types of chess events—ASEAN chess, international chess and traditional chess events



Chess players from the Philippines and Indonesia concentrate chess event.—MNA

**Vietnam Expo 2013 in Myanmar opened**

YANGON, 12 Dec—The opening of Vietnam Expo 2013 in Myanmar took place at Tatmadaw Convention Hall, here, this morning.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Mr. Nguyen Cam Tu, Vice-Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee Mr. Hua Ngoc Thuan, the deputy director-general of Trade Promotion Department under the Ministry of Commerce and officials cut the ribbon to open the expo.

A total of 126 booths from 67 companies display foodstuff, construction



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party open Vietnam Expo 2013 in Myanmar.—MNA

materials, electronics and household goods manufactured by Vietnam from 12 to 15 December.—MNA

Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines are participating in the matches. The two youngest Myanmar players—Yati Wint War, 12, Grade-6 and Htet Naing, 12, Grade-7 will compete in international rapid chess events on 17 December.

The ASEAN chess individual standard men and traditional chess rapid men's and women's teams matches will be held tomorrow.—*Khaing Thanda Lwin (NLM)*

**Thai U-23 team leads group (B)**

YANGON, 12 Dec—Thai U-23 team defeated Indonesia 4-1 in men's football events of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games at Thuwunna Stadium this evening.

Thai striker No (10) Pokklow A Nan gave the opener with thunder shot from outside penalty area crossed by his teammate from the right wing in the

first half. At 18th minute, Thai striker No (9) Adisak Kraisoron scored the second goal. No (15) Praweenwat introduced the ball with net through penalty at 50<sup>th</sup> minutes. No (7) Thitiphan Puabgjan of Thai U-23 added fourth goal at 80<sup>th</sup> minute. Indonesian defender No (3) Andri Ibo equalized only a goal in the stoppage

time. Although Myanmar and Thai U-23 have six points in Group (B), Thai team led the group on goal difference.

Timor Leste team beat Cambodia 3-2 in the second match. Timor will play against Indonesia and Myanmar will compete with Thailand on 14 December.—MNA

## NATIONAL

**Laotian President and wife conclude visit**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Laotian President Mr. Choummaly Sayasone and wife who were in Myanmar at the invitation of President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win left here by air this morning.

They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Union Minister U Aung Kyi and wife Daw Thet Thet Swe, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and officials.—MNA

Laotian President Mr. Choummaly Sayasone being seen off by Union Minister U Aung Kyi at the airport.—MNA



LOCAL NEWS

Odd News

Buddha images, Bodaw images unearthed

MAWLAMYINE, 12 Dec—Maung Okkar Oo, 13, son of U San Nyunt, of Gyiwah Compound of Maungngan Ward in Mawlamyine went to his brothers from Basic Education Post-Primary School (Aungdawmu) on Leinkon Street in the same ward on 9 December noon.

After that, he saw a head of the Buddha image in the ground while playing together with his friend fifth standard student Maung Ye Yint Thu the back of the school. So he continued unearthing the image and found 13 Buddha images and one statues of Chinese traditional Deva Angon. He took them to the shelf of drinking water pot in the

ward.

In the evening, Headmaster U Ko Oo of the Post Primary School heard the information and called the boy and went to the site after coordinating the ward administrator.

They then excavated the site and found 11 Buddha images, one Bo Bo Aung statue, two Bo Min Khaung statues, one Sawgyi statue, two elephant statues, one image of Shin Sivali, one Angon statue, one lion statue and 518 ancient coins.

The images are being kept for the public obeisance at the ward administrative office in Maungngan Ward of Mawlamyine.—*Kyemon-Kyit Taung Htaung*

Construction

Asphalt road expanded in Mohnyin



MOHNYIN, 12 Dec—Kachin State allotted K 20 million on regional

development of Mohnyin Township of Kachin State. Spending the fund, the

Yuzale-Hsegyi inter-village road under construction

KALEWA, 12 Dec—An inter-village earthen road passing 16 villages from Yuzale to Hsegyi village is being constructed as of 15 November.

The road will be 21 miles long and 18 feet wide.

Kalewa Township Rural Development Development spends K 247.17 million on construction of the road.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo, Kalewa Township

Management Committee Chairman U Tint Naing and officials supervised the construction tasks.

On completion, the road will benefit over 22000 rural people of 50 villages.

*Kyemon-Joe Net*



expansion of the 2 miles and one furlong long asphalt road is being carried out at downtown Mohnyin.

The local tarred road is 12 feet wide. In the work, the road was expanded to three feet wide each on both sides.

The construction site was supervised by Assistant Engineer Daw Yi Yi Hlaing and in-charge of the supervisors U Myint Thein with the strength of 30 workers to complete it before the rainy season.

*Kyemon-Hngat Khar (Mohnyin)*

CCTVs installed at Mohnyin Sambuddhe Pagoda

MONYWA, 12 Dec—With the aim of taking security measures for the people and pilgrims, Mohnyin Sambuddhe Pagoda has been installed with CCTVs.

It was aimed at taking security measures not only for the donation boxes but also for the pilgrims, said Sayadaw Ashin Sumana of the monastery in the precinct of the pagoda.

Eight high qualified CCTVs have been installed at the pagoda with the assistance of Cigital City Co of Yangon.

As the pagoda is a large volume, the installation of power lines was taken a few days. The devices can be used in taking images even in the dark.

The CCTVs were worth K 2 million, said Network Engineer U Aung Thura of



the company.

The pagoda was built in 1301 ME during the Second World War. It took 20 years for construction. A total of

582,363 Buddha images kept in the pagoda. The public rest houses are kept open for all in the precinct of the monastery free of charge.

In addition, the monastery opens meditation courses provided by the abbot of the monastery.

*Kyemon-Ye Htet Naing*

National Sports

Mandalay Mayor's Cup Mini-marathon 2014

11 Jan

MANDALAY, 12 Dec—The Mandalay Mayor's Mini-marathon 2014 will be held in Mandalay on 22 January 2013.

It will be categorized as men's and women's open and men's and women's novice classes.

The runners will be launched from the starting point at 6.30 am.

The participants are to run along 26<sup>th</sup> street, 80<sup>th</sup> street, 12<sup>th</sup> street, 66<sup>th</sup> street, 10<sup>th</sup> street, 62<sup>nd</sup> street, Theikpan and Yangon-Mandalay Highway junction, 30<sup>th</sup> street and then finish at Bahtoo Stadium.

Foreigners may join the in open class.

Those who reached will be awarded souvenirs.

The athletes are to buy 300 per copy of application at Bahtoo Stadium and Mandalay City Development Committee (Administration Department) from 13 December to 1 January and applications are to be submitted to the Admin Department of MCDC, not later than 3 January 2014.

The T-shirt for the participants will be distributed to the runners till 10 January.

Winners will be

awarded cash awards from K 1 million to K 50000 respectively.

*Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines. Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander

of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

MNA

*Earthen road under construction in Kalewa Township for transport, trade, health, education and rural development.*



## WORLD

*Senators of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) applaud after Mexico's Senate signed off on an energy bill at the Senate building in Mexico City on 11 Dec, 2013.*

REUTERS



MEXICO CITY, 12 Dec — Mexico's lower house of Congress on Wednesday gave general approval to an energy reform that would permit the biggest oil industry opening in 75 years, moving the bill close to final approval after the Senate signed off on it earlier in the day.

Lawmakers in the lower house voted to bypass

committees for energy and constitutional matters after leftists, who are railing against the bill in

the world's No 10 oil producer, padlocked doors to the chamber to prevent a debate.

They then approved the bill in general, and must now sign off on the fine print of the reform in a debate likely to last hours. They could give the final seal of approval as soon as Thursday. "Traitors!" screamed a banner unfurled

## Mexico's landmark energy bill nears final approval

by leftists from the podium when congressional leaders moved the planned session to an auditorium elsewhere in the building.

The impromptu shift of venue meant lawmakers were without their electronic voting system, and had to pass a microphone around the auditorium to vote out loud in a rowdy session.

Dozens of leftist lawmakers have lodged objections against the reform, but their stalling tactics are unlikely to derail the bill, which has the backing of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), and the opposition conservative National Action Party (PAN), who make up the required majority.

PAN congressman and energy expert Juan Bueno said "not even a comma" in the bill as approved by the Senate would be changed in the lower house.

The overhaul is designed to entice private oil

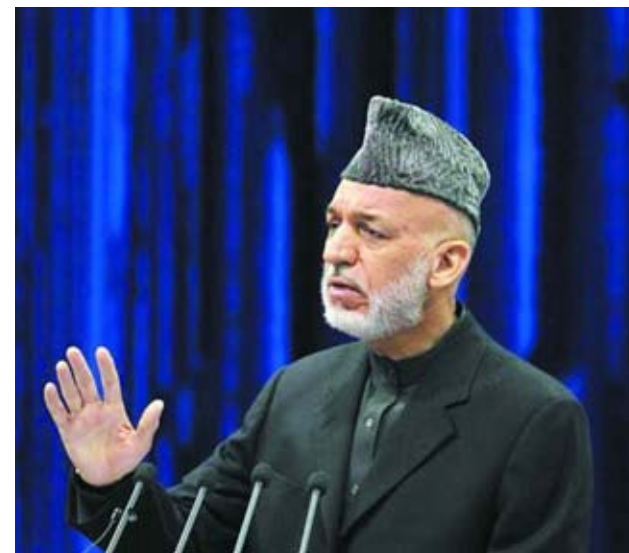
companies to either operate independently in Mexico, or partner with state oil giant Pemex through production and profit-sharing, service contracts and licenses.

Pemex's crude production has fallen by a quarter since hitting a peak of 3.4 million barrels per day in 2004, and export volumes have dropped by a third over the same period.

The upper chamber approved the bill in a general vote late on Tuesday with 95 Senators in favour and 28 against, before voting down reservations raised by mostly leftist opponents of the plan on Wednesday in a marathon overnight session.

As the Senate gave the bill the green light, senators from the leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), which is fighting to stop the bill, shouted "Ask the people." PRI and PAN senators replied by punching the air to cries of "Mexico."—Reuters

## Deadline for Afghan security pact could slip into January



*Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during the opening of the Loya Jirga, in Kabul on 21 Nov, 2013.*

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — The White House would like Afghan President Hamid Karzai to sign a bilateral security agreement by the end of the year, but the deadline could slip into early January, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

The United States has insisted that Karzai sign the pact by the end of the year. The deal would permit the United States to keep troops in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2014 to support Afghan forces and conduct limited counterterrorism activities.

"If you're asking, 'Does that mean that if they sign it on January 10th, that's going to be a huge problem?' Probably not," said Josh Earnest, a deputy spokesman for the White House.

"What will be a significant problem is if there is not quick action taken to get this signed," Earnest told a news briefing.

The United States says

it gave Afghanistan a year-end deadline to sign the agreement because it needs time to plan its troop presence after 2014. Without a deal, Washington says it would have to withdraw its entire force of some 44,500 troops by the end of 2014. Other NATO nations could follow suit.

Afghan elders and politicians endorsed the pact last month, but Karzai surprised Washington by introducing new conditions for his signature.

The tactics have frustrated the Obama administration, but on Tuesday, James Dobbins, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, told a US Senate hearing that the administration was not on the verge of abandoning its effort to extend its troop presence.

"We're nowhere near a decision that would involve our departing Afghanistan altogether," Dobbins told the hearing.—Xinhua

## Nine children hurt in Texas school bus collision

HOUSTON, 12 Dec — Nine elementary school students were injured after their school bus collided with another bus in the US state of Texas on Wednesday, local media reported.

The crash happened in Athens, a small town in east Texas, Wednesday afternoon, the website of the *Houston Chronicle* reported. The accident involved buses containing about 70 Athens elementary school students. One bus struck another from behind, leaving at least nine kids hurt, the report said.

Spokeswoman at East Texas Medical Centre

Athens, Rebecca Berkley, told the media all of the children, ranging in age from 5 to 10, have been treated for their injuries and discharged.

She confirmed nine students were brought to the hospital by ambulance with injuries ranging from fractures to bumps and bruises. Sixty other children arrived by bus for precautionary examination.

It's not immediately known what caused the collision. Though the United States is reputed for its strict school bus safety code, such accidents are not uncommon.—Xinhua



*Rescuers work at the site of a crane accident in the German town of Bad-Homburg near Frankfurt, on 11 Dec, 2013. A construction crane crashed on a supermarket in the German town of Bad-Homburg near Frankfurt on Wednesday, causing at least one death and several injuries, local media reported.*

XINHUA

## Radical rebels storm suburb of Damascus, killing tens of people

DAMASCUS, 12 Dec — Radical fighters from the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front stormed a suburb of the Syrian capital of Damascus on Wednesday, killing tens of civilians, some of whom are state servants, the pro-government Sham FM radio reported.

Following their defeat in three major towns in the rugged al-Qalamoun region north of Damascus, the rebels stormed on Wednesday the Adra al-Umalieh suburb, a couple of days after the army dislodged them

from the town of al-Nabek.

The Sham FM radio said the bodies of tens of civilians were still scattered on streets in Adra and more than eight civilians were slaughtered over sectarian affiliations.

"The Nusra militiamen are fanned out on the town's streets," the report said, adding that thousands of Adra's residents have fled to the nearby Hafir al-Tahta and al-Qutaifa areas, while thousands of others have cowered in their homes fearing "to be slaughtered"

by the Nusra fighters.

While saying that the radical fighters were burning the homes of the state servants in the town, the radio said the army unites are now besieging the town in a bid to storm it to rid its residents of the hard-liners.

Al-Qaeda-linked groups such as the Nusra Front and the Islamic State of the Iraq and the Levant have taken advantage of the anti-government movement in Syria, emerging as a serious force among the rebel groups.—Xinhua

## Britain grants Lebanon 24 million pounds to help Syrian refugees

BEIRUT, 12 Dec — Visiting British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for the Middle East, Hugh Robertson said on Wednesday that his country granted an additional humanitarian aid of 24 million British pounds to help the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

During his two-day visit to Lebanon, Robertson met with Lebanese President Michel Suleiman, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Designate Tammam

Salam and Army Commander General Jean Qahwaji.

The new aid is part of a plan designed by the British government to provide 60 million pounds for the Syrian refugees fled to other countries, said a statement released by the British Embassy in Lebanon.

"My visit to Lebanon comes at a difficult period for the country. I welcomed continued efforts to form a new consensual government able to move

the country forward. Britain remains fully committed to Lebanon's peace, stability and prosperity," Robertson was quoted as saying.

He added "the additional assistance includes winter packages containing warm clothing and thermal blankets; winter tents and shelter material; heaters, fuel and insulation kits for displaced families; and medical care, including antenatal support for expectant mothers."

Xinhua



## REGIONAL

## Japan, Malaysia leaders meet over infrastructure development



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before holding talks at Abe's office in Tokyo on 12 Dec, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 12 Dec — The Japanese and Malaysian Prime Ministers met on Thursday and are expected to confirm bilateral cooperation in developing infrastructure in the Southeast Asian country.

The meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak came ahead of a summit between Japan and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations starting on Friday in Tokyo.

Japan is hoping its bullet train technologies will be chosen for a high-speed

railway system to link Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Tokyo is facing competition from China over the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

Abe and Najib, when they met in July in Malaysia, agreed to cooperate in other development areas including waterworks, sewage systems and medicine as well as rapid train systems.

At the talks in Tokyo, the leaders are also expected to exchange views on some ASEAN members and China in the South China Sea, as well as over the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, which involve both Japan and Malaysia. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo News

## Pakistan's longest serving chief justice retires

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec — Pakistan's longest serving chief justice of the Supreme Court, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, retired on Wednesday.

He delivered verdicts in many important cases and had disqualified a sitting prime minister and challenged the country's powerful security agencies and the civilian leadership in some cases. Serving and retired judges, lawyers, members of the civil society and political leaders lauded the role of Chaudhry as laying foundation for an independent judiciary in the country. Chaudhry served for eight years as the chief justice, the longest in the country's history.

Judges of the apex court gathered at a special "Full Court Reference" in Islamabad on Wednesday and lauded the services rendered by Chaudhry as chief justice



Photo released by Press Information Department (PID) on 11 Dec, 2013, shows Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry presiding over Full Court meeting on the eve of his retirement at Supreme Court, in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan. Pakistan's longest serving chief justice of the Supreme Court, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, retired on Wednesday. —XINHUA

of Pakistan for the dispensation of justice, rule of law and supremacy of constitution in society. Speaking on the occasion, the former chief justice said restoration of judiciary and the role of lawyers and civil society has strengthened judiciary.

He hoped the new chief justice will play a vital role in providing justice to the people. The newly appointed Chief Justice Tassaduq Jilani paid rich tributes to his predecessor and said that he

has strong muscles.

He said the decisions taken by the Supreme Court during the tenure of Iftikhar Chaudhry as chief justice will always be remembered.

Addressing the reference, Attorney General Muneer A. Malik said that the period of Iftikhar Chaudhry as chief justice was a historic one, adding the chief justice worked for maintaining prestige of the judiciary and rule of law.

Xinhua

## New Lao-Thai bridge strengthens relationships, economic corridor

VIENTIANE, 12 Dec — A new bridge connecting Laos and Thailand over the Mekong River is open for business on Wednesday, signaling the completion of work along one of the Greater Mekong Subregion's (GMS) most important economic corridors.

Speaking at the inauguration, Lao Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad and Thai Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra emphasized the importance of the bridge's construction as representative of the good relationship between Laos, Thailand and China. "The bridge is also a symbol of political cooperation of three governments to promote the good development partner of the three countries as well as between China and ASEAN

(Association of Southeast Asian Nations)," said Lengsavad. Also attending the inauguration ceremony were Lao Vice President Bounhang Vorachit, Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Chinese Ambassador to Laos, among other senior officials from Laos and Thailand.

The opening of the bridge coincides with a meeting of ministers here in Lao capital Vientiane for the 19th Ministerial Conference of the GMS Economic Cooperation Programme. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), which provides financing and secretariat services for GMS, conducted the feasibility study for the bridge project in 2005.

"The bridge is the missing link along the North South Economic Corridor,



Lao Vice President Bounhang Vorachith (L) and Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attend the opening ceremony of the new Lao-Thai bridge in Chiang Rai, Laos, on 11 Dec, 2013. —XINHUA

which is the main land route for trade between Yunnan Province in People's Republic of China (PRC) and Thailand, as well as being a gateway for connectivity between PRC and ASEAN countries," said ADB Vice President Stephen Groff. "With all of the infrastructure in place, the potential for this corridor to become a driver of regional trade, tourism and investment can be realized."

The 480-meter long bridge replaces a system of ferryboats that were used previously. It links Chiang Khong District of Chiang Rai province on the Thai side with Houay Xai capital of Bokeo Province on the Lao side. Land traffic will now be able to move much more easily across the 1000-kilometre route connecting Kunming in China and Chiang Rai in Thailand.

Xinhua

## Freight train derails in S Korea, no injury reported

SEOUL, 12 Dec — A freight train was derailed in South Korea due to the estimated mechanical fracturing, local media reported on Thursday.

The train, which was carrying bunker oil, was derailed at around 0:50 am on Thursday near Uiseong in North Gyeongsang Province, some 330 km southeast of Seoul.

It was heading for Manjong Station, around 240 km east of Seoul, from

Ulsan in South Gyeongsang Province about 410 km southeast of Seoul.

Among the combined 19 passenger cars, the 12th car alone was derailed due to the estimated damage of the wheel, the transportation ministry said, noting that investigators were looking into causes of the derailment in more detail. No injury was reported, and the train was expected to be operated normally from around 10 am. —Xinhua

## GMS ministers endorse decade-long regional investment framework

VIENTIANE, 12 Dec — Ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, China, Thailand and Vietnam have endorsed the Regional Investment Framework (RIF) as a guideline for the next decade of regional Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) investment at the 19th GMS Ministerial Conference here on Wednesday.

The 19th GMS Ministerial Conference, which ran from 10 to 11 December, included ministers from the six GMS member countries, as well as vice-president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) along with development partners from across the globe. The RIF will translate the strategic decisions of the GMS

Strategic Framework into a pipeline of projects covering the GMS Programme from 2013 to 2022. Formed from extensive regional consultation, the RIF has a projected potential value of more than 50 billion US dollars during its nine-year scope.

A joint ministerial statement declared that the

GMS Programme was more relevant within the region and the global economy than ever. "We also agree that the RIF is the strategic blueprint that will guide our way forward. Moreover we are better aware of and better prepared for the challenges that we will face along the way," the document concluded. —Xinhua



Guests sign a railway union memo during the 19th Ministerial Conference of the Greater Mekong Subregion's (GMS) Economic Cooperation Programme in Vientiane, capital of Laos, on 11 Dec, 2013. The meeting closed here on Wednesday. —XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
 MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
 MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
 (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
 (15/2013)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark	
(1)	IFB-120(2413-2014)	4 1/4" & 3 1/2" Square Kelly with Bushing	(3) Items		US\$
(2)	IFB-121(2013-2014)	(5) Ton Air Winch for EMSCO, Oil Well, D3T2SR-1 & 2	(4) Nos		US\$
(3)	IFB-122(2013-2014)	Submersible Pump (440 IGPM, 450 Ft Head, 75 KW (100 HP), 400 V	(1) Lot		US\$
(4)	IFB -123(2013-2014)	Derrick Shaker Unit Flow Line Mud Cleaner FLC - 504	(2) Sets		US\$
(5)	IFB-124(2013-2014)	Safety Harness & Flexible Steel Tail Ropes for Drilling Rigs	(3) Items		US\$
(6)	IFB-125(2013-2014)	Insert Pump	(48) Items		US\$
(7)	IFB-126(2013-2014)	Working Barrels, Working Valves, Standing Valves	(9) Items		US\$
(8)	IFB-127(2013-2014)	Tubing and Casing Swab Cups	(4) Items		US\$
(9)	IFB-128(2013-2014)	Magna Dewax & Wild Cat 441(AMC)	(2) Items		US\$
(10)	IFB-129(2013-2014)	Stuffing Box	(4) Items		US\$
(11)	IFB-130(2013-2014)	Sucker Rod, Pony Rod	(17) Items		US\$
(12)	IFB-131(2013-2414)	Plastic Valve Cups and Plastic Seating Cups	(8) Items		US\$
(13)	IFB-132(2013-2014)	2", 3" Flow Line Pipes	(2) Items		US\$
(14)	IFB-133(2013-2014)	Sucker Rod Elevator	(5) Items		US\$

- Tender Closing Date & Time 6-1-2014, 16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

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 Dated. 13 December, 2013

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (056)**  
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (056) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**  
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (363)**  
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (363) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 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 EVER GREEN SHIPPING LINE**  
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (341)**  
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (341) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
 Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
 No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY PTE LTD**  
 Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (355)**  
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (355) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 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

**Charity begins at home**



## ENTERTAINMENT

## Madonna ranks No 1 as music's top earning woman

NEW YORK, 12 Dec— With earnings of \$125 million (£76,317,235.48), pop singer Madonna is the highest-paid woman in music, easily surpassing Lady Gaga and country-pop singer Taylor Swift, *Forbes* said on Wednesday.

Her income for the 12-month period used by the magazine also made her the highest-earning celebrity overall, it said.

Much of Madonna's earnings from June 2012 to June 2013 were from her

worldwide MDNA Tour, which pulled in \$305 million. But the 55-year-old singer, who jumped from ninth place in 2012, also made money with merchandising sales, her fragrance and from her Material Girl clothing line.

She is "music's top earner of any genre or gender and the highest-paid celebrity of any stripe," according to *Forbes*.

Lady Gaga, with \$80 million, jumped from No 4 to No 2 this year, despite

her Born This Way Ball tour being cut short due to an injury. Gaga, 27, released her album "ARTPOP" after the cut off date for *Forbes'* annual earnings calculations.

Swift, 23, dropped from second place in 2012 to third this year. Her \$55 million in earnings came from sales of her latest album "Red" as well as endorsement deals, records sales and touring.

*Forbes* compiled the list after estimating pre-tax income based on record sales, concert tickets, tour-

ing in a merchandise sale and territory with promoters and It also from trade RIAA Industry of America firm Ni



Cast members Emma Thompson (L), Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson (R) attend the film premiere of "Saving Mr. Banks," at the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California, on 9 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## 'Saving Mr Banks' rescues the complex mind behind 'Mary Poppins'

BURBANK, (Calif), 12 Dec — In the leafy, idyllic setting that is the Disney Studios lot, author PL Travers made life hell for writers and composers and Walt Disney himself in a movie that portrays her as a withering, brick wall, toxic nightmare of a woman.

It is not quite the demeanour one would expect from the creator of one of the most beloved of children's books, "Mary Poppins." But Travers was so worried that Disney and his dream factory would ruin her story of the magical, flying British nanny that she subverted their work at every turn during two weeks at the Burbank studios in 1961.

The entertaining push and pull between the acid-tongued Travers and the Disney storytellers is the heart of "Saving Mr Banks," a film, from Walt Disney Co of course, that opens in limited release in US theatres on Friday and nationwide a week later. It stars Oscar

winner Emma Thompson as Travers and Tom Hanks as Walt Disney.

Thompson, in a role that has generated buzz of a best actress Oscar nomination, had no shortage of biographical material from which to pull together her haughty middle-aged Pamela Lyndon Travers. But six hours of actual recordings of Travers with her Disney writers and songwriters might have revealed the most about her personality and the suffering that lies beneath artistic creation. She cringed at the thought of animation and dancing penguins and even the songs themselves.

"You can hear in the juddering...the distress in it, of course," said Thompson, mimicked Travers' clipped British accent and tone of disdain. "One of the most revealing things was that, overtly, she was here to cooperate. Covertly, she was here to sabotage, and that was a wonderful thing to play with."—Reuters

## Garth Brooks box set keeps Britney Spears at bay in Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec — Country singer Garth Brooks stormed to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart to claim top spot on Wednesday, ahead of a new debut from Britney Spears.

Brooks' boxed set, "Blame It All On My Roots," climbed from No 3 to No 1 with second week sales of 146,000 copies according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. The box set contains six CDs and two DVDs and was released as an exclusive set at retailer Walmart over the US Thanksgiving holiday weekend at a discounted price.

In comparison, Spears' latest album "Britney Jean" notched opening week sales

of only 107,000 and came in at No 4, her lowest album debut in a career spanning more than a decade and below industry projections of 115,000 to 120,000,

according to Billboard. "Britney Jean" is the singer's eighth studio album, and features the lead single "Work B\*\*ch."

Spears' album came

behind last week's chart-topper, "Midnight Memories" by British boy band One Direction, which dropped to No 2 this week with 117,000 copies, and Kelly Clarkson's holiday album "Wrapped in Red" at No 3.

Spears was the only debut in the top ten of the Billboard 200 this week.

Overall album sales for the week ending 8 December rounded out to 7.1 million, down 16 percent from the comparable week in 2012, according to Billboard. Justin Timberlake's March release of the first part of "The 20/20 Experience" is the year's top-selling album, with more than 2.3 million copies sold.

Reuters



Garth Brooks sings "The Dance" as a tribute to Dick Clark at the 48th ACM Awards in Las Vegas, on 7 April, 2013.—REUTERS

## Weinstein brothers sue Time Warner over 'Hobbit' films

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Movie producers Bob and Harvey Weinstein have sued Time Warner Inc for at least \$75 million over its decision to divide the screen adaptation of JRR Tolkien's book

"The Hobbit" into three parts, and refusing to pay them for the second and third films.

In a complaint filed on Tuesday in New York State Supreme Court in

Manhattan, the Weinstein brothers and Miramax LLC said executives at Warner Brothers and its New Line Cinema unit chose to split "The Hobbit" as a pretext to deprive them of 5 percent of the gross receipts from the last two films. The Weinsteins said they had in 1998 sold New Line the movie rights to "The Hobbit" and Tolkien's trilogy "The Lord of the Rings," after having spent more than \$10 million to adapt them.

They said New Line had agreed to make payments for the "first motion picture," but not "remakes," based on the books.

"This case is about greed and ingratitude," said the Weinsteins and Miramax, which the brothers founded. "Warner takes this position solely to deprive

plaintiffs of their right to share in the revenues from two of the three filmed installments of "The Hobbit."

Warner Brothers countered that the Weinsteins simply made a business mistake when they sold the film rights to New Line.

Paul McGuire, a Warner Brothers spokesman, said the studio filed for arbitration on 26 November with JAMS Inc, a New York firm once known as Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, to resolve the dispute.

"This is about one of the great blunders in movie history," McGuire said. "Fifteen years ago Miramax, run by the Weinstein brothers, sold its rights in 'The Hobbit' to New Line. No amount of trying to rewrite history can change that fact.

Reuters



Bob Weinstein (L) and his brother Harvey Weinstein, the founders of The Weinstein Co, pose at the premiere of the film "1408" in Los Angeles, California.

REUTERS



## SPORTS

## Arsenal face another tough trip to Manchester



Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain kicks the ball to score against Arsenal during their Champions League soccer match at San Paolo stadium in Naples, on 11 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

LONDON, 12 Dec — Arsenal's lunchtime game at Manchester City on Saturday could be a defining one for their Premier League title hopes, even if Arsene Wenger has greeted that idea with a typically Gallic shrug.

The Gunners have a comfortable cushion over second-placed Liverpool, who travel in the opposite direction on Sunday for a clash in North London with sixth-placed Tottenham Hotspur (1600 GMT), and Chelsea.

"We are five points ahead and, overall, the Premier League is a marathon," said Wenger, speaking before his side progressed to the knockout stages of the Champions League despite a 2-0 defeat to Napoli on Wednesday that left them facing a potentially tricky last-16 clash.

"We will be in the race no matter what happens."

City, who surged back from 2-0 down to beat European champions Bayern Munich 3-2 in Germany

in their final Champions League group game, are fourth and six points behind Wenger's men.

Despite their position, Arsenal will be the underdogs against a side who remain unbeaten at home in the league this season and see no reason why they cannot at least match Manchester United's 1-0 win over the north Londoners last month.

"With the disappointing results we have had away from home, it's important that we try to go through the season winning every single home game," City's England midfielder James Milner, who scored the winner on Tuesday, said.

"That won't be easy, but the way we are playing we can do that."

Neither of City's top two league goalscorers played in Munich with Sergio Aguero, the second most prolific scorer in the Premier League after Liverpool's Luis Suarez, rested and Yaya Toure suspended.

Reuters

## Dortmund leave it late, Milan limp into last 16

LONDON, 12 Dec — Last season's runners-up Borussia Dortmund were spared a Champions League exit when a dramatic late goal from Kevin Grosskreutz sent the German side into the last 16 on Wednesday.

Dortmund, who beat Olympique Marseille 2-1, Arsenal and Napoli all finished on 12 points with the Bundesliga team topping Group F and the Italians proving the odd side out on head-to-head superiority

despite a 2-0 victory over the English Premier League leaders.

AC Milan will be Italy's only representatives in the knockout stage as Galatasaray, Zenit St Petersburg and Schalke 04 secured the remaining last 16 places in Monday's draw which will feature four representatives each from the Premier League and Bundesliga.

Barcelona, who should have Lionel Messi back from injury when the

competition resumes in February, signed off from the group phase in style with Brazil striker Neymar scoring a hat-trick, his first Champions League goals, in a 6-1 romp over Celtic at the Nou Camp.

Jose Mourinho can also look forward to the draw as Group E winners Chelsea went through the motions in overcoming Steaua Bucharest 1-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Napoli, who drop into the Europa League, are only the second team to be eliminated from the group phase with 12 points from six games after Paris St Germain in 1997-98.

In contrast, Russia's Zenit finished runners-up in Group G by becoming the first team to qualify for the knockout stages with six points.

Injury-hit Dortmund were just minutes away from a trapdoor into Europe's second-tier competition when Grosskreutz found the back of the net with a deflected shot three minutes from time against 10-man Marseille.

Reuters



Borussia Dortmund players react after winning their Champions League soccer match against Olympique Marseille at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, on 11 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## FIA seeks interest from would-be Formula One teams

LONDON, 12 Dec — Formula One's governing body sought expressions of interest on Wednesday from would-be new teams that could enter the sport from 2015 or 2016.

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) posted a note on its website (www.fia.com) announcing "a new selection process to identify a candidate team to participate at a competitive level".

"The overall long-term interests of the championship will determine which can-



Race cars compete during the start of the final race of the 2013 World Endurance Championship (WEC) Six Hours of Bahrain at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, south of Manama, on 30 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

didates are selected," it added.

Formula One last admitted new constructors in 2010, when Spanish-based Hispania, Virgin Racing and Malaysian-owned Lotus Racing expanded a depleted grid to 12 teams following the departure of manufacturers Honda, Toyota and BMW.

Hispania later became HRT and folded at the end of 2012, while Virgin became Marussia and Lotus Racing are now competing as Caterham.—Reuters

## Decisive Galatasaray goal crowns difficult year for Sneijder

ISTANBUL, 12 Dec — Wesley Sneijder ended a year of contrasting fortunes by scoring the winning goal against Juventus on Wednesday that propelled Galatasaray into the Champions League knockout stages.

Six months ago Sneijder's career was at a crossroads after he was stripped of the captaincy of the Dutch national team, then left out of the side because of a lack of fitness.

His 85th-minute goal is a payback for Galatasaray who paid a reported 10 million euros (\$13.8 million) for the Inter Milan midfielder in January. Sneijder admitted recently that the

Turkish champions had yet to see the best of him.

The 29-year-old's winner in the snow-delayed Group B tie allowed Galatasaray to progress to the knockout phase at the expense of the Italian champions. "That goal is very important for me but even more important for the club," said Sneijder, who started his career at Ajax Amsterdam before moving to Real Madrid. "It's great, we fought really hard and deserved to win."

In his first 15 games at Galatasaray, where he arrived to a great reception from supporters, Sneijder was substituted 12 times. He scored only three goals and delivered just one assist last season after his move from Inter, where he had fallen out of favour after refusing to take a pay cut.

Reuters

Wesley Sneijder of Galatasaray reacts during their Champions League soccer match against Juventus in Istanbul on 11 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS



## Three Ajax fans stabbed during fighting before Milan game



AC Milan's Kaka controls the ball during their Champions League group H soccer match against Ajax Amsterdam at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 11 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

MILAN, 12 Dec — Three Ajax Amsterdam supporters were stabbed in Milan on Wednesday during fighting before the Champions League match against AC Milan and one is seriously hurt, Italian police said.

The supporter in the worst condition was knifed in the stomach and the others were wounded in the buttock and leg, a police spokesman said.

"The one with the stomach wound is clearly the most serious but as far as I understand it's not life threatening," he said.

All three were taken to Milan's San Carlo hospital, while a local street salesman also suffered a minor knife wound in the scuffles but was not hospitalised.

Three Ajax supporters were arrested in a separate incident for trying to rob a street kiosk.

Reuters



GENERAL

Accepted The Call of Almighty Allah  
Abdul Quader @ Frederick Yasin @ U Sein Tin  
B.Com., R.A., H.G.P., RL  
Aged (66) Years  
Principal - FISC, Thanlyin School

Son of Hajee S.M. Yasin and Hajeema Daw Mi Mi Gyi - B.S.C. College 156, Theinbyu Road, Botataung Tsp., Yangon, Son in Law of U Maung Maung Than - Daw Khin Than Nu, Husband of (Daw Khin Than Myint) and beloved Father of Daw Sandar Tin - U Win Oo, U Zar Ni Tin - Daw Swe Zin Thein and Grandfather of Ma Shah Eikkari Naing peacefully accepted the Call of Almighty Allah at 6:55 a.m. on the 11-12-2013.

Buried at Yay Way Burial Grounds after the Asr Salat the same day.  
"To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return".  
The Bereaved Family

## Abe tells official to accelerate talks for TPP deal

TOKYO, 12 Dec—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday instructed a senior vice minister to accelerate talks toward an early agreement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade framework.

Abe gave the instruction to Yasutoshi Nishimura, senior vice minister of the Cabinet Office, who has returned from a four-day TPP ministerial meeting through Tuesday in Singapore that failed to reach a final agreement and meet their year-end deadline, Nishimura said.

The senior official said he reported the outcome of the recent 12-nation talks to Abe, saying, "There still remain gaps to be filled de-

spite active discussions (in Singapore) but some common ground is in sight" on thorny issues.

Abe also said "it is important for Japan to cooperate with the United States," and instructed Nishimura to continue negotiations with Washington, the senior vice minister told reporters at the prime minister's office. Under the envisaged TPP framework, all tariffs must be eliminated among its members, but some countries are reluctant to do this.

Tokyo and Washington remain apart over scrapping tariffs on key farm products and automobiles, one of the main sticking points of bilateral talks.—Kyodo News

## Int'l book fair, literary festival open in Bulgaria

SOFIA, 12 Dec — The 41st Sofia International Book Fair and the First Sofia International Literary Festival opened on Tuesday, bringing together more than 200 publishing houses and dozens of writers from this region.

Opening the event in the Bulgaria's National Palace of Culture, Sofia's Deputy Mayor Todor Chobanov called it "one of the most remarkable moments" in the rich calendar of the city.

"We are confident that it will really enrich the spiritual and cultural life of Sofia, and allow many, many readers to meet their favourite authors, while encouraging publishing, reading, and working with books in our whole social environment," Chobanov said.

Peni Raeva, NPC's executive director, said that along with home education and school, such exhibitions and forums were the place where children could cultivate a taste for books.

Zdravko Paskalev, a retired professor of physics, told Xinhua he came to the fair to see some new books and enjoy the discounts to fill his home library.

Xinhua

## MYANMAR TV

(13-12-2013, Friday)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>6:00 am</b><br>1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw  | <b>1:15 pm</b><br>12. Hyper Sports   |
| <b>6:20 am</b><br>2. Physical Exercises   | <b>1:30 pm</b><br>13. SEA Games Songs  |
| <b>7:00 am</b><br>3. News/Weather Report  | <b>2:00 pm</b><br>14. Sports News/ Pencak Silat (Final)  |
| <b>7:30 am</b><br>4. Talks Show   | <b>3:30 pm</b><br>15. Talks Show   |
| <b>8:00 am</b><br>5. News/ International News   | <b>4:00 pm</b><br>16. Karatedo (Awarding Ceremony)/ 27 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games Football (Live) |
| <b>8:30 am</b><br>6. CANOEING   | <b>5:45 pm</b><br>17. SEA Games Songs  |
| <b>9:00 pm</b><br>7. Billard & Snooker + Karatedo (Opening Ceremony)                            | <b>6:00 pm</b><br>18. News/Weather Report  |
| <b>10:00 pm</b><br>8. Sports News/ Sepaktakraw (Myanmar & Thailand) (Preliminary) (Men & Women) | <b>6:30 pm</b><br>19. Talks Show   |
| <b>12:00 am</b><br>9. News/ International News/ Weather Report                                  | <b>6:45 pm</b><br>20. 27 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games Football (Delay)                              |
| <b>12:30 pm</b><br>10. Clever   | <b>8:40 pm</b><br>21. News/ International News/ Weather Report                                 |
| <b>1:00 pm</b><br>11. Myanmar Series  | <b>9:00 pm</b><br>22. Hyper Sports   |
|   | <b>9:00 pm</b><br>23. Talks Show   |



A worker of Mount Hermon Ski Resort crashes snow in the Golan Heights, on 11 Dec, 2013. It was stormy in most of Israel and snow in the Golan Heights on Wednesday, and it will snow periodically in the northern Golan Heights, with temperatures dropping further to around 0 degree Centigrade.—XINHUA

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

13-12-13 07:00 am ~ 14-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* "Travelling to Shan Plateau "Main Ma Ye" The-Khin Ma Mountain"
- \* World News
- \* Ethnic Beauty
- \* Local News
- \* Journey To Unimaginable Sports (Episode-2)
- \* World News
- \* Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
- \* Local News
- \* Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- \* World News
- \* Mularsheedi we Love!
- \* Local News
- \* Innovative Handiworks Based On The Art Of Line Drawing
- \* World News
- \* Flying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure-Mandalay & Sagaing
- \* **27<sup>th</sup> SEA GAMES COMPETITION**
- \* Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
- \* Local News
- \* Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges (Ya Za Gyi Village)
- \* World News
- \* Venerable Konlon Monk
- \* Local News
- \* Jade Industry: Myanmar Rewarding Business
- \* SEA GAMES (Boat Races)
- \* Local News
- \* Marvelous Solo Cane Ball Playing
- \* Myanmar Agarwood

## Neymar hits hat-trick as Barcelona crush Celtic

BARCELONA, 12 Dec—Neymar finally showed the goalscoring touch he has

been threatening with a hat-trick as Barcelona shrugged off their recent dip in

form with a 6-1 win over Celtic at the Nou Camp on Wednesday to seal top



Barcelona's Neymar celebrates after scoring a goal against Celtic during their Champions League soccer match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 11 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

spot in Champions League Group H.

Gerard Pique stabbed home with seven minutes on the clock and, with Celtic stretched at the back, Pedro and Neymar both finished clinically before half-time. Neymar had never scored before in Europe but got two more after the break, with Adam Matthews unable to stop the Brazilian's third from going over the line. Cristian Tello completed Barca's scoring with another deflected shot.

Celtic grabbed a consolation goal through Giorgos Samaras two minutes from time.

Barcelona finish top of the section with 13 points, four ahead of second-placed Milan and five ahead

of Ajax, who drew 0-0 at the San Siro.

Barca's 20-match unbeaten start to the season was ended at Ajax in their previous European match, and it was followed by defeat in La Liga by Athletic Bilbao. But Gerardo Martino's side, still without the injured Lionel Messi, responded with a fine attacking display against the Scottish champions.

For Celtic it is the end of a poor run in Europe. They have lost all their away games, and at home, where they are normally strong, they managed only one win, over Ajax.

Youngster Sergi Roberto was the surprise face in the Barcelona lineup with Andres Iniesta, carrying a

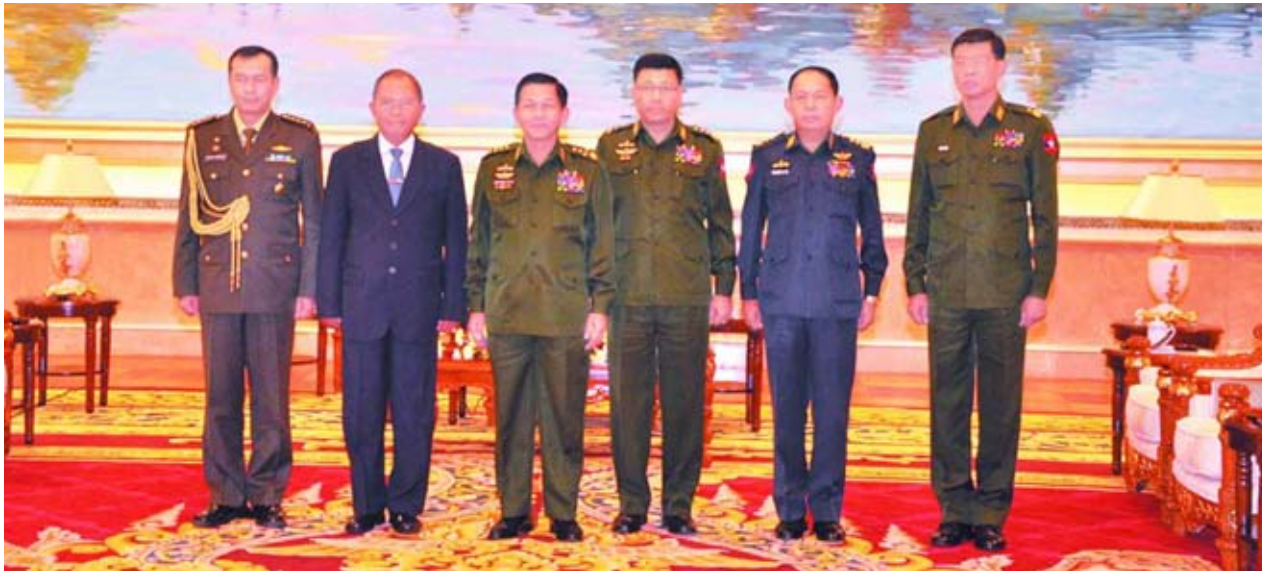
knock, left on the bench. Scott Brown returned for the visitors after serving his ban for his red card for a foul on Neymar when the sides met in Glasgow.

The visitors gave Roberto the perfect opportunity to find his feet as they left large holes in the centre of midfield for the home side to carve openings. Xavi sent a deep ball to Neymar at the far post that was just too high for the Brazilian before two minutes had passed.

Pique was getting forward well and he was on hand to get the opening goal as he knocked the ball in from close range after a deflected shot from Alexis Sanchez was saved by the keeper.—Reuters



## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indonesian Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono, who had completed his tour of duty, at Zeyathiri Beikman, here,

this morning. Also present at the call together with the Senior General were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the

Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the senior military officers. The Indonesian ambassador was accompanied by Colonel Helda Risman, Indonesian military attaché to Myanmar.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on

mutual ties and amity between the two countries during his tour of duty, further strengthening relations between the two armed forces, democratization process and military cooperation among ASEAN countries.

MNA

## Badminton reaches quarter-finals

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—The quarter-finals of badminton event of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C) here today.

Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore and Cambodia participated in the competitions. Vietnam

won Thailand with 24-22 and 11-7 points in men's single event, Indonesia beat Myanmar with 21-6 and 21-8 points and Indonesia thrashed Malaysia with 21-10 and 21-15 points and Thailand defeated Myanmar with 21-9, 21-13 points. In the women's singles' events, Thailand

won over Vietnam with 21-10 and 21-10 points, Indonesia beat Malaysia with 21-16 and 21-15 points, Vietnam thrashed Singapore with 21-19, 18-21 and 21-17 points and Thailand defeated Indonesia with 21-11 and 21-18 points.

In the men's double events, Indonesia team

won over Thailand, Malaysia beat Vietnam with 22-10, 19-21 and 21-12 points, Indonesia defeated Laos 21-4 and 21-6 points and Malaysia beat Thailand 23-21, 14-21 and 21-16 points.

(See page 7)

## Six female boxers secure points for quarterfinals

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Women's boxing semi-final events of the XXVII SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium, here, this morning. The boxers from Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam took part in today's matches.

At today's matches, the Philippines won over Laos in women's light-flyweight (45-48 kg), Indonesia, over Myanmar in women's light-flyweight (45-48 kg); Vietnam, over Laos in women's flyweight (48-51 kg); Thailand, over the Philippines in women's flyweight (48-51 kg); Thailand, over the Philippines in women's Bantam weight (51-54 kg); and Indonesia, over Laos in women's Bantam weight (51-54 kg); according to a source.—*Khaing Thanda Lwin (NLM)*

## Myanmar Pencak Silat team sails to final



Zeyar seizes another win in pursuit of Myanmar's P'Silat gold in 45-50 kg category.—YM (NLM)

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Myanmar pencak silat team advanced to the final. Zeyar of Myanmar defeated Ngoc Diep Vu Minh of Vietnam 3-2 in the Pen-

cak Silat semi-final (45-50 kilo) of 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games. In the 55-60 kilo event, Ye Kyaw Thu of Myanmar won over Prasit Warlam of Thailand 5-nil while Kyaw

Naing Thun of Myanmar defeated Sapto Purnomo of Indonesia 5-nil in 60-65 kilo event.

Myanmar Pencak Silat Organizing Committee will award a cash prize to any medal winning athlete, according to the SEA Games daily. The proposed denominations of financial remuneration are K 10 million for gold, K 5 million for silver and K 3 million for bronze. There will also be consolation prizes for those athletes who missed out on medals.

Additional monetary awards will come from the Shwe Taung Construction Company. And the Ministry of Sports will also present separate awards to the athletes, the daily also states. Myanmar first participated in Pencak Silat in the 17<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Singapore in 1995.

*Myo Than (NLM)*

## Four objectives of 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe;
- All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace;
- All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Myanmar

youngest

player Ma

Yati Wint

War who

partici-

pates in in-

ternational

rapid chess

event.

KTL



## Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Myanmar	20	13	11	44
 Vietnam	14	6	9	29
 Indonesia	9	14	10	33
 Thailand	8	12	9	29
 Malaysia	5	5	13	23
 Philippines	3	5	6	14
 Cambodia	3	4	9	16
 Singapore	3	3	6	12
 Laos	1	5	9	15
 Brunei	1	0	1	2
 Timor-Leste	0	0	0	0