

President U Thein Sein felicitates Amir of State of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives JICA's Chief Advisor

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint met a delegation led by Chief Advisor Dr Hiroshi Shirakawa

from Human Development Department under Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at Amyotha Hluttaw Building here

this morning.

At the call, both sides have a cordial discussion on human resources development, research develop-

ment and library development for education and research works.

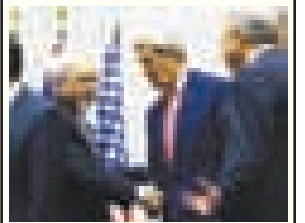
Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker

U Mya Nyein, Committee Chairmen U Nay Win Tun, Dr Khin Shwe and U San Tun.

MNA

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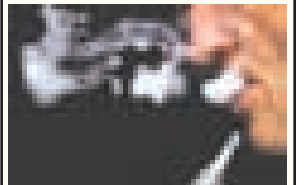
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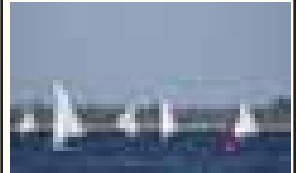
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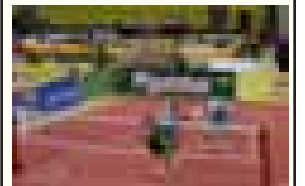


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Myanmar tops charts in sailing event



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A men's double Regu match of Sepak Takaraw between Myanmar and Thailand.

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New York State attracts 8.8 mln more visitors in 2013

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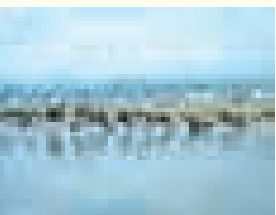
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Underground fibre cable to be laid in Kachin State for better communication system



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Phyu Wah Thet crosses the line first in 5000-M women's race

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Phyu Wah Thet crossed the finish line and took gold for Myanmar in the 27th SEA Games' 5000-M women's race today.

Myanmar runner Phyu Wah Thet left her counterparts in the race without a chance in the Athletics competition of ongoing SEA Games continued at Wunna Theikdhi Football Stadium. She powered away from her rivals and grabbed the gold medal of the event in which Indonesian opponent finished second and her fellow countrywoman Khin Mar Se third.

In men's 5000-M race, Vietnamese runner brought home gold while Thai and Indonesian rivals stood second and third places.—NLM



Phyu Wah Thet celebrating after crossing the finish line of the 5000-M women's race of 27th SEA Games.
ZAW MIN NAING (MYINGYAN IPRD)

Gold, silver go to Thai riders in women's 128 km individual

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Women's 128 km individual cycling race kicked off today at Leinli Bridge, here, this morning with

the participation of riders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and

Myanmar.

Riders peddled along Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and sped across the finish line at Nay Pyi

Taw Lewe.

Kunlapha Wilalwan of Thailand won the gold medal in 4 hours, 11 minutes and 17 seconds while her fellow countrywoman Maneephan Jutatip finished for the silver medal and Vietnamese rider Nguyen Thi That sped across the finish line for the bronze medal. Myanmar cyclist Naing Kake Khane managed to pedal to eighth in the race. Spectators cheered riders along the race route.

At the awarding ceremony, Myanmar Cycling Federation President U Tha Htay awarded winners and Daw Kyi Khin, wife of the president, presented gifts to medalists.

Ko Myo-Shwe Paukkan



Victorious Thai riders of the women's 128 km individual cycling race seen at awarding ceremony today.—Ko MYO-SHWE PAUKKAN

LOCAL NEWS

Basic Diplomatic Skill course 32/2013 kicks off

NAYPYI TAW, 17 Dec—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs inaugurated the Basic Diplomatic Skill course (32/2013) at Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the ministry, here, yesterday.

On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw delivered an address.

It was attended by the directors-general and officials of the departments under the ministry, retired Myanmar Ambassadors,

senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees.

The 12-week course covers contemporary international affairs, holding and attending of international conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills.

MNA

Hostels on university campus alive again

YANGON, 17 Dec—The first year students who are outside municipal area have been allowed to stay at the hostels of universities, degree/colleges and colleges starting from 2013-14 academic year. University of Yangon, Yangon Institute of Education and Sagaing Institute of Education will open its hostels for first year to final students and other universities and colleges are still preparing to give hostels not only to the first year but also to other classes. Sittway, Yadanabon

and Sagaing Universities are expected to open their hostels next year.

The hostel fees are K 5,000 per month and arrangements have already been made to provide meals to students. Rectors, hostel in-charge and supervisors are ready to help students to become disciplined ones and to enjoy university life.

Plans are underway to build more hostels at universities, institutes and colleges.—MNA

Myittha Multi-purpose Dam Project under implementation

GANGAW, 17 Dec—As Myittha Multi-purpose Dam Project is under implementation near Pyntha Village of Gangaw Township in Gangaw District of Magway Region, the local people enjoy job opportunities.

About 5000 labourers from both local people and those from other regions are deployed in construction of main embankment, saddle dyke, temporary embankment, water diversion

drain, hydropower infrastructures, spillway, conduit, irrigation facilities, bridge, guest house, mess hall, office, lab, warehouse and staff quarters.

The dam project started in 2002-2003 fiscal year. It will have 700 square miles of watershed area. The dam will store 377600 acres feet to irrigate 12000 acres of farmlands of Gangaw and to generate 40 megawatts yearly.—MMAL-Kyee Myint Naing (Loikaw)

Health Care Services

A Scan donated to Singaing Eye Special Hospital

SINGAING, 17 Dec—A ceremony to donate A scan worth K 6.01 million to 50-bed Eye Special Hospital of Singaing on which eye patients rely was held at the hall of the hospital in Kyaukse District of Mandalay Region on 14 December.

The hospital gives free

medical checkup to the patients and medicines free of charge.

For the patients who are unaffordable to pay their cost for eye surgical operations, the hospital charged least amount of money added with the expense of the department and wellwishers. In addition, the specialists from the

hospital make field trips to the villages and give eye care services to the patients who are unaffordable to bear cost of medical treatment.

To be able to buy the A Scan, U Thaug Nay Oo-Dr Daw Hnin Nu Htwe and family in commemoration of the birthday of daughter Ma Thaug Hnin Shweyi donated K 4 million and one water purifier worth K 200,000, U Myint Thein (Myint Myat) family of Keymintun Ward of Kyaukse K 1.01 million, staff of the Singaing Eye Special Hospital and eye patients K 1 million.

However, the hospital still needs operation microscope and Cassette Instrument Sterilizer to be connected with Phaco Machine Visalis.—MMAL-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)



Truck overturns at 7th-Mile detour of Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG, 17 Dec—A vehicle overturned at the hill ringroad at 7th-mile detour in Shwepyisoe Village of Kawthoung on 14 December afternoon.

It was owned by Yuzana

Oil Palm Co. The vehicle carried fertilizers from Tawwin Jetty. Due to break failure, the vehicle plunged into the 200 feet ravine on right side of the road.

In the incident, driver

U Kyaw Min Thein was seriously injured and the conductor not serious. Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the traffic accident.—MMAL-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



Tourism Industry

MV Seven Sea Voyage arrives at MITT

YANGON, 17 Dec—MV Thilawa, here, at 3 pm on 15 December.

The cruise liner arrived there for the third

time. It arrived there from Trincomalee Port of Sri Lanka. The vessel will stop over there for three day, and



tourists from the vessel will pay visits to Yangon, Bagan and Bago. In addition, they will visit Kalewa Monastery in Yangon.

The cruise liner is operated from Regents Seven Sea Cruise of US based Prestige Cruise Holdings Inc. Under the supervision of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and with the assistance of Ministry of Transport, Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co Ltd arranged the Voy of the cruise liner.

“It will be taste of foreign cruise liners to our country. After enjoying tastes of our country, tourists pay visits to our country severally. If they visit our country and enjoy peace and tranquility here, their visits will contribute to tourism industry development of our country,” said Managing Director U Thet Lwin Toe of Myanmar Voyages International Tourism.

A male globetrotter, aged 60 from Washington of the US happily expressed

his pleasure for visit to Myanmar and expected better arrangements for their voyage.

While enjoying traditional dances performed by the music troupes at MITT, a US woman said that she was so happy in visiting Myanmar. When they arrived there, weather was fine. As cruise liners arrive Myanmar one after another, two more vessels will pay visits to Myanmar on 27 December.

MMAL-Khin Cho Win

WORLD

Kerry, Zarif spoke last week after fresh Iran-related sanctions

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec — The US and Iranian foreign ministers last week discussed the importance of carrying out the 24 November Iran nuclear deal after Washington blacklisted 19 companies, people and vessels for dealing with Teheran, a US official said on Monday.

The US sanctions, imposed under existing US law, drew criticism from Iranian officials and raised questions about the 24 November agreement under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear programme for

six months in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

“They discussed the importance of moving forward” on carrying out the agreement “and of maintaining a constructive atmosphere as the negotiations continue,” the US official said. “The conversation was focused on the way forward.”

Under the 24 November agreement, the United States committed not to impose new sanctions on Iran. US officials said they had not violated the deal in blacklisting the companies,

vessels and individuals under existing law and said their commitment under the deal referred to not imposing sanctions under new laws. The US State Department said it told Iranian negotiators during talks before the 24 November deal that it would enforce existing US sanctions laws and gave Iranian officials a general advance warning about last week’s blacklisting action.

Some Iranian officials, however, argued that the United States had violated the spirit of the deal, which

was struck between Iran and six major powers and which is designed to provide time to try to negotiate a comprehensive agreement.

The US State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said US Secretary of State John Kerry had spoken to Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif by telephone from his aircraft as the chief US diplomat flew from Israel to Vietnam.

It was unclear exactly when the conversation took place, but Kerry was due to leave the Middle East late



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif after a ceremony at the United Nations in Geneva on 24 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

on Friday and to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Saturday.

The latest US sanctions

— known in Washington jargon as “designations” — were imposed on Thursday.—Reuters

Main Thai opposition party divided over running in election

BANGKOK, 17 Dec — Thailand’s main opposition Democrat Party reappointed former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva as its leader on Tuesday but members could not agree on whether to run in an early election or stick with street protesters who want to reform the political system.

The protesters, backed by the Thai elite and Bangkok’s middle class, want to force through political reforms before the snap election called by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Their aim is to eradicate the influence of Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck’s brother and the power behind her government.

Democrat lawmakers resigned from parliament this month to join the



Thailand’s opposition leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva smiles during a general meeting at a hotel in Bangkok on 17 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

street protests led by Suthep Thaugsuban, a deputy prime minister under Abhisit until 2011.

Some agree with his call for reforms to be implemented before another election can be held. But others believe their party, Thailand’s oldest, should respect the democratic process and take part in the election, called for 2 February.

“There will be no conclusion today as to whether the Democrat Party will run,” Abhisit told reporters as the two-day meeting was drawing to an end. “We are tired enough from meeting today on other matters.”

The Democrats must decide by 27 December if they want to register for the vote.—Reuters

In echo of Bush, Cameron says mission accomplished in Afghanistan

LONDON, 17 Dec — Prime Minister David Cameron said on Monday that British troops could leave Afghanistan next year with a sense of having accomplished their mission,

despite worries about the ongoing Taliban insurgency, drug cultivation and human rights abuses.

British media compared his comments to a banner bearing the words

“Mission Accomplished” that was strung across the bridge of an American aircraft carrier in 2003 for a speech about the Iraq war by former US president George W Bush.

The message came to be seen by the president’s critics as hubristic, premature and triumphalist — it was followed by another decade of fighting in which tens of thousands of people died across Iraq.

During a pre-Christmas visit to British soldiers in southern Afghanistan, Cameron was asked if they would be able to return home with the message “mission accomplished” after 12 years of fighting. He replied: “Yes, I think they do.”

Reuters



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron speaks to British soldiers at Camp Bastion, outside Lashkar Gah, in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan on 16 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

US chopper crash-lands in eastern Japan city

YOKOHAMA, 17 Dec — A US Navy helicopter crash-landed in a coastal city south of Tokyo on Monday injuring two of its four-man crew, police said.

The MH-60 helicopter landed in an empty landfill site in Miura, Kanagawa Prefecture, just after 3:30 pm, the police said. A residential area lies about 300 meters away from the crash site.

Col Steven Warren, a US Defence Department spokesman, told reporters at the Pentagon that the cause of the accident has been “under investigation.”

According to the local fire department, the co-pilot said the crew attempted an



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a US Navy helicopter after crash-landing in an empty lot in Miura, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 16 Dec, 2013. KYODO NEWS

emergency landing after losing control of the chopper. It landed on its side, tearing off the main rotor blades and damaging the tail.

The accident fueled concerns among many in Japanese communities hosting US military facilities about the safety of US military aircraft operations,

following a helicopter crash at a US military base in Okinawa in August.

The two men suffered serious injuries with one sustaining broken bones, but there were no reports of further injuries in the surrounding area, according to Kanagawa prefectural police.

Kyodo News

Ukraine leader seeks cash at Kremlin, Kiev protest planned

Moscow, 17 Dec — Ukraine’s president could secure loans from Russia on Tuesday when he meets Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin — money that could help fend off economic crisis as anti-government protests continue in Kiev.

Demonstrators demanding that Viktor Yanukovich step down after he spurned a trade and investment deal with the European Union last month plan a new show of force in Ukraine’s capital on Tuesday as the president meets his Russian counterpart.

Caught between Western powers, keen to anchor the nation of 46 million in a friendly embrace on the EU’s borders, and

Moscow, which accuses the West of turning its former Soviet territories against it, Ukraine is in the grip of impending financial crisis that could hit fuel supplies this winter. President Putin,

who meets Yanukovich at 3 pm (1100 GMT), seems set to agree a loan deal, and possibly offer Ukraine a discount on the Russian natural gas on which its people depend.—Reuters



Pro-European integration protesters warm themselves at a fire in front of occupied city hall in Kiev, on 16 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

New apps predict, provide information about what users want



A visitor tries Apple Inc's iPad at an electronics store in central Seoul on 18 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

TORONTO, 17 Dec — New apps that listen to conversations or scan emails and calendars can predict and provide information such as websites, videos and maps to users before

they ask for them or realize they want them.

MindMeld for the iPad is a voice conferencing assistant that understands conversations, and depending on what people are

talking about, will find a map of a city and tourist information if the chat is about a trip, or restaurants if it is about eating out.

"Imagine a situation where you're on the phone or talking with a friend," Timothy Tuttle, founder of San Francisco-based Expect Labs, which created the app, said in an interview. "wouldn't it be great if your phone could automatically find the information you're talking about and display it at the right time?"

To use MindMeld, which costs \$3.99, users log on to the app with Facebook. The app detects words and phrases related to current events and local businesses and searches

the Internet while people are speaking to each other to gather more information related to the conversation.

Up to eight people can join in on a chat. The app also summarizes key concepts of the discussion. To protect privacy, conversations are not recorded or stored.

Tuttle predicts that during the next few years computing devices will move from laptops, smartphones and tablets to everyday objects like a table or wearable technologies such as Google Glass. He believes the new devices will not have keyboards, which was the motivation for creating MindMeld app.

Reuters

Google acquires developer of military robots

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Dec — Big Dog, a four-legged robot that can climb muddy hills, and Cheetah, a robot which can outrun the fastest human, are among the robots that now belong to Google Inc.

The world's largest Internet search company acquired Boston Dynamics, a privately held company best known for building robots that look as if they belong in a science-fiction movie and which are often co-developed or funded by the US military.

The acquisition is the latest by Google's secretive robotics division, led by Andy Rubin, the former boss of the company's Android mobile operating system. Google's new robotics division has acquired more than a half-dozen other robotics companies.

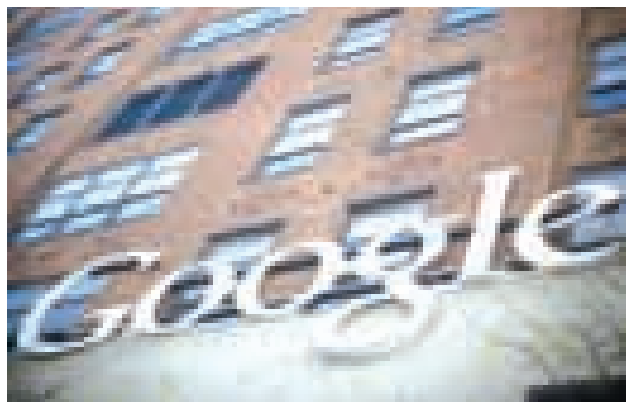
Google declined to

comment and Boston Dynamics did not return requests for comment. A person familiar with the matter confirmed the deal, which was first reported by the *New York Times* on Saturday, and said that Google will honour Boston Dynamics' military contracts.

The financial terms of the deal could not be

learned.

Based in Waltham, Massachusetts, Boston Dynamics was founded in 1992 as a spin-off from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The company works with the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Defence Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency, according to its website.



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

Churches take to YouTube, Instagram to spread holiday gospel

NEW YORK, 17 Dec — The Christmas holiday brings peak attendance for most churches, and an increasing number of US religious groups are using the boom time to wow parishioners with virtual choirs on YouTube and Instagram advent calendars.

More than 500 churches will stream Christmas sermons online this year, up from just a handful in 2007, said DJ Chuang, host of the Social Media Church, a podcast with church leaders about social media. Hun-

dreds more started Instagram and Pinterest accounts this year to post photos of baptisms and quotes from the gospel, he said.

"Instagram is like the modern day stained glass window," Chuang said. "They use it to tell the stories of the church."

The online churches appeal to those who have moved away from their own parish, people who may be reticent to walk into an actual church and people who wish to attend a service outside normal times.

The New Jersey-based Liquid Church has had an online pastor since 2009, and took to YouTube last Christmas to share a virtual choir using videos from roughly 500 church members who attend services remotely.

A technician overlaid the voices from each of the videos to create a cohesive song and video of individuals in front of their computers at home singing "Silent Night" in three-part harmony, said pastor Kenny Jahng.—Reuters

UK national security adviser to propose tighter rules after Huawei concerns: FT

LONDON, 17 Dec — The British Prime Minister's national security adviser, Kim Darroch, is expected to propose that ministers have the final decision on deals that affect critical national infrastructure, the *Financial Times* said, citing sources.

The move comes after the parliament's security committee raised concerns about a tie-up between BT Group (BT.L) and Hua-

wei, the world's

In a report, Darroch is expected to recommend tightening the protocols around sensitive infrastructure deals, the paper said, citing two people familiar with the matter. The FT said the report would also call for improved governance at Huawei's Banbury, England-based cyber security evaluation centre, known as "the cell."

Reuters



A cleaner wipes the glass door of a Huawei office in Wuhan, Hubei province in this 9 October, 2012 file photograph. —REUTERS

wei Technologies HWT. UL allowing the Chinese company to become embedded in Britain's telecommunications network infrastructure without the knowledge and scrutiny of ministers.

No 2 telecoms equipment maker, launched the security centre in 2010 to test its new hardware and software for security risks before being linked to Britain's critical infrastructure.

Reuters

China eyes collection of lunar samples in 2017

BEIJING, 17 Dec — China aims to launch its next unmanned lunar probe in 2017, with the key aim of collecting and bringing back lunar samples, an official said on Monday, after the country's first probe landed successfully on the moon over the weekend.

China's leaders have set a priority on advancing

its space programme, with President Xi Jinping calling for the country to establish itself as a space power.

The *Chang'e 3* probe, named after a goddess in traditional Chinese mythology, landed on the moon on Saturday, setting down a lunar rover called the "Jade Rabbit".

The development of

the *Chang'e 5* probe, tasked with the moon sampling mission, is well underway and it is expected to be launched around 2017, a spokesman for the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence said.

"After the success of the *Chang'e 3*'s mission, the lunar exploration programme will enter the third phase, with the main goal being to achieve unmanned automatic collection of samples and returning them (to the earth)," spokesman Wu Zhijian told a news conference.

China has yet to announce its moon ambitions beyond the sampling mission, Wu said, when asked if it planned to send astronauts there. He insisted the plans were for peaceful purposes.

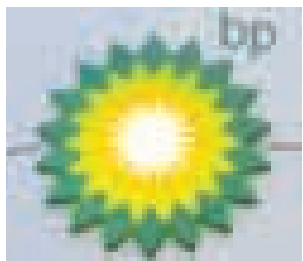
Reuters



A view of China's first moon rover, Yutu, or Jade Rabbit, is seen on the lunar surface with the Chinese national flag in this still image taken from video provided by China Central Television (CCTV) on 16 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

BP signs \$16 billion tight gas project deal in Oman



BP logo is seen at a fuel station of British oil company BP in St. Petersburg, on 18 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

MUSCAT/DUBAI, 17 Dec — BP will drill some 300 wells to flush gas trapped deep under the Omani desert over the next 15 years in a \$16-billion (£9.8 billion) project that Oman is relying on to keep its economy growing.

The Khazzan tight gas project, which aims to extract around one billion cubic feet (bcf) per day of gas from sandstone at depths of

up to 4,500 metres in central Oman, is a showcase for BP's tight gas extraction technology.

Its success is vital for a country whose own gas exports have been eaten away by its voracious appetite for energy.

"Today's signing is an important step in the Sultanate of Oman's plans to meet growing demand for energy over the coming decades and to contribute to economic development in Oman," the country's oil and gas minister, Mohammed Al Rumhy, said in a statement after the signing in Muscat. "The Khazzan project is the largest new upstream project in Oman and a pioneering development in the region in unlocking technically challenging tight gas through technology."—Reuters

GM to cut S Korean jobs as Chevy pullout looms in Europe



Cars made by GM Korea are seen in a yard of GM Korea's Bupyeong plant before they are transported to a port for export, in Incheon, west of Seoul on 9 Aug, 2013. — REUTERS

SEOUL, 17 Dec — General Motors Co (GM.N) plans to slash its headcount in South Korea next year as it prepares to withdraw its Chevy brand in Europe, a major export market for South Korean-made cars.

GM Korea CEO Sergio Rocha has said it plans to launch a "voluntary retirement" scheme open to its 6,000 salaried workers by March in what would be its fourth round of job cuts since 2009, a spokesman

E-cigarette row could block new EU tobacco rules

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec — Disagreement over how to regulate the booming market for electronic cigarettes is holding up a deal on strict new rules governing tobacco products in the European Union, diplomats said on Monday. In talks aimed at finalizing the legislative proposals by the end of the year, the European Parliament has pushed for a light touch approach to e-cigarettes, which it regards as a less harmful alternative to smoking.

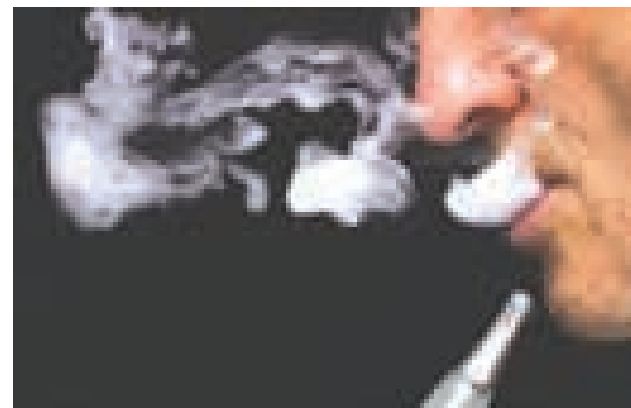
But with a lack of clear evidence on the long-term health impact of e-cigarettes, EU governments have sought more restrictive rules, saying the amount of nicotine contained in the cigarettes should be limited.

That could threaten the continued growth of a fast-growing market that some analysts say could eclipse

the \$700 billion a year regular cigarette market within 10 years. Unless negotiators can reach a compromise in two final rounds of talks this week, the row could delay by up to two years the adoption of a wider package of tough new anti-tobacco controls. They include larger health warnings on cigarette packets and a ban on menthol and other tobacco flavorings.

The alternative would be to leave e-cigarettes unregulated at EU-level as at present, leaving each government to decide individually what rules — if any — to apply. "I don't think we will get a deal on e-cigarettes," said one EU diplomat close to the talks, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

The main sticking point is the parliament's de-



Charly Pairaud, deputy director of VDLV ("Vincent dans les Vapes") e-liquids maker, demonstrates the use of an electronic cigarette in his factory in Pessac near Bordeaux on 9 Oct, 2013. — REUTERS

mand that e-cigarettes can be sold with refillable nicotine cartridges, rather than as single-use items as demanded by member states.

Several governments, including Britain and Germany, are concerned that at the nicotine concentration level of 20 milligrams per milliliter being discussed, one 10 ml refill car-

tridge would contain more nicotine than a carton of 200 cigarettes. "The parliament has said that unless refillable cartridges are allowed, it will veto the package," said another senior EU official involved in the discussions. "So it is possible that refillable cartridges could block the entire deal."—Reuters

Boeing announces \$10 billion buyback, raises dividend

SEATTLE, 17 Dec — Boeing Co's (BA.N) board raised the company dividend about 50 percent on Monday and approved \$10 billion in new share buyback authority that the company said it would use in the next two to three years.

The share repurchase represents about 10 percent of Boeing's outstanding stock, ranking it in the

middle of buybacks by large US companies, which are on a stock-buying spree this year. Boeing shares rose about 2 percent in extended trading after the news. They closed at \$134.72 on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday.

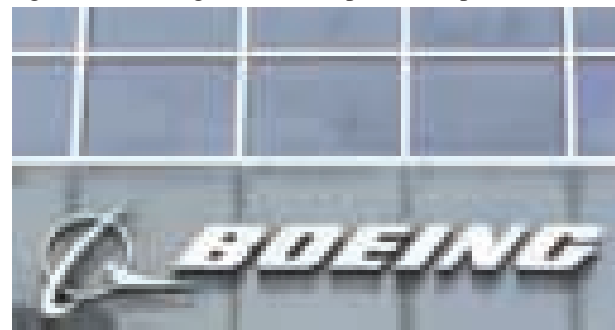
The increases in dividends and share repurchases "reflect sustained, strong operational performance by

our businesses, increasing cash flow, and our confidence in the future," Boeing Chief Executive Jim McNerney said in a statement.

The new repurchase amount adds to about \$800 million remaining from the company's 2007 stock repurchase authorization, and buying will begin in 2014, Boeing said. The quarterly dividend is 73 cents per share, up from 48.5 cents.

Boeing is enjoying a surge in revenue and cash as it ramps up commercial jet production, with a target of delivering a record 635 to 645 aircraft this year. Those gains help offset declining US military spending, which is hampering Boeing's defence businesses.

Reuters



The Boeing logo is seen at their headquarters in Chicago, on 24 April, 2013. — REUTERS

GSK to spend \$1 billion to raise stake in Indian unit

MUMBAI, 17 Dec — GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK)(GSK.L) has decided to spend roughly \$1 billion to raise its stake in its Indian pharmaceutical unit, betting on rising demand in emerging markets as sales in developed economies slow due to a wave of patent expirations.

With the latest India deal, GSK is set to spend close to \$2 billion in roughly a year to increase its holdings in two listed Indian companies, its biggest incremental investment in any country in that

period.

Emerging markets such as India and Brazil are an important plank of GSK Chief Executive Officer Andrew Witty's growth strategy, as he grapples with slower uptake of the company's products in the developed world.

GSK said on Monday it plans to raise its stake in its Indian pharmaceutical unit, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical (GLAX.NS), up to as much as 75 percent from 50.7 percent through an open offer in a deal worth about 629 million pounds.

In February, GSK lifted its stake in its publicly-listed Indian consumer healthcare subsidiary, GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd (GLSM.NS), to 72.5 percent from 43.2 percent for \$901 million.

"What they are trying to indicate that this market can reward them nicely in the future," said Sarabjit Kour Nangra, a sector analyst at Angel Broking. "India is a growing market and GSK cannot afford to lose its hold."

Western drugmak-

ers like GSK, Pfizer Inc (PFE.N), and AstraZeneca PLC (AZN.L), covet a bigger share of India's fast-growing \$13 billion drugs market, but have been frustrated by a series of decisions on intellectual property and pricing.

India in August revoked a patent granted to GSK for its breast cancer drug Tykerb, a decision that followed a landmark court ruling disallowing patents for incremental innovations that was a blow to global pharmaceutical firms.

Despite the challenges,



The GlaxoSmithKline building is pictured in Hounslow, west London on 18 June, 2013. — REUTERS

western drugmakers have been looking to raise their exposure in Asia's third-largest economy betting on an increase in healthcare

spending. India currently spends about 5 percent of its gross domestic product on healthcare.

Reuters



The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games

XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



SWEET MEMORY: The cup displayed at Sports Museum in Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex refresh the memory of football crazies. Myanmar won the cup at 10th Merdaka Anniversary Football Festival in 1967.—NLM

Saw Dar Pot (Right) of Myanmar lends a blow to Natthaphol Aunnuea (Left) of Thailand during 54-kg category of Muay boxing of 27th SEA Games.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Runner concentrating on their tracks while overcoming the hurdles.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



A men's double Regu match of Sepak Takaraw between Myanmar and Thailand.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Swe Swe Han in action during the match against Tamolwan of Thailand.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



(From Left to Right) Neeranuch Klomdee of Thailand, Zaidatul Husna Zulkifli of Malaysia and Lai Lai Win of Myanmar-run during Women's 100m Round 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE





The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games

27th SEA Games' table tennis competitions kick off

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Table tennis men's and women's competitions of the 27th SEA Games were launched at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C), here, this morning, in the presence of Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Min.

At the first-day round robin men's events, Singapore won over Malaysia, Indonesia beat Laos and Thailand trounced Myanmar while Vietnam beat Cambodia. While Singapore beat Indonesia, Thailand won over Myanmar and Vi-

etnam beat Laos at the first-day round robin women's events.

Myanmar table tennis men's team includes Kyi Than, Thet Ko Ko Latt, Aung Htut, Nay Aung Win and Htoo Htoo Naing. Myanmar table tennis women's team comprises Shwe Shwe Han, Aye Myat Thu, Aye Thida Pyone, Sanda Moe and Myint Myint Hlaing.

Both Myanmar men's and women's table tennis teams are competing in very tight groups.

Aung Kyaw Kyaw (NLM)



Laotian Judokas in training ahead of competition

YANGON, 17 Dec — Laotian Judokas who are going to fight for gold in Judo competition at the 27th

SEA Games received training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C) this morning.

Athletes from Laos,



Laotian Judokas are undergoing training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C).—JULY MOE

Myanmar Women's hockey team beat Indonesia



YANGON, 17 Dec—The fourth day of Women's Round-Robin Hockey Competition of the 27th SEA Games took place at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch, here, this morning.

Myanmar beat Indonesia 1-0 while Singapore won a landslide victory over Cambodia with 16-0 and Malaysia defeated Thailand 6-0. After the match, Malaysia secured 12 points, followed by Singapore 9, Thailand 7, Myanmar 4, Indonesia 3 and Cambodia 0.

The fourth day of Men's Round-Robin hockey Competition will continue tomorrow. Vietnam will play against Thailand and Singapore with Malaysia.—MNA

Press conference on anti-doping at SEA Games held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A press conference on anti-doping for the XXVII SEA Games was held at Social Zone of Golf Camp in Zabuthiri Township today.

Managing Director of South East Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization Mr Gobinathan Nair of World Anti-Doping Agency and sports medical officer Dr Hla Myo Thant of Ministry of Sports explained the anti-doping rules.

Managing Director Mr Gobinathan Nair explained

the purpose of press conference to send messages on anti-narcotic drugs not only to athletes but to students and new generation youths through media.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

Press conference on anti-doping for the XXVII SEA Games in progress.—KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)



Vovinam events on 19 December



Two Vovinam fighters are under training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).—JULY MOE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Vovinam teams from Indonesia and Vietnam are under training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).

Altogether five countries will participate in Vovinam event of the

27th SEA Games. Vovinam event in Myanmar is the second time since the SEA Games has started. All teams are rivals as they have same skills. Training is very intensive even though the event is two-minute long. Indo-

nesia team is under intensive training for securing gold medals, according to an official from Indonesia team.

The event will kick off in Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A) on 19 December.—July Moe



PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 December, 2013

Distinguish hook from bait

Fishes are unable to distinguish a hook from a bait. As it could not distinguish between illusion and reality, it used to end up in distress. At present, there is a growing trend among perpetrators who lured women into forced marriage or flesh trade for their self-interest while some lured women into sexual assaults.

To lure women, the perpetrators first stroke up a friendship with the former, using a false promise as a trap into which the women to walk straight. Moreover, they also used a string of drugs including Burundanga which makes a woman unconscious when merely inhaling its smell applied on a visiting card or a present given to her. It is alarming to learn that those perpetrators are using the drugs like a movie story in luring women into their sexual pleasure.

Although rules of moral conduct are to be found in every religion, some evil doers are in breach of those noble rules instead of keeping them. Meanwhile, most of young women are found to be under the influence of alien culture, idea, expression and lifestyle since they are copying the imported culture including music, dance and mode of dress. The elimination of alien culture deeply rooted in our society is both an urgent priority and a long-term project which calls for the commitment of all the national people.

As there are many imposters who pretend to be gentleman in order to deceive others, all the young women are to stay away from complete strangers who approach them and to fully equip themselves with a sense rationality and mindfulness. Furthermore, they should be endowed with a sense of shame or dread of evil while dealing with those they do not know well. And only then, will they be able to distance themselves from falling into the trap of perpetrators.

National-level workshop on REDD+ held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A national-level workshop on REDD+ took place at the Ministry of Forestry (Head Office) here this morning, attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

The Union Minister said REDD+ stands for countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Soil utilization and its related works are crucial in climate change mitiga-

tion as turning forests into other lands can have impact on climate changes, he added.

In implementing REDD+ works, there are two important tasks: (1) solving the main reasons caused by deforestation and forest degradation, in addition to measurement and inspection of forest carbon; and (2) establishment of Safeguard Information System.

The two-day workshop aims to make those involved know REDD+, to disseminate knowledge on latest development of REDD+ works and help support REDD+ road map, he said.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Indian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A visiting Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win laid a wreath at Amar Jwvan Jyoti of India on 11 December.

The Vice-Senior General together with Chief of Army Staff of the Indian General Bikram Singh took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it on South Block Lawns.

They then discussed further cementing relations between the two countries, peace and stability in border areas, the matters of training courses and India's security perspective at the office of Chief of Army Staff. After the meeting, they visited Gandhi Smriti.

The Vice-Senior General and Vice-Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force Air Marshal Arup Raha discussed bilateral promotions between the two air forces.

The Vice-Senior General met with Defence Minister of India Mr AK Antony at South Block. They exchanged views on the matters



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win held discussions with Chief of Army Staff of the Indian General Bikram Singh.—MNA

of signing MoU on management of border areas, promotion of relations between the two armed forces, relations of Myanmar armed forces with foreign armed forces and its policies, and border affairs policies of Myanmar.

He also discussed mutual cooperation between the two navies with Chief of Na-

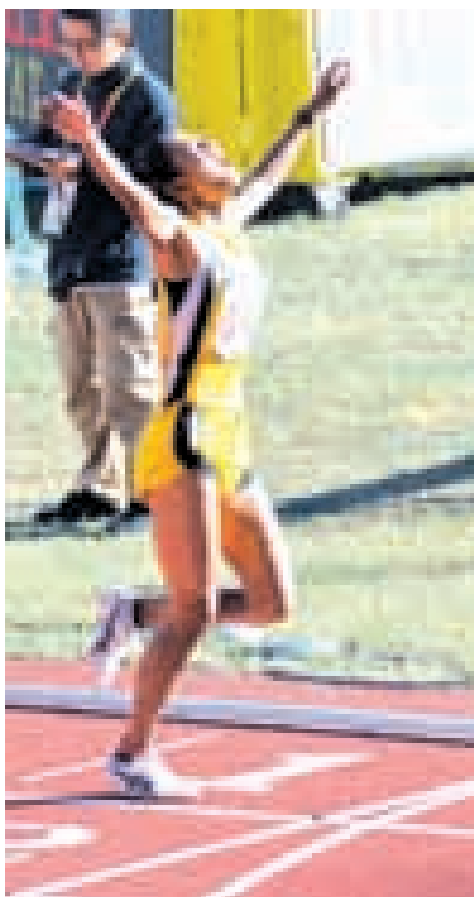
val Staff Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi.

At Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Vice-Senior General and Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee exchanged views on bilateral relations between the two governments and the two chiefs of armed forces, history of the two countries

and cultural relationships, management of border areas and the matters on political, economic and defence services of the two countries. The Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife attended a dinner hosted by General Bikram Singh at Army Battle Honours Mess in the evening.—Myawady

Union Information Minister enjoys sports events

Union Information Minister U Aung Kyi enjoying 5000-meter men's and women's races and 100-meter men's race.—MNA

**Visa Exemption for holders of ordinary passports**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Inspiring by the desire to strengthen the existing friendly relations in all fields and desiring to simplify the procedures and facilitate the travelling of citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Cambodia, U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sieng Burvuth, Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia have signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Visa Exemption for Holders of Ordinary Passports in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar at 10:00 hours on 12 December 2013.

MNA

Defence Services taking steps to stand united for democracy

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—“Defence Services is also taking steps to stand united on bringing democracy and prosperity to Myanmar,” said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his address at a ceremony to donate cash for upgrading of health and education sectors in Taninthayi Region today.

He continued that Defence Services, in its part, is also taking part in the government’s drive for democratic goal. Health care mobile teams of Defence Services provided medical treatment to local people in Kayah, Chin and Rakhine State and Mandalay Region. Based on Dawei, My-

eik and Bokpyin Townships in Taninthayi Region, the mobile teams will perform health care services from now on, he added.

Next, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Min Naing handed over bags of cement and K 50 million to responsible persons. Wellwishers also made cash donation at the ceremony.

Then, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief, presented K 3 million each to Taninthayi Region Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Next, the Senior General and wife and party vis-

ited the Home for the Aged in Dawei and paid respect the older persons.

During his visit to Dawei, the Senior General attended a ceremony for successful completion of offering gold foils to Shwe Taungsar Pagoda held in conjunction with a consecration ceremony. The Senior General and wife presented cash donations for renovation of historic Arahath Prayer Hall and offered provisions to members of Sangha and nuns.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and a patron of the board of trustees of the pagoda formally opened the museum of the Pagoda.—*Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla present gifts to an older person at Home for the Aged in Dawei.—*MYAWADY*

U Aung Khin Soe concurrently accredited to Iran

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

to the Republic of India, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

MNA

Live broadcast of sports events through LED boards

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Sporting events of the 27th SEA Games are being held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung Beach. MRTV, MRTV-4, MWD and SKYNET channels are broadcasting live sports events of the 27th SEA Games through its extended channels. People can enjoy live sports events via LED Boards installed by the Ministry of Sports at the crowded areas.—*MNA*



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint meets Chief Advisor Dr Hiroshi Shirakawa from Human Development Department under JICA at Amyotha Hluttaw Building. (News on page 1) —*MNA*

U Paw Lwin Sein presents Credentials to Grand Duke of Luxembourg

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Paw Lwin Sein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, presented his Credentials to His Royal Highness Henri the Grand Duke of Luxembourg on 11 December 2013 in Luxembourg City.—*MNA*

Vietnam tops SEA Games’ shooting event

YANGON, 17 Dec — Vietnamese shooters dominated the medal table of shooting event at the 27th SEA Games with 36 medals—12 gold, 12 silver and 12 bronze.

Up to now, Vietnam has seized seven gold medals while Thailand won two and host Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore one each.

Host Myanmar has seized one gold, two silver and one bronze at the competition. Singapore picked up its first shooting gold medal in the individual event in which Malaysia stood second and Vietnam third. The awarding ceremony took place in the evening.—*MNA*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. 38/ 2013

15th Waxing of Nadaw, 1375 ME

(17th December, 2013)

Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that Lisu National Development Party headquartered at No. 1587, Yanpu Ward, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 17th December, 2013 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the party is 69.

By order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. 39/ 2013

15th Waxing of Nadaw, 1375 ME

(17th December, 2013)

Dawei Nationalities Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that the Dawei Nationalities Party headquartered at No. 87, central street, Konwindat Ward, Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region (temporarily) has been allowed to register as a political party as of 17th December, 2013 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the party is 70.

By order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Myanmar tops charts in sailing event

NGWEHSAUNG, 17 Dec—Sailing competition of Men's Doubles Half Rater (Open) of the 27th SEA Games continued at Ngwehsaung Beach today, Sithu Moe Myint and Phone Kyaw Moe Myint leading other

teams on marks difference. Myanmar topped the charts with a little mistakes after taking part in Races 1, 2,

3, 4, 5 and 6 but not end results. "I was satisfied with the results till now, I try the best day after day to clinch gold medal for Myanmar" said Sithu Moe Myint, from the Myanmar sailing team who participated in the half rater (helms) race.

"We are on the top after playing against other teams till now and it is near to grasp gold medal. I'm not thinking about my rivals but my goal is to do my best" said Phone Kyaw Moe Myint, from the Myanmar sailing team who participated in the half rater (crew) race.

Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia participated in half rater (open) sailing event. The sailing event will be on 18 and 19 December.

Ye Gaung Nyunt



Half Rater (Open) doubles yachting event in progress at Ngwehsaung Beach.—MNA

Union Sports Minister enjoys Petanque, Muay events

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan together with Mr Cluede Azema, President of World Petanque Federation enjoyed men's and women's double Petanque events at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (Petanque), here, this afternoon. Then, the

Union Minister together with Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye also enjoyed Muay event at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (Muay).

Myanmar player Soe Lin Oo won over Malaysian opponent Mohdamirul Binariffin in 63.5 kilo Muay event.—MNA

Closing ceremony rehearsed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Chairman of the Subcommittee for Preparation for successfully holding the Opening and Closing Ceremony Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu viewed performances to be presented in the closing

ing ceremony of the 27th SEA Games at No.7 Transit Camp (Ywataw), here, this evening. "Eternal Myanmar" dance programme will be presented in closing ceremony with 1540 performers.

MNA

Muay athletes punch and kick their way to glory and adulation

After a display of traditional Myanmar music to open the muay competition at the 29th SEA Games, the serious side of spectacular punching and kicking took over the Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex ring.

Even though muay is largely unknown in Myanmar an enthusiastic crowd of aficionados and muay neophytes welcomed the kick-boxing men and women with hige shouts of encouragement.

Myanmar boxer Tun Tun Min, who starts in the 71kg division today, yesterday explained the differences between muay and boxing in Myanmar.

"In traditional Myanmar boxing it's all about knocking out your opponent, and we don't use any protection, no helmet, gloves, nothing. In muay Thai you win on points and you have to wear helmets, gloves and leg protectors, and there's a lot of kicks," the 22-year old said.

Discovered as a 17-year-old boxing at a local festival, TunTun Min's style and powerprompted government officials to learn muay to compete on an international level.

Because foreign athletes "do not want to compete in Myanmar-style boxing, we have to train in Muay Thai," he said, adding he will in fight at the SEA Games for the first time today and has only fought abroad once, at a competition in Vietnam in

By Kerstin Winter

2011.

Yesterday, the first bout was the only women's matchup of the day, Vietnam's ThiQuynh Bui taking on Thailand's SarinnaJangwang.

Vietnamese coach NguocVu Dao said before the match, "Thailand is of course traditionally the strongest nation in Muay Thai, but the sport is very popular in Vietnam and our own boxing style does not differ much from the Thai style, so we have a strong chance." His protege was on the attack the second the bell rang and never relented until the bell ending Round 3 rang.

The Vietnamese fighter, fired up and on by her teammates flanking the ring, handed out serious kicks to her opponent's head and dominated every round.

Jangwang, who could only defend most of the match, fell to the the canvas several times and spent much of the fight on the ropes.

The referee often busied himself separating the athletes. Thai coach DhanasukChootap said of his charge, "The Vietnamese boxer was very strong and we have to accept that, but for her level of experience Sarinna fought well."

Phillip Delarmino (PHI), from the same province as Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao, beat Malaysian opponent Muhammad Fikri with a technical knockout in the

second round.

"I have fought Muhammad before and knew I would win, but I didn't expect a knockout," he said with a huge smile.

The 23-year old said that muay is extremely popular in the Philippines. He started the sport when he was ten.

But Delarmino could barely be heard as the crowd packing the venue to the last seat, erupted in a thundering welcome for the first of the three Myanmar boxers of the day.

Before the match, Myanmar coach Saw Adi said, "It is the first time for a Muay Thai competition to take place in Myanmar. We have only been training in this sport for one year, so I do expect them to make mistakes." He added the biggest challenge is that his team is not yet settled in the sport, and that they need to use their legs more.

"But they have fast, strong fists, so I am confident we will do well," he said, adding he had traveled across the country to recruit the best young boxing talent.

Myanmar does not yet have muay clubs, so Saw Adi and his crew scouted at traditional boxing competitions in local markets and got some boys through word of mouth.

Among those he found was Saw Dar Pot, an ethnic Karen, who took on clear favorite NatthapholAunnuea from Thailand.

"The Karen have a



Myanmar Mway boxer Tun Tun Min gives interview to journalists.

PHOTO:—NLM

strong boxing tradition, so that's where we went scouting," he said about the third biggest ethnic group in Myanmar who traditionally live in an area bordering Thailand.

To the ear-piercing shouts of supporters dressed in Karen garb, Saw Dar Pot found his form in the third round and was declared winner of the match even though his Thai opponent clearly dominated the first two rounds.

Natthaphol was so sure of his win he jubilantly raised his arms after the match, only to see his opponent's arm raised by the referee, to the strong displeasure of his Thai teammates.

"The decision was fair, because (Saw Dar Pot) had some strong kicks to the

chest just before the end, and it's always important to finish the last round strong," said Manuel Del Rosario, deputy chief of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

A former world champion and multiple gold medalist in taekwondo, Del Rosario said, "When I was competing it happened to me too. I felt I was losing due to unfair judging...(but) the hosts often win."

Saw William Htoo Ge (MYA), showed more aggression in his first round, sending Malaysia's Ain Bin Kamarrudin to the floor with a spectacular kick to the head, and was still going strong in Round 2, but he lost to the Malaysian who surprised with a great third-round. But the home crowd was reconciled when a deter-

mined Soe Lin Oo (MYA) entered the ring for the last fight of the day.

Minutes earlier he had been lying on the floor of the Myanmar team room, bowing deeply to his coaches and Thein Aung, president of the SEA Games organizing committee, and receiving their encouragement.

Soe then took down MohdAmirul Bin Ariffin (MAS), beating him in all three rounds with some extreme leg action and punching him across the ring in the last seconds to the ecstatic screams of the home crowd.

"I concentrated some kicks to the stomach with lots of speed. He's a good fighter but was not hard to defeat," Soe Lin Oo said.

LOCAL NEWS

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

Literary talks, book show held in Lashio

LASHIO, 17 Dec—The literary talks and book show was held in Lashio of Shan State (North) on 14 and 15 December.

From 10 am to 3 pm, the book stalls were opened there and the literary talks

from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Chairman of Lashio Township Writers Association writer Kaung Nyunt Wai (Yezagyo) made a speech. Officials presented certificates to wellwishers.

Writer Lin Thaik Nyunt

(Myanmar Land) gave talks under the title of successful country, successful people on 14 December.

Next, writer Juu gave literary talks on 15 December.—*Kyemon-Zaw Lwin (Lashio)*

Progress of rural road construction inspected in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 17 Dec—Setkon-Aungchantha-Helon rural road is being repaved with asphalt in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Mohnyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Lay, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives U Tin Aung and U Pe Thuang, the Executive Officer of

Township Development Affairs Committee and Assistant Engineer U En Khun Aung inspected the progress of work.

Junior Engineer U Myint Aung explained repaving of the road and plan for construction of 20 feet long, 13 feet wide and six feet high Aungchantha Concrete Bridge.

The Township DAC spent K 17.5 million on 2000 feet long asphalt repaved road and K 1.6 million on 245 feet long Helon Village Road.

Kyemon-K Hsai Naw (Phakant)



Environmental Conservation

Migratory birds at Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

NYAUNGSHWE, 17 Dec—Inlay Lake, one of the ASEAN Heritage Parks, has been blessed with fresh water low-lying ecosystem and is home to various biodiversity. Various species of migratory birds arrive at the lake sanctuary together with domestic birds from November to March yearly.

Up to November, a total of 2368 domestic water birds of 21 species and 6326 water birds of migratory birds arrive at Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, according to the statistics of Inlay Lake Administrator Office.

It needs to conserve migratory birds, domestic water birds, various species

of animals and natural resources at Inlay Lake, said a official of Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

As it has plentiful of biodiversity, Inlay Lake is an attractive region to visitors at home and

abroad and natural resource researchers.

Kyemon-Nay Myo Thurein (Nyaungshwe)



Stake driven for rural bridge in Tatkon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Nawin Creek Bridge was held at the construction site between Kyetthunkhin Village and Chaunggyar Village in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 15 December morning.

Weikza Hill missionary Sayadaw Ashin Nanasiddhi of Kalaw in Shan State (South) drove stake and sprinkled scented water on it. Director-General

U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture-Daw Shwe Sin and family donated the cost for construction of the bridge under the aegis of the Sayadaw.

The bridge will be 40 feet long and 13 feet wide. It will have 18 feet high clearance. The facility is of reinforced concrete. It is estimated that the construction cost will be over K 50 million.

Furthermore, Phyu Thwa Creek Bridge linking

Chaunggyar and Thabyethar Villages will be built at the same time. It will be 20 feet long and 13 feet wide RC facility. It will have 10 feet high clearance. The bridge will be built at a cost of K 15 million.

Under the aegis of the Sayadaw, the local people of three villages maintained the inter-village earthen road.

Both bridges will be built within one month for development of the local people.

Aye Than

Underground fibre cable to be laid in Kachin State for better communication system

MYITKYINA, 17 Dec—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has installed 1.6 million of cellular, CDMA-450 MHz, GSM800MHz and WCDMA mobile phones in Kachin State in implementing the communication system as of 22 December 2004.

Of them, installation of some mobile phones, fibew line and microwave links cannot be used conveniently due to the fact that the phone lines are being hired from fire potic canbel and microwave links of Defence Services and that of E-1 line. So the phone users cannot enjoy smooth and convenient communications.

Thus, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications extends its fibre networks, while Nexus Network Co Ltd is laying the underground fibew cable linke along Shwebo-Myitkyina route.

Kachin State Minister for Transport U Kaman Du Naw, together with Kahcin



State Manager U Aung Phyo Myat of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, departmental officials and technicians of the company on 12 December morning inspected digging of the line for the fibre cables, digging of the routes for the cable at railroad and motor road with the use of machinery, laying of steel pipeline for the cable at bridges, construction of man holes indowntown and stockpiles of fibre and related equipment in Mogaung where the cable

route will be laid from Nantsiaung to Myitkyina. They attended to the needs.

The length of cable line will be 209 miles from Nantsiaung to Myitkyina. It will be the main network with regard to Kachin State communication facility. It is expected to complete construction tasks in the third week of March 2014. Upon completion, the local people will have easier access to communications and linkage of Internet in the state.

Kyemon-Kayin State IPRD

National Sports

Mass walk activity of December continues for second week

MYITKYINA, 17 Dec—Kachin State mass walk activity of December was held for the second week on 14 December morning.

Chief Justice U Tu Ja and wife of Kachin State High Court, Kachin State ministers and their wives, departmental officials, staff, teachers and students of basic education schools, trainees of Education College and Nursing Training School and local people totalling over 10000 participated in the mass walk activity.

They started walk from the Myoma clock tower and returned to People's Sports Ground walking along Thakin Net Pe, Aung Street, and Yongyi Streets.

At the sports ground, they took physical exercises.

Later, students of Education College Practising Middle School and trainees of Kachin State Myanmar martial arts training school demonstrated their skills on basic Myanmar martial arts.—*Kyemon-Kachin State IPRD*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, French (Translation and Interpretation), German, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Thai and Myanmar as a foreign language.

Commencement date of course : 30-12-2013

Commencement date for : 24-12-2013

submission of applications

Closing date for applications : 27-12-2013

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

Application to be submitted to : Yangon University of Foreign Languages

Days on which classes held : Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

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

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

Enquiry : Student's Affairs Section, YUFL

Phone : 514372 (Ext-*809)

Application must be submitted in person.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (002)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2013 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1354)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1354) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC - TRANSPORT S'PORE
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**A little learning
is a dangerous
thing.**

**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

**New York State attracts
8.8 mln more visitors
in 2013**

NEW YORK, 17 Dec — New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo released on Monday an end of the year progress report on the state's tourism initiatives, which shows the number of visitors to New York will increase by 8.8 million this year, a 4.2-percent rise over 2012. By the end of the year, the total number of visitors is projected to be 218.8 million, said the report.

Since December 2012, Leisure & Hospitality employment is expected to add 24,800 jobs for a total of 818,700 jobs by the end of 2013, a 3.1 percent increase. In 2013, New York's hotels will sell 43 million rooms with associated 8.3 billion dollars hotel room revenue. As of October 2013, hotel occupancy rate in the state is 73.7 percent, which is almost 10 percent higher than the national rate.

"This year my administration made it a priority to showcase the Empire State as the go-to destination for visitors from around the world," Cuomo said. "These figures underscore the significant role the tourism industry plays in New York's economy, and we will continue our work to make sure it thrives."

This year, Cuomo kicked off the state's tourism efforts by hosting the Tourism Summit in Albany, where he announced 60 million dollars in tourism funding — the highest level of such funding in decades. The year 2013 also saw the launch of the Governor's Path Through History campaign, an initiative that supports tourism and economic development by highlighting significant historic sites, locations and events throughout New York. To promote tourism industry, the New York State also launched several advertising and marketing campaigns which featured 6,400 ad posters in platforms, trains, subways and buses, video advertising at more than 100 subway entrances in New York City.—Xinhua



A Yemeni child receives a polio vaccine during a house-to-house polio immunization campaign in Sanaa, Yemen, on 16 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

**Netherlands not to send
military troops to CAR**

THE HAGUE, 17 Dec — The Netherlands will not send military troops to the Central African Republic (CAR), the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Frans Timmermans said prior to a meeting with his European Union colleagues in Brussels on Monday.

The Netherlands might support the French peacekeeping mission in the CAR with transportation, "but there is nothing concrete yet," he told reporters.

"We cannot send troops. That is too much for us to do right now," he said.

In the coming two years, the Netherlands will send around 400 military troops to the Mali.

France is asking for more help from its European partners to bolster its peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic. It has deployed 1,600 troops to the African country to prevent escalating bloodshed between Muslim and Christian rebels that left hundreds of people dead and forced thousands others to flee the capital.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

'Fast & Furious' stars lead Forbes list of 2013 top-grossing actors

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec—Dwayne Johnson took the No 1 spot in the *Forbes* list of top-grossing actors in 2013, while his "Fast & Furious 6" co-stars Vin Diesel and the late Paul Walker made the top six, the magazine said on Monday.

The Rock, as Johnson is known since his wrestling career, bested "Iron Man 3" star Robert Downey Jr. by starring in four films in 2013, including "GI Joe: Retaliation", that collectively brought in \$1.3 billion at the global box office.

"Iron Man 3" is the highest-grossing movie so far in 2013 with \$1.2 billion in worldwide ticket sales.

Forbes makes the list by compiling how many dollars each star's movies brought in at the box office

worldwide this year. It does not reflect actors' individual earnings.

The sixth installment of the highly profitable street-car racing "Fast and Furious" franchise earned \$789

million at the box office, and the deep-voiced Diesel added the \$98 million from the third movie in his "Riddick" series to come in fourth on the *Forbes* list.

"Fast & Furious 6"

alone pushed Walker into sixth place. The 40-year-old actor, who died last month in a fiery car crash, was filming the seventh installment of the franchise and Universal Pictures, a unit of Comcast Corp (CMCSA.O), has not yet said how the film will work around his death.

Comedic actor Steve Carell ranked third on the list thanks to the success of the animated film "Despicable Me 2" in which he voices the evil mastermind Gru.

Actress Sandra Bullock came in at No 5 with two big wins at the box office: the critically acclaimed outer-space thriller "Gravity" and the female cop comedy "The Heat."—Reuters



Cast member Dwayne Johnson waves at fans at the premiere of "GI Joe: Retaliation" in Hollywood, California on 28 March, 2013. The movie opens in the US on 28 March.—REUTERS

Country music legend Ray Price dies at 87 — family spokesman

TEXAS, 17 Dec—Country singer Ray Price, a pioneer of Texas honky-tonk music who later applied his rich baritone to lushly arranged ballads for pop crossover hits, died on Monday at his home in Mount Pleasant, Texas, at the age of 87, a family spokesman and a funeral home said.

The announcement of Price's death came a day after a family member erroneously announced the singer, who had been battling pancreatic cancer, had died.

Price's career spanned seven decades, during which he helped launch those of Willie Nelson, Roger Miller, Johnny Bush, Hank Cochran and Johnny Paycheck, who were members of his Cherokee Cowboys band and wrote songs for him that became classics.

Price's own career was given a boost by the

legendary Hank Williams, who helped get him on the Grand Ole Opry. After Williams' death, Price was his heir apparent to the raw, pared-down, honky-tonk sound.

In the 1950s, Price developed a style that broke country tradition by using drums to back a fairly slow but driving 4/4 bass-line that became known as the "Ray Price Beat."

That beat fuelled his ground-breaking "Crazy Arms," which was No 1 for 20 weeks and on the country charts for 45, and other hits that made him a major star and helped country music survive the rockabilly onslaught led by Elvis Presley.

In the 1960s, Price started experimenting with other styles, making a major break from traditional country with his lushly produced 1967 version of "Danny Boy" that

showcased his huge voice and emotional range, and tapped into the pop market.

With its full orchestration and slick production, the style that came to be known as "countryopolitan" alienated Price's hard-core country fans even as it contributed to other tuxedo-clad crooners with a rural twang.

But his melancholy 1970 version of Kris Kristofferson's "For the Good Times" managed to bridge the gulf and it topped the country charts while reaching No. 11 on the pop charts.

Price's later career saw him navigating among various musical styles, although not with the consistent commercial success he reached in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 2007 he recorded an album with Nelson and Merle Haggard and was still performing in 2013.—Reuters



Ray Price arrives at the 39th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 26 May, 2004. REUTERS

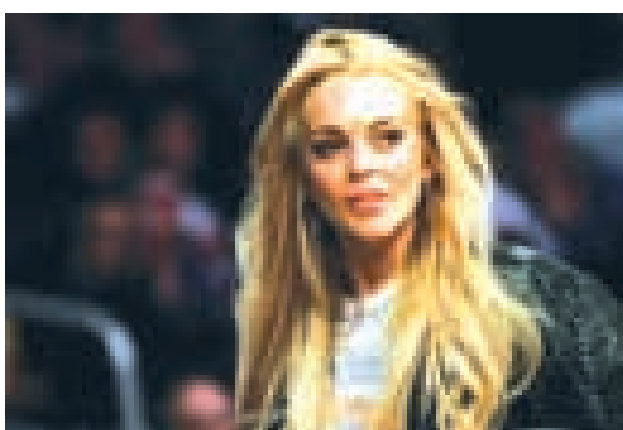
Lindsay Lohan penning a memoir?

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec—Singer-actress Lindsay Lohan is reportedly penning a tell all book in which she will be discussing every aspect of her life.

The book apparently started when the 27-year-old actress made certain journal entries during her stint in rehab as an exercise, reported TMZ. "The book started as a series of journal entries, which she

wrote in rehab as a therapeutic exercise. The book is still in its early stages, and it doesn't have a clear focus, but she says she wants to open up every part of her life," a source said. The Mean Girls star has already received several offers for a book deal.—PTI

The Mean Girls star has reportedly already received several offers for a book deal.



A protester carry two portraits of Edward Snowden during a demonstration against secret monitoring programmes PRISM, TEMPORA, INDECT and showing solidarity with whistleblowers Edward Snowden, Bradley Manning and others in Berlin on 27 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Now, it's Snowden: the book and, maybe, the film

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—A tale that could rival any spy novel is about to be told by three writers who are working on potentially rival books on the revelations and travails of former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Glenn Greenwald, a former columnist for Britain's *The Guardian*, has a book likely to come out in March. Greenwald received classified spy documents from Snowden in clandestine meetings in Hong Kong after he fled the United States last spring.

The book is "about my time with Snowden in Hong Kong and reporting the

story, but mostly about the surveillance state based on the documents I have (that *The Guardian* doesn't) and my reasons why the surveillance state is menacing," he said in an email.

His publisher is Metropolitan Books, a unit of Henry Holt and Co. Greenwald has also been discussing a movie deal.

The New York Times reported in October that 20th Century Fox (FOXA.O), Sony Pictures Entertainment (6758.T) and cable TV network HBO (TWX.N) had all considered an on-screen project. But Greenwald said that no movie deal had yet been struck.—Reuters

No Indiana Jones sequel in the pipeline for at least two years

LONDON, 17 Dec — Disney Studios chairman Alan Horn has said that Indiana Jones will not receive a new installment for at least another two or three years.

Horn said the studio is yet to finalise plans for what the fifth installment in the Lucas film franchise will be about, reported *Digital Spy*.

"We haven't done anything. We don't have a story. We need a story," Horn said.

He added that it did not make sense for Disney to move ahead on the project until it had finalised its purchase of the marketing and distribution rights to the franchise from Paramount Pictures. That deal was completed earlier in December.

Horn also revealed that the script for Star Wars



Harrison Ford as George Lucas in *Indiana Jones: Raiders Of The Lost Ark*.

Episode VII is yet to be delivered and is expected in January. He added that the Star Wars franchise, which Disney acquired alongside Indiana Jones in its 2012 Lucasfilm purchase, is planned to release a new film every year.

The Indiana Jones franchise returned in 2008 with *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* after a 19-year hiatus.

PTI

SPORTS

Nadal and Williams raise the bar sky high



Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal

LONDON, 17 Dec — A year in which a British man won Wimbledon, Roger Federer's star began to fade and doping reared its ugly head was defined by the dominance of two players — Rafa Nadal and Serena Williams.

Between them they won half of the grand slam singles titles on offer,

triumphed at 21 tournaments in total, collected more than 150 match wins and \$25 million in prize-money. Not bad considering both have battled back from potentially career-ending injuries.

Written off by some when his knee problems returned with a vengeance in June 2012, Nadal launched

a comeback in Chile in February that was nothing short of extraordinary.

Playing like a man on a mission Nadal won 10 titles, including the French Open and US Open, and reclaimed the world No 1 ranking for the first time in more than two years.

The Mallorcan was expected to dominate again on clay, which he did, culminating in an eighth Roland Garros title when he beat countryman David Ferrer. But he reached new heights on the hard courts that had proved his Achilles heel.

After beating arch-rival Novak Djokovic on his way to the Rogers Cup in Toronto, Nadal claimed the Cincinnati crown before taking New York by storm, winning the US Open for the second time with

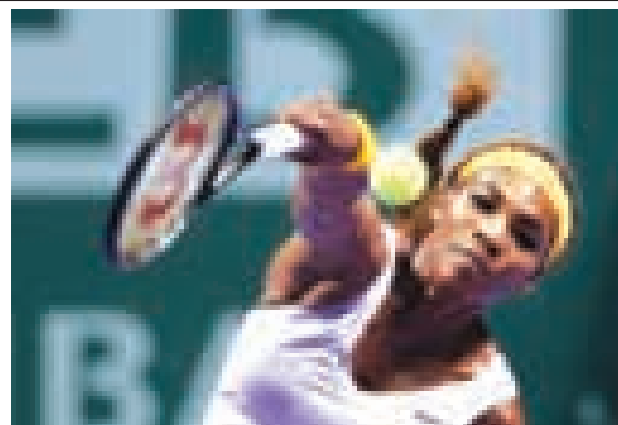
victory over Djokovic.

The only blip in a season of 75 match wins and 14 finals from 17 tournaments was at a wildly unpredictable Wimbledon where he lost in round one to Belgium's Steve Darcis.

Nadal's defeat came in a first week that included Wipeout Wednesday, when seven-times champion Federer was spanked by 116th-ranked Ukrainian Sergiy Stakhovsky and a host of top names pulled up lame, some blaming dangerous court conditions.

Through the carnage Murray rode like a knight in shining armor to finally deliver the men's title for success-starved British fans after 77 years of waiting.

The Scot, reduced to tears by Federer the previous year after losing in the



Serena Williams

final, coped with the suffocating weight of expectation to beat Djokovic in straight sets on a sun-kissed Centre Court.

Djokovic did not do much wrong in 2013, beginning the year with a third consecutive Australian Open title and ending it on a 24-match winning streak including victory over Nadal in the ATP World Tour Finals. It was the perfect

response to Nadal snatching back the world No 1 ranking in October and keeping it into 2014.

"We make each other better players. We make each other work harder on our games, especially when we play against each other. It's always a huge challenge," Djokovic said of a rivalry that looks set to continue into 2014 and beyond.—Reuters

Scott, Tiger and company serve up tasty 2013

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec — Like an enticing chocolate box offering an exquisite array of pralines, truffles, fudge and liqueurs, global golf gave its fans just about everything they might have wanted during a riveting and unpredictable 2013.

The quality and variety of golfing 'confectionery' was exceptional and, with Tiger Woods's remarkable dominance in the late 1990s and early 2000s now a fading memory, confirmed that the sport's strength in depth has never been better.

Adam Scott ended decades of Australian heartache with his country's first US Masters victory and left-hander Phil Mickelson pulled off a sensational triumph at the British Open, the one major that had always seemed the unlikely for him to win.



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy hits out of a bunker on the sixteenth hole during the fourth round of the Australian Open golf tournament at Royal Sydney Golf Club on 1 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

England's Justin Rose finally lived up to the lofty expectations long heaped upon his shoulders by clinching the US Open and 'ordinary looking' Jason Dufner, known for his ultra-laidback demean-

our and pre-shot wobble, struck a chord with club players everywhere by winning the US PGA Championship.

American Jim Furyk became only the sixth player to shoot a 59 on the PGA

Tour (at the BMW Championship) and Swede Henrik Stenson ended a brilliant year as the first man to land both the European Tour's Race To Dubai title and FedExCup playoff honours in the United States.

World number one Woods failed to add to his major tally of 14, despite being in the mix at both the Masters and British Open, but he triumphed a season-high five times on the PGA Tour before being voted Player of the Year for a record 11th time.

Rory McIlroy, his heir apparent as the game's leading player, ended a turbulent 2013 campaign on and off the course with victory at the Australian Open and will now aim to build on that as he attempts to regain his brilliant 2012 form.

Reuters

Sacked Villas-Boas needed more time, says Redknapp

LONDON, 17 Dec — Andre Villas-Boas deserved more time to work with and develop the Tottenham Hotspur squad, Harry Redknapp said on the day his successor was fired as manager.

Three heavy defeats in two months, the most recent a 5-0 mauling by Liverpool at White Hart Lane on Sunday, resulted in the sack for Villas-Boas with his expensively-assembled

good at their job or not and when you appoint someone you should give them time and let them do the job," added Redknapp, who is now in charge of Championship leaders Queens Park Rangers. "It's far too early for people to start wanting to pull the plug on him. You've got to give him time and see what he can do," he said just before it was announced that Villas-Boas had been dis-



Andre Villas-Boas reacts during English Premier League soccer match defeat to Liverpool at White Hart Lane in London on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

team lying a disappointing seventh in the Premier League table.

Spurs were also thrashed 6-0 at Manchester City three weeks ago and suffered the embarrassment of a 3-0 home defeat by struggling West Ham United in October but Redknapp felt it was too early to jettison the young Portuguese.

"I think people are over-reacting too quickly," he told Talksport Radio on Monday. "You lose a couple of games now and you're in trouble, it shouldn't be like that. "You either think somebody is

missed.

The 36-year-old looked a broken man on Sunday after his team, reduced to 10 men following the 63rd minute sending-off of Brazilian midfielder Paulinho, were led a merry dance by a Luis Suarez-inspired Liverpool side. A place in the Europa League knockout stages and a quarter-final Capital One Cup date with West Ham on Wednesday were clearly of little consequence to a Spurs board that had splashed out more than 100 million pounds on transfers in the close season.—Reuters

Deulofeu to miss a few weeks, says Everton

LONDON, 17 Dec — Everton striker Gerard Deulofeu will miss the Premier League high flyers' festive fixtures after being ruled out for several weeks with a hamstring injury, the Merseyside club said.

The Spanish under-21 international, on loan from Barcelona for the season, suffered the injury in Saturday's 4-1 win over Fulham, which moved Everton within four points of league leaders Arsenal.

Deulofeu was making just his second start of the campaign against Fulham after being rewarded for a brilliant equalising goal off

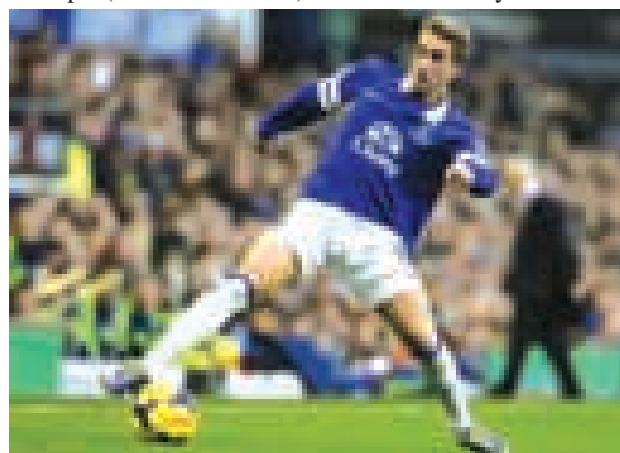
the bench in the 1-1 draw at Arsenal the previous week, his second strike of the campaign.

"Scans have now shown the extent of the soft tissue injury in his right hamstring, which is likely to keep him out for a few weeks," Everton said in a short statement on Monday.

The Merseysiders, who are fifth in the league after 16 matches, travel to Swansea City on Sunday before hosting Sunderland (26 December) and Southampton (29 December).

They then travel to Stoke City on 1 January before their FA Cup third

round tie against Championship (second division)



Everton's Gerard Deulofeu stretches for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Stoke City at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 30 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

leaders Queens Park Rangers on 4 January.—Reuters

GENERAL

Asleep in Jesus
U R.W. Hole @ U Hla Min
B.Sc (Engg) Deputy Executive Engg (Rtd)
Ministry of Construction
Age 89 years

Residing at 28(E) Saya San Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Son of U John Hole and Daw Ngwe Sein, Son in Law of U Ba Oh and Daw Than Tun. Beloved husband of (Daw Aye Aye Min) brother of (U Kyaw Hole) (Daw Jenny Hole) Daw Marie Nyunt. Beloved father of Gil-mour Hole, Qnn Hole @ Daw Khine Khine Tun, U Ba Htay, (U Min Tun Naing), Audrey Hole @ Daw Myint Myint Yee (U.C.S.Y) beloved Grandfather of Dr Khine Thet Han passed away peacefully on 17.12.2013 (Tuesday) at 6:45 am. Funeral service will be held at Yayway, Christian Cemetery Yangon on 19.12.2013 (Thursday) at 1:00 pm followed by entombment.

Bereaved Family

Two convicts in Delhi gangrape case claim police complaint illegal

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec— In a new twist to a 23-year-old medical student's gangrape case in the Indian capital exactly a year back, two of the four convicts on death row Monday claimed before the Delhi High Court that the police complaint against them was illegal as it was lodged on the basis of a story cooked up by the victim's boyfriend instead of by herself.

The medical student was brutally and fatally gangraped by six men on a moving bus in the national capital on 16 Dec last year. Four of the accused were convicted by a fast-track court and given death penalty while the main accused committed suicide in his prison cell during the trial and the sixth accused, being a juvenile at the time of the incident, was sent to three years in a reforms facility.

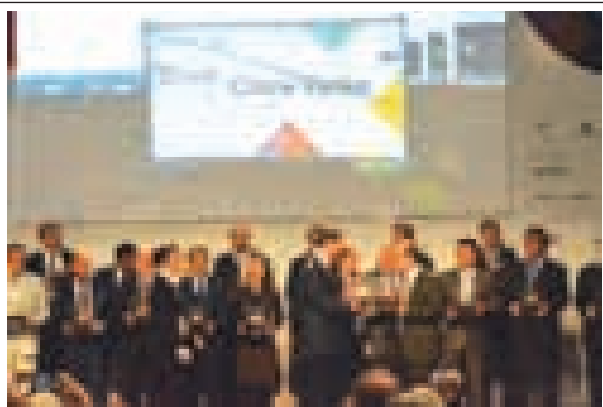
One year on, two of the death row convicts — Mukesh and Pawan Kumar

Gupta — alleged at the Delhi High Court, through their defence lawyer ML Sharma, that the police booked them on the basis of the "false statement" by the victim's boyfriend who had been accompanying her at the time of the incident. They claimed that girl did not give any statement on deathbed as claimed by the prosecution.

The High Court is currently hearing the confirmation of death sentence to the four as per the Indian Constitution, though the convicts can subsequently appeal against the order before the Supreme Court and finally file a mercy petition before Indian President Pranab Mukherjee.

Meanwhile, women's groups and citizens Monday morning held vigils in the Indian capital in memory of the victim nicknamed Nirbhaya (fearless) by the media.

Xinhua



The Milan Expo 2015 organizers assign the first lot areas to 26 countries and corporate participants including China, the US, Japan, Germany and France in Milan, Italy, on 16 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

Cambodian, Chinese firms ink deals to jointly invest in agriculture

PHNOM PENH, 17 Dec— Two Cambodian companies on Monday signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Chinese companies to invest in the agricultural sector. One deal was inked between Chan Sothea, general director of Cambodia's Century Rice Group, and Ivan, managing director of Shengen Yonglongxin Industrial Company.

Under the agreement, the two companies would invest 100 million US dollars in building a hi-tech rice processing plant in Cambodia and was expected to export about 300,000 tons of Cambodian milled rice to China per year, Ivan said. The other deal was inked between Hak Sovanna, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia's Kampot, Kep and Takeo provinces, and Shen Chen, president of Shandong Lurui Group, on the exports of Cambodian agricultural products to China and imports of agricultural machinery from China to Cambodia. The firms planned to invest 20 million US dollars in the venture, according to a Press release.

Xinhua

Israel allows more truckloads of goods into Gaza

GAZA, 16 Dec— Israel doubled working hours on its lone commercial crossing point with the Gaza Strip to 12, a Palestinian official said on Monday.

Nazmi Mhana, a Palestinian border official, said Israel agreed to a request by the West Bank-based Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to increase the hours of Kerem Shalom crossing in southeast Gaza.

He said this extension aims to allow more truckloads of goods and fuel to enter Gaza on daily basis.

Last month, Israel allowed 4,350 truckloads into Gaza. The figure constitutes only 25 percent of the number of truckloads that were entering before Israel

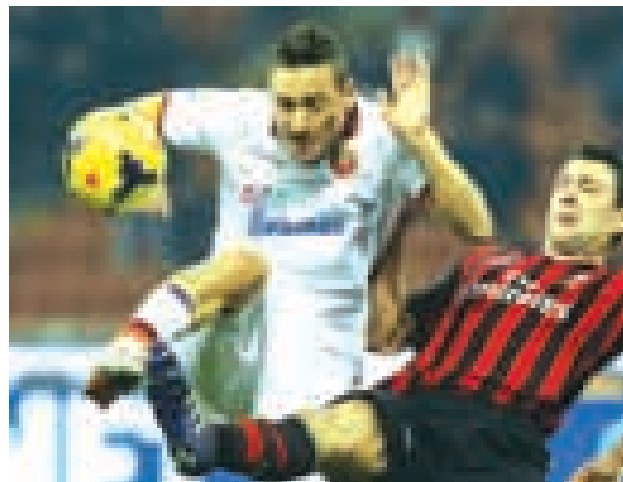
imposed a blockade on the coastal enclave in 2007, according to a report from the Palestinian ministry of economy.

The blockade was meant to isolate Hamas, the Islamic movement that has been controlling Gaza for more than six years.

Israel's approval came following an indirect agreement between Hamas and the PNA to ship fuel to Gaza's only power plant.

Qatar intervened and paid for the industrial diesel, ending a bitter round of finger-pointing between the Palestinian rivals. Hamas said that it can't afford to buy Israeli fuel due to the high tax the PNA imposes.

Xinhua



AC Milan's Daniele Bonera (R) challenges AS Roma's Francesco Totti during their Italian Serie A soccer match at San Siro stadium in Milan, on 16 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

Roma slip five behind Juve after 2-2 draw at Milan

ROME, 17 Dec — Sulley Muntari salvaged a point for AC Milan with a second-half equaliser in a 2-2 draw at the San Siro on Monday that saw visiting AS Roma slip five points behind Serie A leaders Juventus. The return of Francesco Totti after two months out was not enough for Rudi Garcia's still unbeaten Roma, who are on 38 points and three clear of third-placed Napoli. Massimiliano Allegri's Milan are 10th on 19 points.

Roma twice allowed Milan to hit on the counter-attack and come back from a goal down with Muntari levelling for good in the 77th minute after taking Mario

Balotelli's pass and firing home at the near post.

Mattia Destro had put Roma 1-0 up with his second goal in as many games in the 13th minute.

Cristian Zapata then equalised against the run of play in the 29th when he met Muntari's flick on from a corner with a clumsy header onto his knee and past Morgan De Sanctis.

Kevin Strootman restored Roma's advantage from the penalty spot five minutes after the break when Gervinho was floored by Milan goalkeeper Gabriel.

"Usually when you have lots of goalscoring

opportunities you win, but it's a point at Milan, it's not a bad thing," Garcia told reporters.

"But when you go in front twice you need to be better in defence. We made some mistakes but I'm happy with how we played, we looked good out there.

"We know that the only (Italian) team that qualified from the Champions League group stage was Milan and you don't do that with a bad team, you do it with a good team."

While Roma dropped precious points, they will be looking to the clash at Juventus right after the mid-season break on 5 January

(1945 GMT) to apply pressure on their title rivals, providing Atalanta do not spring any surprises next weekend.

Destro tapped in the opener when delightful play from Adem Ljajic and Strootman saw the Dutch midfielder slide an unmissable chance to the attacker.

With Roma looking to kill off the match in the second half, and Totti coming on for Destro, Milan hit back and could even have snatched the victory had Balotelli not dithered and dragged a weak shot wide in added-time while in a promising position.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

18-12-13 07:00 am ~
 19-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Ancient Shwe-San-Taw Pagoda
- * World News
- * The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Nga Mye Ya Pyi Shwe Bo
- * A Historic Town-9 Pagodas
- * Lifestyle of Toddy Palm Climbers
- * The beautiful Lake... where the natural biodiversity gathers
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * 27th SEA GAMES COMPETITION
- * 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)
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Hand Down Arts Heritage
- * World News
- * Myanmar Street Foods
- * Local News
- * What have you done for the Natural environment?
- * World News
- * Karaweik Palace: A Symbol Of Glorious

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham felicitates Heir Apparent of State of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun felicitates Heir Apparent of State of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.

MNA

Myanmar welcomes participants to Kempo competition of 2013 SEA Games



Opening of Kempo competition at 27th SEA Games at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 17 Dec — The opening of Kempo Competition at the 27th SEA Games took place at National Indoor Stadium (1), here, this morning.

After taking designated places by athletes from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, Timor-Leste and Vietnam, and an athlete performed Kempo demonstration, President of Myanmar Kempo Federation U Kyaw Moe Na-

ing made an address and opened the competition.

Next, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hasn, Chairman of the committee for organizing the SEA Games (Yangon Zone) Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and the President of the federation greeted the participants and presented gifts them.

Then, Patron in-charge of the federation Daw Khin Win Myint and Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Welfare Daw Win Maw Tun presented K 1 million to the President.

Also present at the opening ceremony were the Yangon region ministers, responsible persons of Asia Kempo Federation and Myanmar Kempo Federation and departmen-

tal officials, students and spectators.

It is the first ever competition for Myanmar athletes that was featured in the previous SEA Games for the first time.

MNA

Union FM felicitates Qatari counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.—MNA

Myanmar snatch gold in Kempo event

YANGON, 17 Dec—Kempo event of the XXVII SEA Games kicked off at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1 on Waizayantar Road, here, this morning.

In today's event, Myanmar athletes Than Toe

Aung, Soe Moe Lwin, Tin Win Tun and Zaw Htet Naing secured gold, Indonesia, silver and Laos, bronze in men's team Embu event while Timor-Leste took gold, Laos, silver and Indonesia, bronze in women's

team Embu event.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, officials of South East Asian Kempo Federation and Myanmar Kempo Federation presented awards to the winners.—MNA



Myanmar Kempo team poses for celebrating photo as they secure gold medal in Men's Team Embu at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1.—MNA

Myanmar rowers celebrate victory in four-oar light boat event



Myanmar women's team secure gold in rowing of XXVII SEA Games at Ngaliike Dam in Nay Pyi Taw.—AHKAR LIN (NAY PYI TAW)

Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	64	55	54	173
Vietnam	48	43	52	143
Indonesia	45	56	56	157
Myanmar	42	39	46	127
Malaysia	27	25	46	98
Singapore	22	20	31	73
Philippines	14	20	25	59
Cambodia	5	7	13	25
Laos	4	7	22	33
Brunei	1	1	4	6
Timor-Leste	1	0	1	2