

President U Thein Sein felicitates Bhutanese King, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— On the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan which falls on 17th December 2013, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and Mr. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.—MNA

President U Thein Sein visits Toyota Motor Corps in Nagoya

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein visited Toyota Motor plant near Nagoya at 8 am LST today. And Chairman of Toyota Motor Corps and officials explained facts about the Corps there.

The President left for Kobe by express train and attended a working luncheon hosted by Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren) at ANA Crown Plaza Kobe.

The President then proceeded to Kinkakuji monastery and looked round Shwethamin Kyaungtaung (Monastery). Kinkakuji

monastery was established by Shogun Ashikaga Youshimitsu in Kyoto dynasty in 1397. It is now remarked by National Landmark and National Park.

In the evening, President U Thein Sein together with Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Association U Saw Hla Min and officials attended a Japanese traditional dinner hosted by Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association Mr. Hideo Watanabe at Mimiu Japanese Noodle Restaurant in Kyoto.

Next, the President and party came back the hotel where they stayed.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein presents gift to a monk from Kinkakuji monastery in Kyoto of Japan.

MNA

Myanmar men's hockey team achieve victory in round-robin matches

YANGON, 16 Dec— Myanmar men's hockey team today won over Vietnam 8-1 in the round-robin match.

Myanmar won only today's match of the three round-robin matches.

In the men's hockey third-day match, Malaysia

beat Thailand 13-0.

In the women's event, Indonesia trounced Cambodia 15-0 while Myanmar and Thailand played a goal-

less draw and Malaysia tore up Singapore 8-1.

The fourth day event of women's hockey match continues at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch at 11 am tomorrow and the men's hockey match at 1 pm on 18 December.—MNA

Myanmar delegation attends seminars on energy in ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung and Union Minister for Science and Technology

Dr Ko Ko Oo attended 2nd International Seminar for Nuclear Cooperation and 3rd International Energy Cooperation Symposium (See page 9)

Aung Ngeain: Queen of SEA Games' compound archery



Aung Ngeain poses for her picture of biting gold medal for women's compound individual event.—YM (NLM)

Wunna Theikdi Archery Filed was filled with an atmosphere of hopes for winning first gold of Myanmar archery team today. It was an emotive time for Aung Ngeain and Myanmar archery fans as Myanmar's hope for compound archery gold rested on her.

Everyone in the stand sprang to their feet when Aung Ngeain aimed at the target 1 to start five sets of three arrows in today's Women's Compound Individual gold match. It was enough for her, the strongest archer of Myanmar archery team, to put pressure on the Indonesian rival to a certain extent by five points higher than the latter in the

first set. Although Indonesian finalist mustered more points than ones she scored in the first set in order to narrow the point deficit against Myanmar archer, Aung Ngeain was able to keep her impressive performance till the final set, leading eight points to her opponent.

Loud cheers from the crowds came out when she finished the last arrow of final set, reaching the score points at 138. She finally brought first gold for Myanmar archery team at the SEA Games 27 and the 27th gold of her career started 11 years ago.

"Self-confidence played a decisive role to claim today's victory. I managed well to start the

By: Ye Myint

game with more points than my rival. I had no worries about the game because I was determined to succeed", said the gold medalist Myanmar archer.

Aung Ngeain has won three gold at 2011 SEA Games, each in individual compound, team compound and mix-team compound. Entering her senior year, she developed into the top player of Myanmar, earning gold medals in international archery competitions. Before the SEA Games, Aung Ngeain announced that she had decided to quit the sports completing this games.

(See page 8)

LOCAL NEWS

Agriculture

Harvested crops kept under shelter in Lewe



Agricultural machinery used in winnowing of paddy as crops are to be kept under shelter in time.

LEWE, 16 Dec— Under the supervision of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Head of Lewe Township No 47 Agricultural Mechanization Station U Win Thant and staff help the local people harvest the crops with the use of two combine harvesters and 10 paddy threshers daily for

keeping crops under the shelter.

Likewise, the staff of the department harvested monsoon paddy with the use of five combine harvesters on 3000 acres of farmlands in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Local farmer U Hse Byar of Nyaunggon Village in the township said, "Now,

labourer for farmlands are shortage, and the department help the local farmers in harvesting crops with the use of agricultural machinery. We thank the department and staff for their contributions to us."—MMAL-Ko Ko Yupa (Nay Pyi Taw)

Stake driven for Mohnyin District Education Office

MOHNYIN, 16 Dec—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Mohnyin District Education Office was held at the designated place in Mohnyin in Mohnyin District of Kachin State on 13 December.

Mohnyin District Education Officer Deputy Director U Lar Rwe and officials drove stakes for the building that will be 90 feet long and 30 feet wide two-storey facility.

MMAL-District IPRD

School library opened, reading habit risen



Officials formally open school library at Zayatgyi Basic Education High School in Htantabin Township.

HTANTABIN, 16 Dec— Under the arrangements of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, the ceremony to launch the development of school libraries and raising reading habit was held Zayatgyi Basic Education High School in Htantabin Township of Toungoo District in Bago Region on 12 December morning.

The Head of Township

Information and Public Relations Department, the Township Administrator, the headmistress of Zayatgyi Basic Education High School and a person of Township Writers Association formally opened the ceremony.

Next, Myanmar Libraries Foundation, Township IPRD and the Township Writers Association donated books

to the school library.

The open recitation ceremony followed.

On 13 December, the extempore talks was held. On 15 and 16 December, the essay contests were held at the designated schools.

On 19 December, the prize presentation ceremony will be held at Htantabin Basic Education High School.—MMAL-Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)

Educative talks on prevention of girls against violence shared

NYAUNGU, 16 Dec— The educative talks on prevention of girls against violence was held at the hall of Basic Education High School Branch (Myoma) in NyaungU of NyaungU District in Mandalay Region on 12 December.

It was organized by NyaungU District Women's

Affairs Organization.

Secretary of the District WAO Daw Myint Myint Than, District Judge Daw Win Win Maw, Deputy Head of District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Wah Wah Hlaing and member of WAO Daw Yu Yu Hlaing explained prevention of girls against

violence.

Chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Soe Soe Ei reviewed the explanations.

It was attended by the chairperson of Township WAO and MCWA, the headmistress, teachers and students totalling over 200.

MMAL-District IPRD

Electrification

Full supply of electricity undertaken

YANGON, 16 Dec— Mayangon Township Electrical Engineer's Office of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board is striving for supply of electricity to the local people at full capacity.

As voltage of electricity declines on Konmyint Yeiktha Street and Win Hlaing Street, one 500 KVA



transformer was installed there from 9 to 11 December for system improvement.

Likewise, permissions have been given to install

one transformer each in Ward 2, 5 and Ward 9 for better electrification in the areas.

MMAL-Min Min

Foreigners offer meals to members of the Sangha

BAGO, 16 Dec—About 500 members of the Sangha are residing at Kyakhatwaing Monastery in Bago of Bago Region.

The number of globetrotters increased in visiting the monastery this year.

On 13 December morning, over 90 foreigners from Thailand, China, Korea and Japan and others offered meals to members of the Sangha of the monastery who went round in procession as a daily work.

MMAL-Min Htet Naing

Fire Prevention

Fire drill practised in Namtu

NAMTU, 16 Dec—A fire drill was practised at Namtu Myoma Market of the township on 10 December as part of efforts for taking fire preventive measures.

It was jointly organized by Township Development Affairs Committee and Township Fire Services Department.

It was attended by Chairman of Township Fire Prevention

Committee Township Administrator U Thet Lwin, Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Hsan Lwin, Executive Officer U Tin

Shein, Staff Officer U Win Thaug of Township Fire Services Department and members of market committee.

MMAL-190



WORLD

Tianjin becomes latest Chinese city to restrict car ownership



A general view of centre Tianjin taken from Tianjin World Financial Centre, on 15 April, 2013.—REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 16 Dec—China's northern city of Tianjin will restrict issuance of new car licences, the latest city to clamp down on car ownership in a bid to ease traffic congestion and combat air pollution.

The city government

will issue new plates via auction and lottery from Monday, it said in a notice posted on its website on Sunday.

It will also introduce a quota system similar to Beijing's traffic restriction scheme, which allows cars access to the city on certain

days depending on the last digit of their plates, the official *Xinhua* news agency quoted Miao Hongwei, head of the city's traffic management bureau, as saying.

The capital Beijing, infamous for its choking smog, announced last

month it will slash the city's new car sales quota by almost 40 percent next year.

Other major cities such as Shanghai and Guangzhou have also implemented measures to restrict car ownership.

Reuters

Frequent attacks cause heavy casualties in Libya

TRIPOLI, 16 Dec—A Libyan army colonel was killed and three soldiers were injured on Sunday in two separate attacks in the eastern city of Benghazi, security and medical sources told *Xinhua*.

A medical source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity that Saad Masood Ostal Jamal, an army colonel working in the artillery unit, was shot by unknown assailants in Humaida near Meshaal al-Huaida in Benghazi as he was taking his son to school.

Spokesperson of Jalaa Hospital in Benghazi confirmed that Jamal was hit by seven bullets, including five in his head.

Also in a separate attack on Sunday afternoon, three soldiers belonging to Libyan Special Forces' 319 Brigade and Thunderbolt were injured after an improvised explosive device targeted them while they were participating in a campaign to clean up Benghazi streets after garbage collectors went on strike over salary complaints. A security officer said that the three soldiers were injured by fragments after the explosive device was thrown at them by unknown assailants in the Laithi area. The eyewitness added that a man driving a Mitsubishi car stopped in front of a garbage collection point and threw a bag on top of the stack, leaving the bag to explode shortly after his departure. Al-Barghati said the victims Mohamed Salem Warfali, Abdullah Faraj Alakora and Ali Ambar Awami were injured by shrapnel from the explosive device. She added that three soldiers are currently recovering in Jalaa Hospital's intensive care unit.—*Xinhua*

Death toll in Syrian bombing raid on Aleppo rises to 76

BEIRUT, 16 Dec—Seventy-six people, including 28 children, were killed on Sunday when Syrian army helicopters dropped "barrel bombs" on the northern city of Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday.

Barrel bombs are explosive-filled cylinders or oil barrels, often rolled out of the back of helicopters with little attempt at striking a particular target but capable

of causing widespread casualties and significant damage.

The Britain-based Observatory said that rebel groups in Aleppo issued a statement asking civilians in government-held parts of the city to move away from state security buildings, which they said would be targeted in retaliation for the bombings.

President Bashar al-Assad's forces, battling

rebels in a 2-1/2 year conflict that has killed more than 100,000 people, frequently deploy air power and artillery against rebel-held districts across the country.

They have been unable to recapture eastern and central parts of Aleppo, which rebels stormed in the summer of 2012, but they have driven rebel fighters back from towns to the southeast of the city in recent weeks. The conflict has grown sectarian, with majority Sunni rebels battling Assad's own Alawite sect and Shi'ite militia. The Observatory — which has a network of opposition, pro-government and medical sources — also said on Monday that rebels in northern Aleppo province were threatening to strike two Shi'ite villages they have surrounded with missiles if barrel bombs were used again by the army.

Reuters



Residents look for survivors at a damaged site after what activists said was an air strike from forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Takeek Al-Bab area of Aleppo, on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Iran committed to continuing nuclear talks: foreign minister

DUBAI, 16 Dec — Iran will continue nuclear negotiations with world powers despite "unsuitable actions" which led to it halting technical talks in Vienna, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday.

The United States on Thursday blacklisted additional companies and people under existing sanctions intended to prevent Iran from obtaining the capability to make nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear programme is for electricity generation and medical purposes only.

Iran's negotiators on Friday interrupted talks in Vienna on how to implement a nuclear agreement because, its officials said, the US decision was against the spirit of the deal.

"In the last few days

unsuitable actions have been taken on the part of Americans which we have responded to in an appropriate manner," Zarif said in a posting on his Facebook page.

"We will continue with negotiations in Geneva with seriousness and we will certainly show a

correct, measured and targeted response to any unsuitable action," he said.

The development has highlighted potential obstacles negotiators face in pressing ahead with efforts to resolve a decade-old dispute between the Islamic Republic and the West.

Reuters



A technician is seen at the uranium conversion facility in Isfahan, 450 kilometres south of Teheran on 3 Feb, 2007.—REUTERS

Thai opposition debates whether to run in February election



Anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban (C) leaves The Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters in Bangkok on 14 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 16 Dec — Thailand's main opposition party opened a meeting on Monday to decide whether to take part in a snap election called by the government to defuse street protests but one senior member said reforms demanded by the protesters should be implemented first.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra called the election after weeks of protests against her and her brother, ousted ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and his influence on Thailand's political system.

The protesters, backed by Bangkok's elite, have rejected the election and want to set up a "people's council" that would eradicate the

influence of the "Thaksin regime" and introduce reforms following a decade of election wins by Thaksin or his allies with support from the urban and rural poor. The protests have also been supported by the main opposition Democrat Party, Thailand's oldest party. All Democrat lawmakers resigned from parliament this month and some joined the protests, including leader Abhisit Vejjajiva, who was prime minister from late 2008 until 2011.

But the party has yet to announce its stand on the 2 February election. A boycott by the Democrats would rob the vote of much of its legitimacy and prolong political uncertainty.

Reuters

US seeks Okinawa's unconditional OK for base replacement landfill

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — Washington has told Tokyo that the Okinawa prefectural government should unconditionally allow work to begin on reclaiming land needed to relocate a US military base within the prefecture as planned, Japan-US relations sources said on Sunday.

The move appears aimed at putting more pressure on Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakaima, who will decide within this month whether to approve the

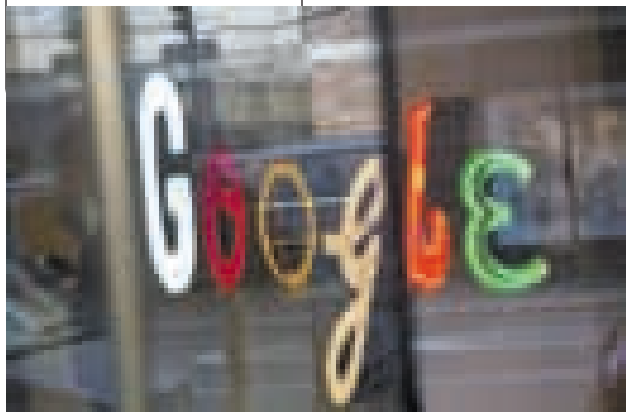
application from the central government for the landfill work needed to relocate the Marines' Futenma Air Station from the densely populated Ginowan to the less populated coastal Henoko area in Nago. A senior US official conveyed the view on the long-stalled issue as Washington is worried the stalemate might persist if Nakaima attaches conditions in approving the work, the sources said.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google removes privacy feature from Android mobile software

The Google signage is seen at the company's headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS



SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Dec — Google Inc has removed an experimental privacy feature from its Android mobile software that had allowed users to

block apps from collecting personal information such as address book data and a user's

operating system for mobile devices released this week, must provide access to their personal data in order to use certain apps.

A company spokesman said the feature had been included by accident in Android 4.3, the version released last summer.

"We are suspicious of this explanation, and do not think that it in any way justifies removing the feature rather than improving it," said Peter Eckersley, technology projects director at the Electronic Frontier Foundation. The digital rights website first publicized the change in a blog post on Friday.

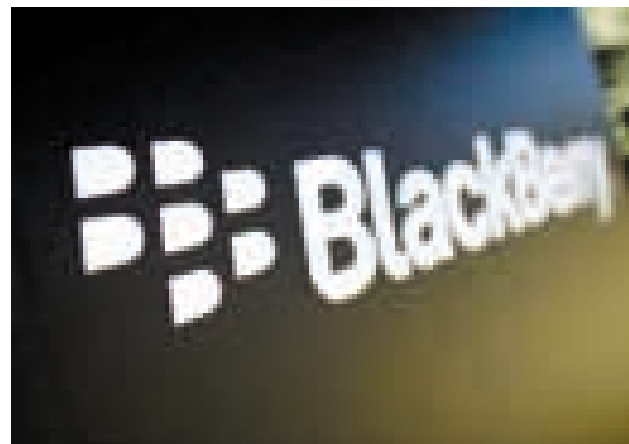
Android users who

wish to retain the privacy controls by not upgrading to Android 4.4.2 could be vulnerable to security risks, Eckersley said. "For the time being, users will need to choose between either privacy or security on the Android devices, but not both."

Many third-party apps for Android devices, such as music-identifying service Shazam and popular smartphone flashlight apps, require access to personal information that does not always have an obvious connection to the app's functionality, such as phone call information and location data.

Reuters

BlackBerry extends deadline to boost capital increase



A BlackBerry logo is seen at the BlackBerry campus in Waterloo, on 23 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

TORONTO, 16 Dec — BlackBerry Ltd, which recently concluded a \$1 billion convertible debt offering, said it has agreed with its debtholders to extend an option deadline to provide updated financial information to prospective investors after its third-quarter 2013 results have been released on 20 December.

If the option is exercised, the purchase of the additional convertible debentures will be completed on or before 16 January, the company said.

The struggling smartphone maker last month shelved plans to sell itself and instead opted to raise funds via a \$1 billion notes offering led by Fairfax Financial Holdings, its largest shareholder.

In a brief statement late on Thursday, BlackBerry said the earlier announced investor option to purchase up to an additional \$250 million of convertible debentures, as part of the offering, has now been extended to 13 January.

BlackBerry, which reports quarterly results next on Friday, has been in quiet period since the closing of the initial offering.

The company said the extension will enable it to

provide updated financial information to prospective investors after its third-quarter 2013 results have been released on 20 December.

Investors that bought into the initial debt offering include Canso Investment Counsel, Mackenzie Financial, Markel Corp, Qatar Holding, Manulife Financial and Brookfield Asset Management.

BlackBerry shares on the Nasdaq are hovering around 10-year lows, on concerns of further erosion of the company's sales. Investors fear the company's three-month-long review of strategic options may have led to subscriber losses in the quarter ended 30 November.

Shares of BlackBerry were up 10 cents at C\$6.00 in early trading on the Nasdaq on Friday.

Reuters

Iran says it sends second monkey into space, brings it back safely

DUBAI, 16 Dec — Iran said on Saturday it had sent a second live monkey into space and brought it back safely, the latest demonstration of the country's missile capabilities, state news agency IRNA reported.

"President Hassan Rouhani ... congratulated Iranian scientists and experts on successfully sending a second living creature into space," the news agency said.

Iran said it launched its first monkey to space in January. Rouhani used Twitter to mark the latest event, a demonstration of rocket power that is likely to cause concern in the West and among some Gulf states, which are worried about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

He said the monkey was named Fargam and had been returned to earth "safe



A photojournalist takes pictures at the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) in Mahdasht, about 60 km (37 miles) west of Teheran, on 29 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

and sound".

"In total, this is the second monkey sent into space and returned in perfect health to Iran," Rouhani said in another Twitter message.

In November, the world's six powers made a breakthrough deal for Tehran to curb its nuclear pro-

gramme in return for limited sanctions easing. The agreement appeared to face its first major difficulty on Friday with Russia warning that expanding a US sanctions blacklist could seriously complicate the deal's implementation.

The Islamic Republic denies seeking weapons

capability and says it seeks only electricity from its uranium enrichment so it can export more of its considerable oil wealth.

The West worries that long-range ballistic technology used to propel Iranian satellites into orbit could be put to use dispatching nuclear warheads to a target.

Iran's Gulf Arab neighbors view Iran missile capabilities as a threat. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have spent heavily in the past few years on advanced US-made missile defence systems.

Iran's efforts to develop and test ballistic missiles and build a space launch capability have contributed to Israeli calls for pre-emptive strikes on Iranian nuclear sites and billions of dollars of US ballistic missile defence spending.—Reuters

Amazon pressed on gun accessory sales, a year after Newtown

BOSTON, 16 Dec — Activist investors have asked Amazon.com Inc to review its sales of firearms accessories, concerned that the online retailer offers products that could



A zoomed image of a computer screen showing the Amazon logo is seen in Vienna on 26 Nov, 2012.
REUTERS

be used to convert semi-automatic rifles into weapons that fire too rapidly to be legal.

The shareholder scrutiny of the world's largest online retailer comes a day before the anniversary of the school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, where a gunman killed 26 people. The incident led to extensive debate over US gun-control laws and pressure on gun-makers and traditional retailers.

The activists include the managers of funds that promote themselves as socially responsible investors, and a deputy of New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who manages the state's retirement fund. They sent Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos a letter on 25 November and showed it to Reuters on Thursday.—Reuters

Twitter backtracks on block feature after users revolt



Dick Costolo, chief executive of Twitter, leaves JP Morgan headquarters after a meeting before the firm's IPO in New York on 25 Oct, 2013 file photo.
REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Dec — Twitter Inc was forced to nix a change to its "block" feature on Thursday after attracting a wave of protest from users who said the new policy empowered perpetrators of online abuse.

The humbling reversal on one of the most sensitive policy issues facing the social network came as Twitter encountered user revolt for the first time as a public company.

Under the short-lived change on Thursday, a blocked Twitter user could view or tweet at the person who blocked him or her,

but that activity would have been rendered invisible to the victim as if the offending account did not exist.

Under the re-instated policy, users could prevent their harassers from following them or interacting with their tweets. Users are also explicitly notified if they are blocked.

Before it backtracked, Twitter had said Thursday that the change was meant to protect victims of harassment who wanted to filter out abusive messages but feared that the act of blocking a user would prompt retaliation.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Healthy eating costs an extra \$1.50 per day

NEW YORK, 16 Dec — That healthy foods cost more has become conventional wisdom, but a new study is the most thorough yet in calculating how much more: about a dollar and a half.

“Before now, we’ve seen studies looking at prices of one or a few foods or diets, in one city and from one store,” said Mayuree Rao. “And the results have been mixed, with some studies finding that the healthier options cost more and some studies finding they don’t.”

Rao is a junior research fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health and a medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical

School of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She led the study that was published in *BMJ Open*.

The research team identified 27 previous studies from 10 countries that met their inclusion criteria and reviewed each of them. Fourteen studies were conducted in the US, two in Canada, six in Europe and five in other countries including South Africa, New Zealand, Japan and Brazil.

Twelve of the studies were market surveys that evaluated the prices of anywhere from two to 133 foods each and included up to 1,230 stores.

Fifteen studies were dietary surveys that ranged



Students eat a healthy lunch at Marston Middle School in San Diego, California, on 7 March, 2011. —REUTERS

from 30 participants to more than 78,000.

The researchers compared the costs of the healthiest eating patterns with the least healthful and found that the healthiest diets cost on average \$1.47 more per day based on actual food intake, or about \$1.54 more per day for every 2,000 calories consumed.

The studies in the review used various definitions of “healthy” - including comparing the amount of fat or sugar in similar products, or comparing whole grain versus refined carbohydrate versions, or looking at total fruit and vegetable intake or overall calories.

Reuters

A currency for the future, or just a bubble?



BEIJING, 16 Dec — Bitcoin, the virtual currency, has created something of a frenzy in China, with its value surging more than 80 percent in a year. Until last week, that is, when it plunged more than 30 percent after the central bank banned financial institutions from involvement in bitcoin trading.

The majority of Chinese investors, who seem to love speculation, know little about the mechanisms surrounding the currency. They can’t hold one in their hands nor use bitcoin in their normal daily lives.

Therefore, it seems like the right time to damp down the heated bitcoin trade in China, which had account-

ed for more than half of the currency’s global trading volume.

“It’s a game of speculation (in China), and few people know or care what’s behind it,” said James Li, head of BTC360.com, a bitcoin trading platform which he founded this year.

Bitcoin was introduced in 2008 by a programmer, or group of programmers, under the name of Satoshi Nakamoto. It was designed to become an alternative to government-backed currencies.

There are 12.1 million bitcoins in virtual circulation, and their supply is strictly governed by rules embedded in complicated software.

Most of the early bitcoin investors or collectors were geeks or finan-

cial experts. Even as an IT journalist, I can’t explain the mechanism of the virtual currency in a few sentences. The value of one bitcoin was up to 6,970 yuan (US\$1,143) last month, compared with less than 100 yuan a year ago.

Despite the central bank’s announcement, it rebounded to about 5,036 yuan yesterday, after dropping to 4,500 yuan last week, according to BTC360 and BTC China, the country’s biggest online bitcoin trading exchanges.

Xinhua

New Zealand economy to take off despite exchange rate challenge

WELLINGTON, 16 Dec — The New Zealand economy is expected to grow strongly in the next two years, despite the country’s currency remaining stubbornly high, according to a report from a leading economic think-tank on Monday.

Economic growth would pick up from 2.8 percent in the March 2014 year to 3.1 percent the following year, according to the Consensus Forecasts, an average of economic forecasts from financial and economic agencies, compiled by the New Zealand

Institute of Economic Research (NZIER).

Exports this year were depressed by a drought during the last southern summer, but would grow strongly by an average of 3.2 percent a year in the next three years, said the report. The New Zealand dollar would gradually ease from current highs, “but the level will remain high compared to history,” it said.

The labour market would improve, with more jobs, unemployment easing from the current 6.3 percent to about 5 percent, and wages rising by an average 3

percent over the next three years.

Inflation would pick up towards 2.5 percent over the next few years, and interest rates would gradually increase from early 2014. The rebuild of the earthquake-battered Canterbury region would be a key economic driver, but recovery was also broadening across other investment, exports and household spending.

The government operating balance would be in deficit in 2014, but in surplus in 2015 and would continue improving thereafter. —Xinhua

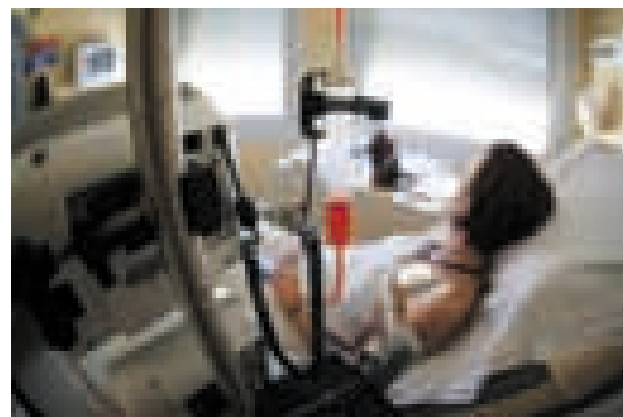
AbbVie drug shows promise against difficult type of breast cancer

NEW YORK, 16 Dec — Women with an especially deadly type of breast cancer who received a treatment regimen containing an experimental AbbVie Inc drug prior to surgery are likely to have a significantly better response than those who get a standard chemotherapy regimen, according to data from a clinical trial.

Patients with so-called triple negative breast cancer,

toward developing more personalized treatments. Its design allows researchers to continuously monitor how patients respond as the trial progresses and move patients into arms of the study testing drugs from which they are more likely to gain benefit.

This type of trial should help companies select the right group of patients to enroll into larger, more traditional late stage clinical trials, potentially



A patient receives chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer at the Antoine-Lacassagne Cancer Centre in Nice July 26, 2012. — REUTERS

who tend to be younger and have a very poor prognosis, appeared to have double the response rate to the regimen containing AbbVie’s veliparib in a new type of study that exploits advances in molecular understanding of the disease, researchers found.

The trial dubbed I-SPY 2 is another step

cutting the cost of bringing new medicines to market.

Drugmakers are under increasing pressure to cut the cost of new medicines that put a huge burden on healthcare systems. One way to do that would be through more efficient, alternative testing methods that lead to fewer trial failures.—Reuters

Detroit of the East gives green light to Renault

BEIJING/SHANGHAI, 16 Dec — Renault SA (RENA.PA) clinched full access to China’s auto market on Monday by sealing a joint venture agreement with state-owned Dongfeng Motor Group (0489.HK) in Wuhan, a city fast shaping up as China’s own Detroit.

Nine years after the two companies first

announced plans for the joint venture, they finally inked a \$1.3 billion 50-50 partnership to introduce the French carmaker’s own locally assembled models in the world’s biggest auto market.

The deal allows Renault to fully tap demand in China, something it has been unable to do until

now because of the lack of a strong local partner. China’s central government requires all foreign automakers to have a local partner to be allowed to produce cars in the country.

To build a Chinese presence, Renault has been forced to rely on imports from South Korea. Now with Dongfeng, it will invest 7.76 billion yuan (\$1.28 billion) to build a factory in the central city of Wuhan, with the first car due to roll off the production line in 2016.

Renault, which has a long-standing alliance with Japan’s Nissan Motor Co (7201.T) with whom it shares technology, plans to manufacture 150,000 cars a year in Wuhan and set up a jointly run network of retail stores.



A Renault Captur car is displayed during the company’s annual shareholder meeting in Paris on 30 April, 2013.

REUTERS

Reuters



The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games



Pa Pa (Right) and Myint Myint Aye (Left) run in Women's Marathon of 27th SEA Games in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



School children line up outside Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium for billiard and snooker.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



School children line up to get cups of Milo at a free shop at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Fans gather to enjoy a cycling event in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Fans line up to get on free shuttle buses outside Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



A girl poses for photo with 27th SEA Games mascot at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE





The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games

Myanmar runners satisfied with silver medals



Ying Ren Mok of Singapore holds the State Flag of Singapore after crossing finishing line during the men's marathon Event.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Gold medal went to Ying Ren Mok (2:28:36) of Singapore and silver medal

Philippine men, Thai women Snatch gold in basketball event



Photo shows women's basketball match between Myanmar and the Philippines at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).—KTL (NLM)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—The final matches of basketball event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A), here, this noon with two women's events and one men's event.

Altogether 189 players from Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia took part in the basketball events from 8 to 16 December.

At today's events,

Thailand beat Indonesia and the Philippines won over Myanmar in women's basketball events while Thailand defeated Myanmar in men's basketball event.

The Philippines secured gold, Thailand, silver and Singapore, bronze in men's event while Thailand took gold, the Philippines, silver and Malaysia, bronze in women's event.

Khaing Thanda Lwin (NLM)

marathon event of 27th SEA Games.

In the women's marathon event, Thi Binh Pham of Vietnam clinched first prize (2:45:34), Myint Myint Aye of Myanmar, second prize (2:46:07) and Pa Pa (2:49:01) of Myanmar, third prize.

Panwat Gimsrang of Thailand got first prize in women's hammer throw event of 27th SEA Games, Renee Kelly Lee Casier of Malaysia, second and Mingkamon Koomphon of Thailand, third.

Myo Than (NLM)

Myanmar seize five medals in weightlifting event

YANGON, 16 Dec—At today's final matches, Gold medal went to Thailand, silver to Myanmar, and bronze to Malaysia, in women's (69 kilo) event while Thailand secured gold, Vietnam, silver and Malaysia, bronze in men's (94 kilo) event.

Eleven men's and women's events took place and 33 medals were awarded



Photo shows women's volleyball match between Myanmar and Indonesia at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (B).—KTL (NLM)

the weightlifting event of the 27th SEA Games.

In eleven events, Thailand took six gold, Indonesia, three and Myanmar and Vietnam one each. Myanmar secured five medals—one gold by Aye Thanda Lwin, two silver by Kyaw Moe Win and Le Le Win and two bronze by Pyae Phyoo and Myint Kyi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—The volleyball events of the 27th SEA Games continued for the fourth day at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (B), here, this morning.

Altogether 172 players from Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are participating in the events from 13 to 21 December.

At today's matches,

Thailand beat Vietnam with 3-0 points and Indonesia won over Myanmar with 3-1 in women's play off events while Indonesia beat Laos with 3-0 in men's preliminary-B event.

Malaysia will meet Vietnam tomorrow in women's play off event and Malaysia will vie with Cambodia and Thailand will play against Myanmar in men's preliminary-A events.

Khaing Thanda Lwin (NLM)



Soccer fans watch the match between Myanmar and Indonesia at a teashop in Thabyaychaung village, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 December, 2013

The spirit of the Games

The spirit of the entire country is extremely high these days because of the 27th South-East Asian Games we are hosting in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung. Myanmar people love their land and race more than ever having a strong and united wish—the success of their sportsmen and sportswomen at the SEA Games.

They cry hoorah with great joy whenever a Myanmar athlete wins or grabs a medal, especially it is so emotional for them if it is gold! But they are so downhearted and disappointed when an unfortunate Myanmar participant cannot accomplish his or her mission.

Sometimes, they are so annoyed for the failure, because it is a very rare opportunity for all the countryfolks to witness the success of sports enhancing the glory of the country right in front of their own eyes.

We can see the passion and hope of Myanmar people especially on the facebook. We were very happy when our country was at the top of the medal standings. But we must not underestimate our rivals, because they too come here with the noble wish of bringing glory back to their country! In fact this regional biennial event has come back to Myanmar after a 44-year interval. It is a long wait for everyone.

So, it is not unusual that the spirit of every Myanmar is very high at this moment. They are really proud to be Myanmars, with love and joy in their hearts and unity and strength in their minds. “Myanmars love Myanmar”—the true spirit of the Games, and this spirit must live forever!

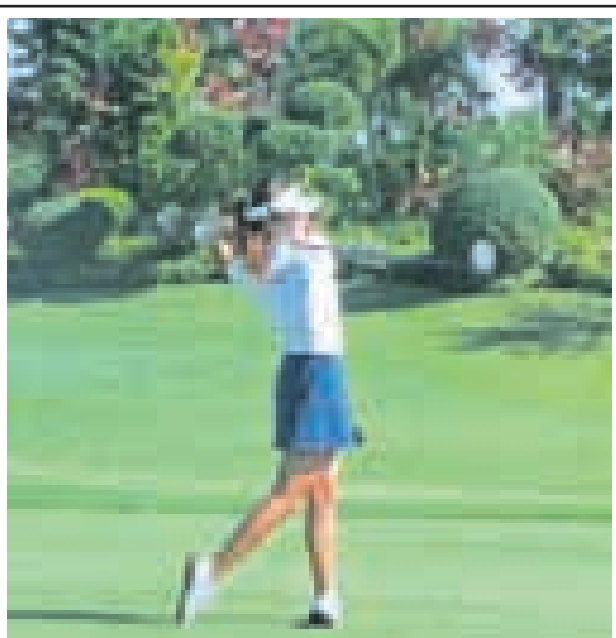
Aung Ngeain: Queen of ...

(from page 1)

“I want to quit the sports in 2014. But I don’t know how my bosses will make decision on it”, Aung Ngeain answered the question of media persons about her possible retirement.

“She told me at the end of 2011 SEA Games she had a plan of retiring from sports. I made a request to

continue her career until 2014 SEA Games in our country. I will ask her to be a player-coach of Myanmar archery team”, said U Kyaw Oo, chief-de-mission of Myanmar. As Aung Ngeain shot for gold today, it boosts Myanmar archery team to add more gold to its medal-table from remaining events.



Mao Ngai Ngo of Vietnam in action of today’s women’s golf event of XXVII SEA Games at Royal Myanmar Golf Club in Nay Pyi Taw.—JULY MOE

Five civil miscellaneous applications (writ) heard

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—A special bench comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt and U Mya Thein passed verdicts on five civil miscellaneous applications (writ) at the office No.1 of the Supreme Court of the Union today. They also heard one criminal miscellaneous application (writ) and five civil miscellaneous applications (writ).—MNA

Deputy Commander-in-Chief and party arrive in Kolkatta



Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Commander Lieutenant General Dalbir Singh.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—At the invitation of Chief of Army Staff of Indian Armed Forces General Bikram Singh to attend the graduation parade of Officers Training Academy to be held in Gara of the Republic of India, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and party arrived at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkatta in India on 10 December.

On his arrival at Eastern Army Command, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services held talks with Commander Lieutenant General Dalbir Singh on matters relations to bilateral relations between the two armed forces and border affairs.

Next, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief and party flew to Palam airport in New Delhi in the evening. Then, he cordially met with embassy staff and their families led by the Myanmar Ambassador to India and the military attaché and officers who were in New Delhi for taking training at Oberoi Hotel.

MNA

Preserving Myanmar women’s lineage inheritance discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint received Director Dr Maria Jaschok of International Gender Studies Centre of Oxford University in Britain at his office, here, this morning.

They had a cordial discussion of an implementation of a plan for preservation of inheritance through internal lineage and holding workshop in cooperation with Departments of History and Anthropology of University of Yangon.

MNA



Acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint receives Director Dr Maria Jaschok of International Gender Studies Centre of Oxford University in Britain.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Electric Power

Invitation to the private investors who are willing to generate the electricity by implementing hydropower projects and coal-fired thermal power projects

1. The private companies which are willing to generate the electricity by implementing hydropower projects and coal-fired thermal power projects, are invited to participate in developing power sector in Myanmar so as to fulfill the state power demands.

2. The local and foreign companies who are willing to invest in power sector had been officially invited by the government newspapers issued on 1st June 2012 and the discussion on invitation for the local and foreign investors in power sector had been also observed in Ministry of Electric Power on 21st September 2012.

power projects, projects locations (Town, Township, District, State/Region) to be implemented by the private investors as well as companies profiles in the projects proposals and then could make discussion with the Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP).

4. Private investors must conduct the environmental and social impact assessments caused by project implementation works as per the criteria and due to the findings on the assessments, only private company which could follow the procedures that are to be in line with acceptable plans, will be granted to implement the power projects. In this connection, private investors should seriously follow the above mentioned guidelines and submit the projects proposals to MOEP.

Ministry of Electric Power

XXVII SEA Games Football Results on 16-12-2013

Thailand	0 - 0	Cambodia
Indonesia	1 - 0	Myanmar

NATIONAL

Myanmar Engineering Council Office opened

YANGON, 16 Dec—A ceremony to launch the establishment of Myanmar Engineering Council (MEC) was held at Myanmar Engineering Council's Office in Human Settlement and Housing Development Department here this morning.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Lwin and U Aye Myint, Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint and Region Minister U Nyan Tun Oo cut the ribbon to open it.

Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe

Mann pressed the button to unveil the signboard and looked round the office.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint delivered addresses on the occasion.

It was also attended by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Planning and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha, region ministers, patrons of MEC, chairman and members and departmental officials.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

Culture and International Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint, International Relations Committee Chairperson U Hla Myint Oo, Investment and Industrial Development Committee Chairperson U Htay Myint, Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Maung Toe, Public Affairs Management Committee Secretary U Tin Maung Oo, Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee member U Win Than and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann being seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and officials before his departure for Indonesia and Cambodia.—MNA



Union Ministers U Zeyar Aung and Dr Ko Ko Oo attend 3rd International Energy Cooperation Symposium in ROK.—ENERGY

Myanmar delegation attends...

(from page 1)

in Seoul of the Republic of Korea on 10-12 December.

The representatives from Korea, United States, India, Italy, France, Canada, Argentina, Mexico, Hungary, Malaysia, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia at-

tended the meetings. The meeting discussed Korea's efforts for technological advancement in nuclear energy sector, human resources development, endeavors for public trust on nuclear energy, taking lessons from Fukushima nuclear reactor

explosion and transplanting technology.

Myanmar delegation also attended 3rd International Energy Cooperation Symposium and discussed matters on development of natural resource policies, oil and gas, petrochemical and renewable energy sec-

Public announcement for taking action of relevant ministries on suggestions sent to Rural Area Development Subcommittee through Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee

Undertaking of Ministry of Rail Transportation on suggestion for application of 12x12 ft land plot for construction of (315) KVA Transformer in Aung Kat Kyaw and No 13 Wards in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region

The Ministry of Rail Transportation has allowed the application of 12x12 ft land plot for construction of (315) KVA Transformer in Aung Kat Kyaw and (13) Wards in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region on 25-11-2013. Mandalay Region Electrical Engineer's

Office surveyed the land plot on 29-11-2013 and carried out digging for the poles starting from 1-12-2013 and erecting of poles on 7-12-2013.

Amarapura Township Electrical Engineer's Office will undertake installation of (11) KV power line, 400 volt power line and (315)

KVA Transformer.

It is hereby announced that complaints and enquiry on taking action of the relevant ministries are to be sent and informed to Rural Area Development Subcommittee.

Rural Area Development Subcommittee

Entertainment programmes rehearsed

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—A combine practice for entertainment programmes of the closing ceremony of the 27th SEA Games took place at No. (7) Transit Centre Ywataw of the combine practice ground, here, this morning.

Chairman of the preparation and training commit-

tee for successfully organizing opening and closing ceremonies of the 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu viewed the performers practicing for their entertainment programmes to be performed at the closing ceremony.

MNA

Thailand wins gold in women's 100-mx4 relay race, Vietnam, silver and Indonesia bronze. Thailand secures gold in men's pole vault.

Deputy Information Minister attends photo contests prize presentation ceremony



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe presents award to a winner at photo contest.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Dec—Organized by Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information, photo contests in commemoration of 66th Anniversary Independence Day was held in conjunction with prize awarding

ceremony at Traders Hotel this morning.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe made an opening speech and presented first prize to Kyaw Kyaw Win, second prize to Myo Zaw Oo and third prize

to Kyi Soe Tun (Kyaukme) under title of Peaceful and Developed Myanmar.

Yangon Region Finance Minister Daw San San Nwe and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Maung Maung, Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) and Chairman of Myanmar Photographic Society U Pe Myint Oo presented awards to first, second, third and special prize winners in another photo contest in commemoration of 66th Anniversary Independence Day.

Then, the chairman of MPA explained matters on selection of prizes and on behalf of prize winners, Aung Kyaw Tun (Pathingyi) spoke words of thanks.

Next, the deputy minister and party viewed the prize winning photos.

MNA

Myanmar Oil Dealers Association holds AGM, workshop

YANGON, 16 Dec—The 21st Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Oil Dealers Association was held at the hall of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, here, on 14 December morning.

At first, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and guests visited the booth of the oil dealers.

At the annual general meeting, Chairman of the Association U Thein Han made a speech.

Union Minister U Win Myint and Vice-President of UMFCFI U Zaw Min Win explained matters related to the works.

Chairman of the election commission U



Maung Maung announced the list of new executive committee for 2013-15 fiscal years.

Responsible persons presented certificates

of honour to those who contributed to the tasks of the annual general meeting of the association.

Later, the workshop was held. Deputy Minister

for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan presided over the workshop.

Kyemon-Thin Win (Thanlyin)

Four objectives of 66th

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

Aung Chantha micro-credit cooperative society holds meeting



LOILEM, 16 Dec—Aung Chantha Micro-credit Cooperative Society of Loilem was held at the hall of Township Information and Public Relations Department in Loilem on

14 December afternoon.

Meeting chair Daw Khin Khin Soe (retired Township Education Officer) made a speech.

Next, Township Administrator U Hlwan

Moe Han and Head of Township Cooperative Department U Zaw Min delivered speeches.

The meeting continued reading of work report of the board of directors for 2012-13 fiscal year, financial report, discussions of members and approval of future. Next, the BODs replied to queries raised by members of the society.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding staff.

Likewise, the Government Employees Cooperative held its meeting at the same venue.

Kyemon-Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

Knowledge about census taking process shared to people in Sagu

MINBU, 16 Dec—A talk on taking census process and housing matters, rural development and raising reading habit was held at Aung Chantha Basic Education Primary School in Ward 2 of Sagu in Mabu Township of Magway Region on 14 December, with an address by Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Tin.

Staff Officer U Kyaw Soe of Township Immigration and National Registration Department, Assistant Head of Department U Thant Zin and Staff Officer U Than Htay of District Information and Public Relations Department gave lectures on raising reading habit of the people,

taking census process and development tasks. They replied to queries raised by local people.

Staff members of the Township INRD Daw San

San Shwe and Daw Thein Thein Myint distributed pamphlets to the local people.

Kyemon-District IPRD



Natural Disaster

Heavy rain causes flood to Kengtung

Residences of local people flooded in Kengtung due to heavy rains on 14 December.



KENGTUNG, 16 Dec—Heavy rains hit Kengtung of Shan State (East) from 13 to 15 December. Some parts of the township suffered floods in the heavy rains.

The untimely rains destroyed vegetable plantations in the alluvial lands beside the creeks and

rivers.

The low-lying areas such as Khwanyo Market of Lengle Ward, Ward 3 and Ward 4 were inundated.

On 14 December evening, one generator of Mongkhun hydropower station was stricken by lightning. In the incident,

the power line cut off, said a staff of the department.

Kengtung Township has formed the disaster prevention and relief committee that will carry out relief and rescue works in time.

Kyemon-513

Library opened in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 16 Dec—The library Yaungchi Oo contributed by K 500,000 by Myanmar Libraries Federation and K 1.5 million by local people, was put into service in Yuzanamyang Village of Myitkyina Township on 14 December morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Khaung Lan Dee of Myitkyina District, Staff Officer U Bawm Yein of Myitkyina District

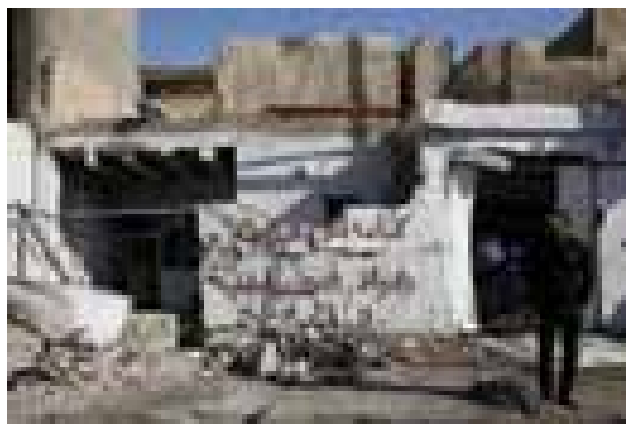
Information and Public Relations Department and local authorities formally opened the library.

Myanmar Libraries Foundation and wellwishers donated books and furniture for the library.

A local spoke words of thanks. Thanks to the library, the local people will have easy access to reading facilities for gaining general knowledge.

Kyemon-District IPRD

REGIONAL



A man stands at the scene of a car bomb attack in the Risala district in Baghdad on 15 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

Bombs, suicide attacks in Iraq kill at least 21: police, medics

TIKRIT, 16 Dec — Suicide attacks and bombings across Iraq killed at least 21 people on Monday, medical and police sources said, the latest in a series of attacks that has brought violence in Iraq to its highest level in five years. The deadliest attack took place in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, where four bombers wearing explosive belts took over a police station after detonating a parked car bomb outside the building, police sources said.

Two blew themselves up inside the station, killing five policemen. The other two took control of the station for about an hour before detonating themselves as Iraqi special forces raided the station, the sources said.

“We believe that the

attack was aimed at freeing the detainees who are being held in the building next door,” said Major Salih al-Qaisi, a police officer who was at the scene.

“All militants were killed before they reached the police department building where the detainees are held,” he added.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Monday’s attack, but suicide bombings are the trademark of al-Qaeda’s Iraqi wing, which merged this year with its Syrian counterpart to form the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

In Baghdad, a string of car bombs and roadside bombs killed at least 14 people and wounded 34, police and medical sources said.—Reuters

A civil society volunteer distributes flowers to a migrant worker in Singapore’s Little India area, on 15 Dec, 2015. Some civil society activists distribute flowers to people as a symbol of peace in Singapore’s Little India area on Sunday.

XINHUA



Australian troops completely withdraw from Afghanistan

CANBERRA, 15 Dec — The main Australian base in Oruzgan Province in Afghanistan has officially closed, with the last Australian troops leaving Uruzgan province, Defence Minister David Johnston and Prime Minister Tony Abbott confirmed in a joint press conference on Monday.

Tony Abbott has announced the completion of the drawdown after Australia’s longest ever overseas combat deployment.

David Johnston confirmed that the last troops left Oruzgan on Sunday. They left the base at Tarin Kot and are currently en route back home to Australia. In addition, Abbott also said he believed Afghan forces were up to the job of maintaining security.

“The Afghan National Army has performed with considerable distinction over the last fighting season. Certainly our soldiers are very happy with the pro-

Japan, Cambodia to upgrade ties to “strategic partnership”

TOKYO, 16 Dec — Japan and Cambodia agreed on Sunday to advance defence cooperation between the two countries, and to upgrade bilateral relations to a “strategic partnership.”

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen oversaw the signing in Tokyo by the defence ministers of both countries of a memorandum of understanding concerning bilateral defence cooperation and exchanges.

“We would like to strengthen tie-ups in addressing issues in the region and the international

community,” Abe told a news conference after a meeting with Hun Sen.

Hun Sen said the tense situation in the East China Sea represents a source of concern for every country in Southeast Asia, and he was pleased to hear Abe is making efforts to improve relations with China, according to a senior Japanese official who briefed journalists about the meeting.

Hun Sen also supported Japan’s call to hold a defence ministers meeting between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

Hiroshige Seko said.

Abe floated the idea during a Japan-ASEAN summit on Saturday in Tokyo.

In Sunday’s talks with Hun Sen, Abe pledged 13.8 billion yen in new loans for three infrastructure projects in Cambodia, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Of the total, 6.48 billion yen will be provided to improve the stability of the electric supply grid around Phnom Penh. The rest will cover projects to improve irrigation facilities and a highway linking the capital to Thailand.

Abe and Hun Sen also agreed to start negotiating

a bilateral air agreement with a view to launching direct flights between the two countries.

In a separate meeting with Thai Deputy Prime Minister Niwatthumrong Boonsongpaisan, Abe requested the Thai authorities ensure the safety of Japanese residents and visitors in the country where large political demonstrations have been held almost daily recently. Niwatthumrong attended the Japan-ASEAN summit on behalf of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who the demonstrators have demanded resign.—Kyodo News

Japan, China, S Korea agree to work together on environmental pollution

BEIJING, 16 Dec — Chinese, Japanese and South Korean government officials and environmental experts wound up a two-day symposium in the central China province of Hebei on Sunday and agreed the three countries should work together on environmental pollution problems, China’s official media said.

Japanese Ambassador to China Masato Kitera attended the academic symposium held in Xianghe and hosted by a Chinese government-affiliated think tank.

Kyodo News

A government-sponsored meeting is held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 Dec, 2013, in an effort to resolve the political conflict that has led to prolonged antigovernment demonstrations.

KYODO NEWS



At least 21 killed in bus fall-off in Philippine capital region

MANILA, 16 Dec — At least 21 people were killed and scores were wounded when a passenger bus fell from an elevated Skyway in Taguig City, Metro Manila, and allegedly landed into a van under the highway early Monday morning, a senior government official said.

Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board Chairman Winston Ginez said in a television interview that a Don Mariano Transit Bus fell from the south bound lane of the highway while on its way to Alabang, Muntinlupa City, at around 6:30 am local time.

The driver of the van was reportedly one of those killed while the driver of the bus was one of the survivors,

he said. Ginez said the bus driver would undergo drug and alcohol test as investigators were yet to determine if the cause of accident was “human error, negligence or mechanical error.”

The families of those who died in the accident would receive 75,000 pesos (1,697 US dollars) each while those injured would receive 15,000 pesos (339 dollars) each, he said.

Xinhua

Philippines needs 3 bln USD for rebuilding in typhoon-hit areas

MANILA, 16 Dec — The Philippine government needs a total of 130 billion pesos (about 2.95 billion US dollars) to rehabilitate the communities in the central part of the country devastated by typhoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda, President Benigno Aquino III said on Sunday. The amount not only covers the initial

phase of the rebuilding effort, which was estimated to cost 40.9 billion pesos (about 929.55 million US dollars), but also the medium-term recovery programme.

“With the help of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and many other countries and institutions, the estimated 130 billion pesos requirement to address

the communities affected by Yolanda is almost complete,” the president said after he returned from Japan where he attended the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit.

Death toll from Haiyan has reached 6,057 while injured persons remain at 27,468. Another 1,779 individuals are still missing.

Xinhua



Indian people gather to take part in the “Run for Unity” organized by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in support of building a gigantic statue of Sardar Patel, which it claims would be the world’s tallest statue on Sadhu Bet in Narmada river in Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 15 Dec, 2013. The run is being held simultaneously in 1,100 places across the country.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (829)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (829) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2013 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-
SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VEREINA VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEREINA VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(16/2013)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-134(2013-2014)	Spares for AB 100 Well Servicing Truck	(2) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-135(2013-2014)	Spares for Blow Out Preventer Ex ZJ 70 L Drilling Rigs	(5) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-136(2013-2014)	Universal Fuel Pump Test Stand	(1) No	US\$
(4)	IFB-137(2013-2014)	5 Ton Elevator (0.16 m ³)	(2) Units	US\$
(5)	IFB-138(2013-2014)	25 Ton Elevator (1.2 m ³)	(2) Units	US\$
(6)	IFB-139(2013-2014)	Rig Air Compressor	(6) Nos	US\$
(7)	IFB-140(2013-2014)	30 Ton Crawler Crane	(1) Unit	US\$
(8)	IFB-141(2013-2014)	8" & 6 1/2" Spiral Drill Collar	(2) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-142(2013-2014)	Welding Electrode E 6011 (30 Ton)	(1) Lot	US\$
(10)	IFB-143(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D379 & CAT D399 Engines	(5) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB-144(2013-2014)	Drawworks Main Drum Brake Shoe Lining	(9) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB-145(2013-2014)	Portable Welding Machine with Complete Accessories (300 AMP, Diesel Engine Driven)	(4) Units	US\$
(13)	IFB-146(2013-2014)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve (1200 Rolls) Closure Patches (25000 Nos)	(4) Items	US\$
(14)	DMP/L-044(2013-2014)	Spares for F 1000 Rig Pump Ex D3T2 SR I & II	(12) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-045(2013-2014)	Rotor Seal for ZJ 70 L SR I & II	(10) Items	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-046(2013-2014)	Electrical Spares for Caterpillar Gas Engine Lighting Set	(4) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time -

13-1-2014, 16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16th 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RICKMERS MUMBAI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RICKMERS MUMBAI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.12.2013 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 RICKMERS LINE GMBH &
CR-KG

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER

Invitation to the private investors who are willing to generate the electricity by implementing hydropower projects and coal-fired thermal power projects

- The private companies which are willing to generate the electricity by implementing hydropower projects and coal-fired thermal power projects, are invited to participate in developing power sector in Myanmar so as to fulfill the state power demands.
- The local and foreign companies who are willing to invest in power sector had been officially invited by the government newspapers issued on 1st June 2012 and the discussion on invitation for the local and foreign investors in power sector had been also observed in Ministry of Electric Power on 21st September 2012.
- Private investors who are willing to invest the power projects must completely mention the types of power projects, projects locations (Town, Township, District, State/Region) to be implemented by the private investors as well as companies profiles in the projects proposals and than could discuss with the Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP).
- Private Investors must conduct the environmental and social impact assessments caused by project implementation works as per the criteria and due to the findings on the assessments, only private company which could be able to follow the procedures that are to be in line with acceptable plans, will be granted to implement the power projects. In this connection, private investors should seriously follow the above mentioned guidelines and submit the projects proposals to MOEP.

Ministry of Electric Power

No Pain No Gain

Italy to provide port for Syrian chemical weapons transfer

ROME, 16 Dec — Italy has agreed to provide a port for use in the transfer of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal between ships on the way to its destruction at sea, its Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

Syria is due to hand over deadly toxins which can be used to make sarin, VX gas and other lethal agents under an

international agreement forged in the wake of an attack on the outskirts of Damascus which killed hundreds last August.

Danish and Norwegian ships will collect the toxic arsenal from the Syrian port city of Latakia. The chemicals will be destroyed at sea on board a specially adapted US ship because they are too dangerous to import

into a country.

Until now, it was not clear how the containers of chemicals could be transferred from the Scandinavian ships onto the US vessel.

An Italian Foreign Ministry official said the use of the port was the maximum role Italy was prepared to serve in the operation, and that the chemicals would not touch Italian

territory at any point.

The official would not identify which port would be used.

Syria's 2-1/2-year civil war has killed at least 125,835 people, according to Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and over 2 million refugees have fled, often overwhelming neighbouring countries.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Obamas, stars come out for Christmas in Washington show

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec—President Barack Obama mixed the Christmas spirit and the X-Men movies on Sunday at a taping of a holiday show that included performances from a host of stars from Sheryl Crow to the Backstreet Boys.

Obama, his wife Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia attended the taping of “Christmas in Washington,” an annual concert that benefits the Children’s National Medical Centre. The show is to

air on television network TNT on 20 December.

With Hugh Jackman playing the host of the programme, Obama could not resist connecting the actor to the Wolverine character he has played in the X-Men movies.

“I want to thank our host Hugh Jackman for keeping our safety in mind by leaving Wolverine’s claws at home,” he said.

“It can’t be easy to wrap presents with those things; good for carving up roast beast though,” Obama



US President Barack Obama (2nd R), his wife Michelle (R) and their daughters Malia (L) and Sasha (2nd L) join performers onstage to sing Christmas carols during a taping of the Christmas in Washington television benefit programme at the National Building Museum in Washington on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

said.

The show’s lineup included performances of holiday favourites by the

Backstreet Boys, singers Sheryl Crow and Janelle Monae, and actress Anna Kendrick.—Reuters

Three ‘Avatar’ sequels to be made in New Zealand: government

WELLINGTON, 16 Dec — US film companies 20th Century Fox and Lightstorm Entertainment will make the next three movies in the science fiction “Avatar” series in New Zealand, spending NZ\$500 million (\$413 million) on live action and visual effects.

The agreement comes after the New Zealand government hiked film industry tax rebates to up to 25 percent from the current 15 percent.

“The Avatar sequels will provide hundreds of jobs and thousands of hours of work directly in the screen sector as well as jobs right across the economy,”

Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce said in a statement.

New Zealand will also host one “red carpet” premiere, with the producers also agreeing to promote the country as a tourist destination, and film making venue.

The original “Avatar”, which was nominated for nine Oscars and won three in 2010, was partly made in New Zealand, with special effects done at Weta Digital, which also worked on the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and the Hobbit series.

“Avatar” director James Cameron has a farm in New Zealand.—Reuters

Oscar-winning actress Joan Fontaine dead at 96



Oscar-winning actress Joan Fontaine

LOS ANGELES, 16 Dec—Oscar-winning actress Joan Fontaine, whose film career was marked by

a long-running rivalry with her sister, Olivia de Havilland, died on Sunday at age 96 at her home in Carmel,

California, Hollywood’s two trade publications reported.

The Hollywood Reporter said Fontaine’s death from natural causes was confirmed by the star’s assistant, Susan Pfeiffer.

Among Fontaine’s most memorable films was the Alfred Hitchcock picture “Suspicion,” co-starring Cary Grant, for which she won an Academy Award in 1942, beating out her older sister in the competition.

The honour gave Fontaine the distinction of being the only performer, actor or actress, ever to win an

Academy Award for a starring role in one of Hitchcock’s many movies.

De Havilland, who was nominated that year for “Hold Back the Dawn,” went on to win two Oscars of her own for leading roles in the 1946 film “To Each His Own” and the 1949 picture “The Heiress.”

Fontaine also earned Oscar nominations for her star turns in Hitchcock’s 1940 thriller “Rebecca,” co-starring Laurence Olivier, and the 1943 romantic drama “The Constant Nymph,” opposite Charles Boyer.

Reuters



A prototype Internet tablet plays an “Avatar” movie trailer being streamed in 1080p high definition over a 4G LTE wireless network at the 2010 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 7 Jan, 2010.—REUTERS

Lily Allen retains top spot in UK chart, eyes Christmas prize

LONDON, 16 Dec—English singer Lily Allen retained the number one spot in Britain’s single charts for a second week running on Sunday, putting her in a strong position to dominate the charts at Christmas.

Allen’s version of “Somewhere only we know” — a song originally released in 2004 by British band Keane — features in a major pre-Christmas advertising campaign for the John Lewis department store.

It had previously seized the top spot in November only to lose it a week later before reclaiming it last week.

Accompanied by an animated film about a bear and a hare, Allen’s track fought off a late challenge from Leona Lewis whose song “One More Sleep” shot from 34th to number

three, the Official Charts Company said.

“Hey Brother”, a track by Swedish DJ Avicii, was also a strong climber, going from eighth to number two.

In the albums chart, British singer Robbie Williams pushed One Direction’s “Midnight Memories” out of the top slot into second place with his

latest album “Swings Both Ways”.

Released four weeks ago, Williams’ album initially shot to number one only to be knocked off the top slot a week later. It has since sold over 400,000 copies and is on track to be one of this year’s biggest sellers.

Reuters



British singer Lily Allen poses as she arrives for the British premiere of Tamara Drew in Leicester Square, central London on 6 Sept, 2010.—REUTERS

Madhuri Dixit: I was confident about the makers of Dedh Ishqiya



Madhuri was last seen in the 2007 movie Aaja Nachle.

MUMBAI, 16 Dec — Actress Madhuri Dixit, who will be seen on the big screen after the 2007 film Aaja Nachle, says she chose to be part of Dedh

Ishqiya because she has faith in the makers of the film — Vishal Bhardwaj and Abhishek Chaubey.

After the success of the 2010 movie Ishqiya,

director Chaubey teamed up with filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, who has produced Dedh Ishqiya.

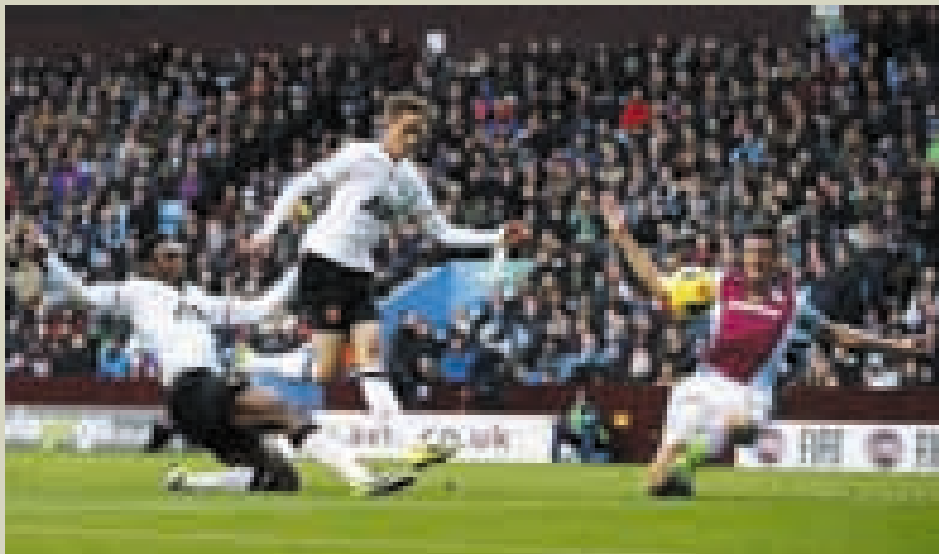
“I didn’t wait for seven years for the script. I have my reasons. I was not even living here before. I was staying abroad so to come here and work and go back was getting very tedious,” Madhuri said.

“That was one of the reasons I didn’t do anything, but when I decided to come to India and settle here, that time I decided to read scripts and Dedh Ishqiya was offered. I was confident that Vishal and Abhishek team makes good films and I would love to be part of it,” she added.

Dedh ishqiya also features Naseeruddin Shah, Huma Qureshi and Arshad Warsi.—PTI

SPORTS

Welbeck double lifts United's spirits



Manchester United's Danny Welbeck (L) scores his second goal against Aston Villa during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 Dec — England striker Danny Welbeck made the most of a rare start for Manchester United with a first-half double in a 3-0 win at Aston Villa on Sunday as the champions ended a run of four Premier League games without victory.

Welbeck, recalled in place of injured Robin van Persie, struck twice in three minutes for United who moved up one spot to eighth, 10 points behind leaders Arsenal.

United had suffered successive home defeats by Everton and Newcastle

United that followed away draws with Cardiff City and Tottenham Hotspur but outclassed the hosts and had the game safe when Tom Cleverley struck on 52 minutes.

Before kickoff Welbeck had scored as many goals for England — three

— this season as he had for United but he was in the right place to make the breakthrough on 15 minutes, poking home the rebound after Adnan Januzaj headed against the foot of the left hand upright.

His first Premier League goal since his first day of the season double against Swansea was followed swiftly by a second when he linked up with the impressive Antonio Valencia, feeding the Ecuadorian and then sprinting into the box to get on the end of his return cross.

Welbeck was inches away from a hat-trick when he slid a shot past the far post from a tight angle and also went close after the break when his chip over a stranded Brad Guzan was just too high.

Cleverley said earlier this week that some of his performances had been 'average' this season, but wore a broad smile after running

on to Wayne Rooney's pass to beat Guzan with a low shot at his near post.

"It was a good job from us. The players did well and the only thing I would criticize is that we didn't score more goals," United manager David Moyes told Sky Sports.

"We were a bit sloppy in the first five minutes but after that played really well."

United received another boost when Scotland international midfielder Darren Fletcher, battling a chronic bowel condition, came off the bench for his first match appearance since late December last year.

The cheers from United fans for Fletcher were part-drowned out by the boos from the home end that greeted former Villa forward Ashley Young.

Villa, who began brightly but carried little threat once they had fallen behind, have won just one

of their last 36 Premier League games against United.

Nathan Dyer scored for Swansea City but suffered a suspected fractured right ankle in the 1-1 draw at Norwich City.

Dyer flicked past John Ruddy on 12 minutes but was carried off on a stretcher late in the first half after a challenge with Sebastien Bassong.

"We have to wait a couple of days for an X-ray and a scan, and we all cross our fingers to hope it is not that bad," said Swansea manager Michael Laudrup. "That will overshadow everything else. It is just a game of football."

Norwich earned a point thanks to Gary Hooper's spectacular volley in first-half stoppage time. Tottenham host Liverpool in a later kickoff (1600). A victory for the visitors would lift them back up to second spot.—Reuters

Garcia takes his first title of the year in Thailand



Sergio Garcia

amazing week... obviously being the last week of the year and for having Katharina (Boehm) caddie for me," Garcia, who had his girlfriend caddying for him, told reporters.

Stenson, the first man to win the US Tour's lucrative FedExCup series and the European money list double in 2013, had halved Garcia's overnight lead to two on the turn but the Spaniard put paid to his hopes by sinking three consecutive birdies from the 10th.

"I knew Henrik was going to make it difficult for me. He's been playing so amazingly great, and he did," Garcia, 33, said. "He kept hitting good shot after good shot."

"And then when I bogeyed seven, I had to make a good par save on nine after getting a bit unlucky with the approach shot. And then I made three very important birdies on the first three on the back nine and gave myself a little bit of a cushion."

Stenson rued some missed opportunities on Sunday but was not too unhappy with his overall

performance during the week. "I've had a great year but coming here really on the fumes left in the tank, not too much going for me to perform in that sense," the Swede said.

"But I played really nicely yesterday and I was hanging in there today and I was just coming up a couple short."

Frenchman Alexander Levy (69) was four shots behind Stenson at third spot while US Open champion Justin Rose (72), last year's winner Charl Schwartzel (67) of South Africa, India's Anirban Lahiri (73) and Japan's Yuki Kono (69) finished tied for the fourth place.—Reuters

BANGKOK, 16 Dec — Spaniard Sergio Garcia carded a final-round 68 to cruise to a four-stroke win at the Thailand Golf Championship on Sunday for his first title of the year.

Garcia, 33, combined six birdies with two bogeys during the final round at the Amata Spring Country Club for a four-day total of 22-under-par 266 in the \$1 million Asian Tour event.

World number three Swede Henrik Stenson also shot a 68 with five birdies and a bogey to finish second but never managed to put Garcia under serious pressure. "It was great, an

Ski jumping-Olympic champion Morgenstern crashes in Germany



Thomas Morgenstern of Austria competes during the FIS World Cup ski jumping mixed team competition in Lillehammer, on 6 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 16 Dec — Austria's three-time Olympic ski jump gold medalist Thomas Morgenstern crashed during a World Cup event in Germany on Sunday and was rushed to hospital with facial injuries.

Morgenstern, who won two gold medals at the 2006 Turin Olympics and one more at the Vancouver Games four years later, crashed at the venue in Titisee-Neustadt after landing and losing one ski.

He slid down, hitting his head in the process before briefly managing to stand up and falling back down. He was treated nearby before being taken to hospital in Freiburg. An

Austrian skiing federation official told reporters the 27-year-old was conscious and was able to move.

On Saturday Morgen-

stern had clinched his first World Cup win of the season at the German venue to move into third place in the overall standings.—Reuters

Klose stops Lazio rot with brace



Miroslav Klose

ROME, 16 Dec — Two goals from striker Miroslav Klose on his return from injury helped Lazio to a 2-0 win over Livorno in Serie A on Sunday.

Fiorentina closed in on the Champions League places with a 3-0 home win against Bologna with Giuseppe Rossi scoring his 13th goal of the season.

Germany striker Klose struck twice in the space of seven first half minutes, relieving the pressure on coach Vladimir Petkovic who had been facing the sack after six league games

without a win.

Lazio moved up to eighth place on 20 points. Vincenzo Montella's Fiorentina strolled past second-bottom Bologna and went fourth on 30 points, only two behind Napoli in third.

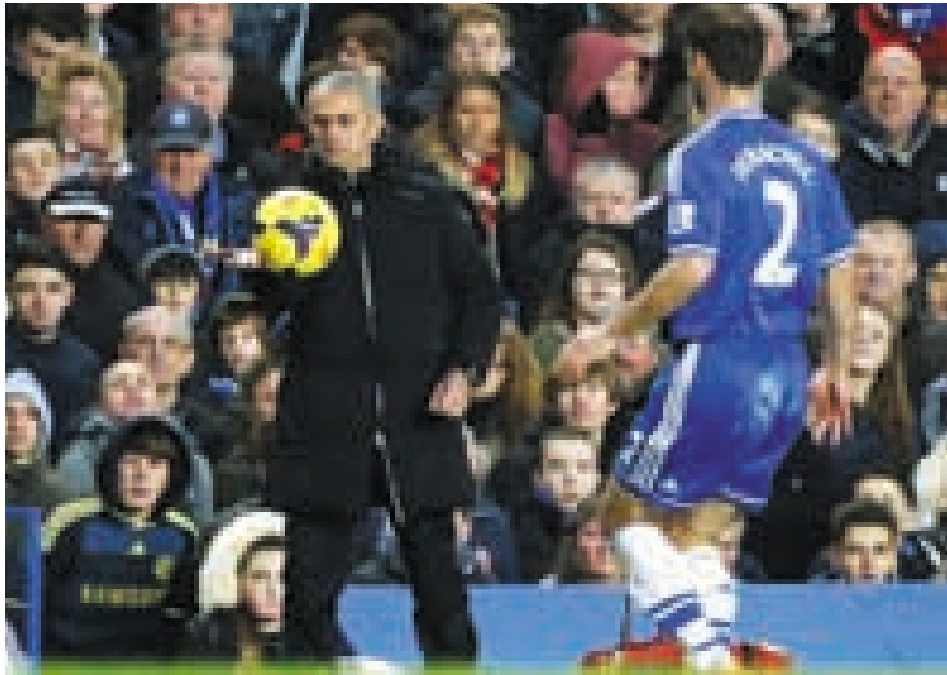
Inter Milan will go back into fourth and close the gap on Napoli if they beat Rafael Benitez's side in Sunday's late game (1945 GMT).

Leaders Juventus play at home to Sassuolo later (1730).

Reuters

GENERAL

Mourinho plays down Chelsea trophy chances



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho pats the ball to Branislav Ivanovic during their English Premier League soccer match against Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge, London, on 14 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 Dec — Jose Mourinho has played down Chelsea's chances of winning silverware this season, because they lack a killer "selfish" striker. The London side missed a series of scoring chances in their 2-1 win over strugglers Crystal Palace on Saturday but still moved within two points of Premier League leaders Arsenal, whom they meet on 23 December.

"I don't think we are the big contenders of any competition," Mourinho told BBC radio. "We don't have the striker who is going to score 30 goals in the league." Chelsea's 50 million pound (\$81.39 million)

striker Fernando Torres scored his second league goal of the season on Saturday. He and fellow strikers Demba Ba and Samuel Eto'o have contributed only five of Chelsea's 32 Premier League goals so far.

Belgian attacking midfielder Eden Hazard is top league scorer with six. "We don't have that striker we used to call the killer, the selfish one, the one that gives the last touch," Mourinho said. On Friday Mourinho said his strikers' hard work helped the attacking midfielders to get on the scoresheet but he and they were frustrated by their lack of finish.

"The number of goals is quite frustrating not just for me but also for them," he had said after training.

"Do I expect a little bit more? Yes. Do we want them to do a little more? Yes."

Mourinho repeated after Saturday's game that he did not expect to buy a striker in the January transfer window as there were unlikely to be any good ones available.

"They are in the big clubs, they are in the clubs with big ambitions and big clubs with big ambitions don't sell their top selfish ones," he said.

Reuters

Wild elephants terrorizing people in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 16 Dec — Wild elephants have been creating havoc in the south-eastern and eastern parts of Nepal that share borders with India, local media reported on Sunday. People in the border districts of Rautahat, Bara and Jhapa have been living in a state of terror, fearing possible attacks by wild elephants, which have claimed the lives of dozens of people, Nepal's state news agency RSS reported. Wild elephants also destroyed the local people's houses and properties.

Though the locals have deployed mahouts to cap-

ture the elephants, no progress has been made so far.

According to the RSS, newly elected Constituent Assembly member from the CPN-UML party, Rabin Koirala, has said that the problem of elephant terror in Jhapa district would be solved after holding talks with the Bengal government of India. Koirala said attention of Bengal chief minister would be drawn to minimize the elephant menace.

A task force would be formed to this regard very soon, he assured people.

Xinhua



Palestinians eat their lunch inside a school after being evacuated from their houses which are flooded with rainwater, on a stormy day in Gaza City on 15 Dec, 2013.

XINHUA

High fives as Suarez and Liverpool run riot at Spurs



Liverpool's Jordan Henderson (L) scores a goal against Tottenham Hotspur during their Premier League match at White Hart Lane in London on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 Dec — Luis Suarez continued his prolific form with a double in Liverpool's impressive 5-0 Premier League demolition of Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on

Sunday that lifted Brendan Rodgers' side back up to second place.

The Uruguayan got the 16th and 17th goals of his late-starting season — more than powderpuff Spurs

have managed as a team.

Jordan Henderson, Jon Flanagan and Raheem Sterling also scored as Spurs, who had Brazilian midfielder Paulinho sent off for a high challenge on Suarez

after 63 minutes, capitulated.

Liverpool moved above Chelsea on goal difference, two points behind leaders Arsenal who have 35 points from 16 games.

England striker Danny Welbeck made the most of a rare start for Manchester United with a first-half double in a 3-0 win at Aston Villa as the champions ended a run of four Premier League games without victory.

Nathan Dyer scored for Swansea City but suffered a suspected fractured right ankle in the 1-1 draw at Norwich City.

Norwich earned a point thanks to Gary Hooper's spectacular volley in first-half stoppage time.

Reuters

Miss Angola 2014 vows to focus on fight against HIV/AIDS

LUANDA, 16 Dec — Newly crowned Miss Angola 2014 Zuleica Wilson vows to focus during her mandate on awareness campaigns against HIV/AIDS and on the value of education. "A healthy population performs better the work of economic development and growth," Wilson told reporters as she emerged victorious as the most beautiful Angolan woman after Saturday's Miss Angola 2014 contest held in the Belas Convention Center in the capital Luanda.

The 20-year-old beauty said she was aware of the responsibilities she now takes up and pledged to represent Angola with dignity

in the Miss Universe beauty contest.

"My dream is to win the (Miss Universe) title" while also finishing the business and management courses at school, she said.

During the same gala, Cecilia Curizemba was elected Miss Friendly, Leonella Moniz as Miss Photogenic and Leonor Saude won the prize of Wearing the Best Typical Angolan Costume. The Miss Angola 2014 contest was attended by 19 candidates who represented the Angolan provinces and the Angolan communities abroad, including Namibia and the United State.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

17-12-13 07:00 am ~ 18-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Three Sacred Pagoda each Enshrined with Relics of Buddha's Hair, Rib and Tooth
- * World News
- * Buddha Image Built of Bamboo Strip
- * Local News
- * A Journey To The Lashio (Kyi Hla Han's Journey)
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Hand Down Arts Heritage
- * Myanmar Street Foods
- * What have you done for the Natural Environment?
- * World News
- * Karaweik Palaces: A Symbol of Glorious Myanma Culture
- * 27th SEA GAMES COMPETITION
- * Local News
- * Pride of Myanmar: Bagan Arts and Handicrafts
- * World News
- * "Moe Huyin Than Buddhé", The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
- * Local News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food-(Episode-3) (Min Lane Mont Tee)
- * World News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-5)
- * Me N My Travel (Naung Cho Trip) (Episode-3)
- * In the Studio: Sunee
- * Local News
- * Visiting A Serence Village In The Northwest of Myanmar
- * Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker leaves for Indonesia, Cambodia

YANGON, 16 Dec—At the invitation of Mr Marzuki Alie, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia and Mr Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of National As-

sembly of Cambodia, a Myanmar delegation led by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann left here by air for Indonesia and Cambodia this morning.

The Myanmar delega-

tion was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Hluttaw representatives, the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar,

the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker was accompanied by Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, (See page 9)

Union Sports Minister awards winners of marathon, archery events



Union Minister U Tint Hsan meeting with victorious Myanmar athletes.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoyed marathon, archery and billiard events at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, this morning.

In men's marathon event, gold medal went to Singapore, silver to Myanmar and bronze to the Philippines while Vietnam secured gold, My-

anmar, silver and bronze in women's marathon event.

In women's archery event, Myanmar beat Indonesia with 138:130 while Vietnam won over Thailand with 138:136 in men's archery event.

After the matches, the Union minister and the chairman of Myanmar Archery Federation awarded gold medal to Myanmar,

silver to Indonesia and bronze to Malaysia in archery women's compound event, gold to Vietnam, silver to Thailand and bronze to Singapore in men's archery compound event and the winners in men's and women's individual play off match.

Aung Htay and Nay Thway Oo won over Singapore 3-0 in billiard semi-final.—MNA



Kunialu Takizaki of Cambodia at finish line in men's marathon.

PHOTO AMS

Union FM felicitates Bhutanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— On the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Bhutan which falls on 17th December 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr. Rinzin Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

MNA

Yachting events go on at Ngwehsaung Beach

NGWEHSAUNG, 16 Dec—Yachting's second day events of the 27th SEA Games continue at Ngwehsaung Beach today.

Among the six participating countries in twelve categories, Myanmar is standing first in double Half Rater (Open) event; second in RS One (Boy) event; third in RS One (Girl) event; third in Optimist (Boy) event; fourth in Optimist (Girl) event and fifth in RS One (Open) event.

Sithu Moe Myint and

Phone Kyaw Moe Myint stood first in men's double Half Rater (Open) event. Moe Khant Tha Din Hla Myint and Thurein Tun Oo stood fourth in INT'L 420 (Boys) event while Mohammad Faizal Norizan and Ahmad Syukri Abdul Aziz of Malaysia stood first. In INT'L 420 (Girls) event, Kimberly Lim Min and Savannah Siew Kiah Hul of Singapore stood first followed by Wai Pwint Wah Bo and Theingi Win Shwe. Richly Arquino Magsanay

and Ridgely Balladares of the Philippines stood first in INT'L 470 (Men) event while Aung Myin Thu and Zeyar Hlaing stood fifth. In INT'L 470 (Woman) event, Cedlla Low and Rui Qi stood first followed by Su Myat Soe and Nan Kham Say.

Team event aged 15 years and under 15 (Optimist Team) and December Half Rater (Open) double events will be held tomorrow.

MNA



Participant yachts seen at Ngwehsaung Beach.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Culture attends PNC Annual Conference and Joint Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—Deputy Minister U Than Swe of Ministry of Culture attended the Pacific Neighbourhood Consortium (PNC) Annual Conference and Joint Meeting at Tokyo University in Japan where he read a paper entitled Establishing of Monarchical System in Myanmar during Japanese Age.

MNA

Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	59	45	49	153
Vietnam	43	36	43	122
Myanmar	39	38	41	118
Indonesia	38	51	50	139
Malaysia	25	23	46	94
Singapore	20	19	29	68
Philippines	12	18	24	54
Cambodia	4	7	12	23
Laos	3	6	20	29
Brunei	1	1	4	6
Timor-Leste	0	0	1	1