

President U Thein Sein back home

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Maung Myint and Dr Kan Zaw, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Sai, Lt-Gen Sein Win of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut, U Maung Maung Htay and Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, President U Thein Sein arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

They were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Union ministers and officials.

During his visit to Japan from 12 to 17 December, the President together with ASEAN leaders attended the summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of Japan-ASEAN ties and the fifth Mekong-Japan Summit.

Moreover, the President visited industrial zones in Japan and held talks with Japanese entrepreneurs on investment prospects in Myanmar.

The President and party left Kyoto for Itami International Airport in Osaka on a motorcade and they flew to Narita International Airport yesterday. They then left for Yangon by Japanese flight at 11.45 am LST and arrived in Yangon in the evening.

The President and party left Yangon for Nay Pyi Taw by air this morning. — MNA



President U Thein Sein being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun.—MNA

International Migration Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses ceremony to commemorate the International Migration Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—“The aim of observing the International Migration Day by Myanmar that is 147th member of International Organization for Migration (IOM) is to make known the migrants at home and abroad and the international community that the government, in its part, is

striving for protection of the rights of Myanmar migrants who have been living outside their own country,” said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a ceremony to commemorate the International Migration Day at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, this morning.

The government’s drive to protect the rights of Myanmar migrants emphasizes promoting positive outcomes on migration, developing awareness of internal migrants and more social protection for them and improving socio-economic status of migrants and their families, he added.

The Vice-President acknowledged that remittances of Myanmar migrant workers are contributing towards national economic development to a certain extent. He pointed out that poverty reduction and better socio-economic development can be envisaged in the presence of effective use of oversea

work experience, skills and knowledge, upgrading the skills of returning migrant workers and job creation at home.

He called for implementation of policies and proposals included in ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, saying that collaboration and cooperation of the governments of regional and global countries and NGOs.

Next, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Welfare U Aye Myint extrapolated meas-

ures being undertaken by the government in cooperation with NGOs and INGOs for promotion of rights of migrant workers and follow-up tasks.

Then, IOM chief of mission Mr. Kieran William Gorman-Best read out a message sent by the UNSG.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President and party observed documentary photos relate to migration and biometric devices to be used in security measures and immigration matters displayed by Diamond Place Services Co., Ltd.—MNA

Indonesia brings gold back home in Track & Field events

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The final matches of track and field events of the 27th SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, this afternoon.

Indonesia grasped gold medal, followed by Thailand silver and Vietnam bronze in Women’s Long Jump event. In Men’s High Jump event, Malaysia snatched gold medal, Vietnam silver and Thailand bronze. Philippines clinched gold medal

while Vietnam silver and Thailand bronze in Men’s 3000m Steeplechase. While Indonesia brought gold medal to home, Vietnam was content with silver and Philippines bronze in Women’s 3000m Steeplechase. Thailand took pride in Women’s Javelin Throw after receiving gold and silver medals for home and Vietnam was just pleased with bronze.

Htin Lin Aung (NLM)

LOCAL NEWS

Pontaung-Ponnya road section being

GANGAW, 18 Dec— As Pontaung-Ponnya road section of Monywa-Pale-Gangaw-Haka Road is being expanded with the use of heavy machinery, the vehicles use wider facility on their runs.

Due to narrowing and damaging road in the last monsoon, the vehicles faced difficulties and traffic congestions for several times. At present the road is being upgraded with expansion of road shoulders on both sides,

repaving work and filling gravels.

The road was constructed in 1962. It was 113 miles long and 14 feet wide from Pale to Gangaw.

MMAL-Kyee Myint Naing (Loilaw)

A roller being used in repaving Pontaung-Ponnya road section of Monywa-Pale-Gangaw-Haka Road.



Heavy rain causes overflow at Namkhin, Namlak creeks in Kengtung



and farmlands were placed under floods.

As a worst incident, Kengtung Airport was also inundated. Departmental officials and authorities of State, District and Township levels, members of

KENG TUNG, 18 Dec— As of 12 December, heavy rain hit Kengtung of Shan State (East).

In consequence, Kamkhin and Namlak creeks caused inundation to some wards of Kengtung, flooding religious buildings, offices and departments, schools, residences and factories and farmlands.

On 14 December morning, Ward 4 and Ward 5 of the town were flooded. The Kengtung-Mongyang Road was inundated and some acres of paddy fields flooded.

As of 15 December night, Namlak Creek was swollen the Kengtung-Loimwe Road. Residences, offices and departments in Ward 3, Hokhon and Thesaing villages were inundated.

Ten offices and departments, pre-primary school, nunnery, residences, private hospital and car workshop in Ward 3, four departmental offices

and one training school in Ward 4, Kengtung Home for the Aged, residences, car workshops

social organizations, ward administrators and local people, moved office equipment and other

Shwehlay Village of Singu Tsp enjoy electrification

SINGU, 18 Dec— A ceremony to launch the self-reliant electrification was held in Shwehlay Village of Singu Township in Mandalay Region on 12 December.

U Aung Kyaw Than, Township Ad-

ministrators switched on the electrification for the village. Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tauk and officials sprinkled scented water on the facility.

With K 80 million loan from Mandalay Region government, the electrification committee bought a 315 KVA transformer and installed it in the village. Now, the transformer supplies electricity to lamp-posts.

materials to the safer places and cleared blockages of motor roads.

They also provided foods to the flood victims and meals to nuns.

MMAL-Naing Naing Aung Wai



With the concerted efforts of Electricity Supply Enterprise and New Ever Light Co coordinated to supply electricity to houses.

“Our village is formed with 280 houses. The committee has collected K 750,000 from each house to supply electricity to them with three bulbs and one electric meter. Now, K 35 million collected from 111 houses and loan were spent

on electrification of lamp-posts. So, the whole village will be illuminated,” said village administrator U Myint Kyu.

Village electrification committees were formed by Mandalay Region government to be able to supply them with electricity by 2015. So far, ten villages of Singu Township enjoy electricity on a self-reliant basis.

MMAL-433



Actions of Financial Monetary and Economic Coordination Subcommittee in response to discussion between district/township development committee, merchants and businessmen on 23-01-2013 in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region

No.	Discussion	Actions
	Provision of loans in timely manner during business seasons and introduction of hire purchase loans	Myanma Economic Bank meets twice a month and the ministerial meeting is held once a month to make decisions on provision of loans to borrowers. Banks have been given more power to provide loans and therefore become faster in providing loans. Provision of loans for hire purchase will start in 2014-15 FY.
	The process of withdrawing pension with e pension card was easy and speedy in the past, but there are difficulties in switching banks.	If an e-pension card holder wants to change the bank branch from which to withdraw his pension, the bank branch from which he is taking his pension record it in e-pension card program on the day of application and sends it to the headquarters. The headquarters issues a new card and sends the personal information of pensioner and the new e-pension card for him to the bank branch he wants to change. All banks have been instructed to give pension to the applicant through conventional method before he gets his new e-pension card.
	Account holders can transfer money between bank branches in major towns, but if there is a plan to provide money transfer services between bank branches in other smaller townships?	The service of money transfer between account holders was launched at 68 district bank branches and Pyinmana Township bank branch as of 18-3-2013. Measures will be taken for money transfer between bank branches in townships beginning 2014-15 FY.
	Is there a plan to reduce bank interest rates?	Small savers and pensioners are enjoying the interests from their savings at banks. Reduction of bank interest rates is being considered based on the economic statistics of the Central Bank of Myanmar.
	Can the cards are serviceable at banks in regions?	At present, MPU Card, Master card, Visa Card and China Union Pay Card are serviceable at banks. Money transfer can be done through partner banks. Banks are also improving their services.

WORLD

US budget deal clears crucial vote in Senate

WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — A two-year US budget deal on Tuesday cleared a Senate procedural vote that all but assured its passage by a simple majority later this week in the Democratic-controlled chamber.

The Senate voted 67-33 to limit debate on the measure, exceeding the required 60 votes and overcoming the opposition of

margin last week. A 16-day partial government shutdown in October left many Republicans skittish about withholding their support for legislation to keep agencies operating.

The Senate, where Democrats have a 55-45 majority, is expected to vote on final passage of the budget measure as early as Wednesday. Several conservative



US Senator John McCain (R-AZ) talks to reporters after a Senate cloture vote on budget bill on Capitol Hill in Washington on 17 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

conservative Republicans who objected to increased near-term government spending. Twelve Republicans joined 53 Democrats and two independents in supporting the measure, which aims to minimize the threat of another government shutdown through 1 October, 2015.

It won passage in the House of Representatives by an overwhelming

Republican senators, including Tea Party supporters Rand Paul and Ted Cruz, tried to stop the measure and keep automatic “sequester” spending cuts in place. The budget deal eases some of the sequester cuts by allowing budgets for government agencies and discretionary programs to rise by \$63 billion over two years in exchange for future savings elsewhere.—Reuters

Three killed, 13 injured as suicide blast hits Rawalpindi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 Dec — At least three people were killed and 13 others injured when a blast went off near a Shiite mosque in Rawalpindi, a sister city of Pakistan’s capital Islamabad, on Tuesday night, according to local media.

District Police Officer of Rawalpindi Akhtar Laleka told media that a suicide bomber riding on a motorbike tried to enter a Shiite mosque located at Gracy Lane near the Rawalpindi airport at about 9:50 p.m. local time. When the police tried to stop him at the checkpoint the bomber blew himself up, he said.

One policeman was killed and nine others were injured in the blast, said local media, adding that the other victims were civilians.

Several vehicles near the blast site were also

damaged.

All the blast victims have been shifted to District Headquarters Hospital and Benazir International Hospital.

Hospital sources said at least four of the injured people were still in critical

UK rushes out welfare curbs to deter East European migrants

LONDON, 18 Dec — British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Wednesday he was rushing out regulations to stop migrants from the European Union being able to immediately claim welfare benefits amid public fears of an influx of Romanian and Bulgarian workers.

With his Conservative party trailing in opinion polls ahead of a 2015 election and polls showing most Britons don’t want the labor market to be further opened up to east European

workers next year, Cameron is under pressure to act on the issue.

Anxious not to be outflanked by the anti-immigration UK Independence Party (UKIP), Cameron has said he shares public concerns about EU restrictions being lifted on Romanians and Bulgarians working in Britain at the end of this year. On Wednesday, in comments pre-released by his office, he said he was bringing forward to 1 January a previously announced measure forcing EU



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Downing Street in London on 19 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

migrants to wait three months before they can apply for welfare benefits.

A senior government source told Reuters that Cameron had originally envisaged the measure taking effect around the middle of next year but had decided to

accelerate the process.

Cameron said in a statement: “Accelerating the start of these new restrictions will make the UK a less attractive place for EU migrants who want to come here and live off the state.—Reuters

Ukrainian president under pressure over Russian bailout

KIEV, 18 Dec — Ukraine’s president faced calls to resign on Wednesday over a \$15-billion bailout from Russia which the opposition and protesters said had sold the country out to its former Soviet masters in Moscow.

Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in Kiev on Tuesday after President Viktor Yanukovich secured financial assistance and a gas price discount at talks with President Vladimir Putin, and several hundred spent the night in the freezing cold. Russia said it will buy Ukrainian bonds under a deal which keeps Kiev firmly in Moscow’s orbit and out of the European



Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich (L) gives a wink to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during a signing ceremony after a meeting of the Russian-Ukrainian Interstate Commission at the Kremlin in Moscow, on 17 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Union’s grasp but sowed doubts in some Ukrainians’ minds about what Yanukovich might have agreed to in secret. Many of the protesters are angry Yanukovich has spurned an offer of closer cooperation with Europe and look on Russia with suspicion after living for decades under Soviet communist rule.

“I think the people will eventually have it their way. We will sign up to Europe. That’s why I’m here,” said Snezhana, a factory worker who spent the night on Kiev’s snowy main square.

Irina Litvinianko, a businesswoman, said: “It’s hard to imagine it could end up in anything else but a change of power.” Opposition leaders

have called for mass rallies over the holiday season on the central square occupied for weeks by protesters, who have pitched tents behind tall barricades. “He has given up Ukraine’s national interests, given up independence,” Vitaly Klitschko, an opposition leader and heavyweight boxing champion, told the crowd on Tuesday.

Ukraine needs money to cover an external funding gap of \$17 billion next year - almost the level of the central bank’s depleted currency reserves - and avoid defaulting on its debts. Underlining the depth of the problem, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said Moscow would buy \$3 billion worth of Ukrainian Eurobonds as early as the end of this week, marking the first installment in debt purchases to total \$15 billion.—Reuters

TEPCO decides permanent shutdown of two surviving Fukushima reactors

TOKYO, 18 Dec — Tokyo Electric Power Co decided at its board meeting Wednesday to permanently shut down two reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi plant that avoided meltdowns in the 2011 accident, responding to a request by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in September.

The Nos 5 and 6 reactors, however, will not be dismantled and will be used as research facilities to support the challenging task of scrapping the four other reactors that have suffered core meltdowns or have been affected by hydrogen explosions.

Local calls are strong

that TEPCO scrap both the Fukushima Daiichi and the nearby Fukushima Daini plants. But the utility has not made clear what it will do with the four-reactor complex about 12 kilometers to the south.

As new accounting rules regarding decommissioning came into force in October, TEPCO is likely to avoid booking a large extraordinary charge in the business year through March 2014 due to a shortfall in funds for decommissioning. After the plant was hit by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011, the Nos 1 to 3 reactors suffered

meltdowns and the building housing the No 4 reactor, which did not have fuel inside its core because it was under maintenance, was damaged by a hydrogen explosion.

But the Nos 5 and 6 reactors, which were also under maintenance at the time of the earthquake, achieved cold shutdowns through the use of an emergency diesel generator that avoided flooding. The Nos 1 to 4 reactors were classified as defunct in April last year as TEPCO decided to decommission them, reducing the total number of operable commercial reactors in Japan to 50.—Kyodo News



A man inspects a damaged motorbike at the suicide attack site in Rawalpindi, a sister city of Islamabad, capital of Pakistan on 17 Dec, 2013. At least three people were killed and 13 others injured when a blast went off near a Shiite mosque in Rawalpindi on Tuesday night, according to local media.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mexico's America Movil connects cable linking Latam, US



The logo of America Movil is seen on the wall of the reception area in the company's corporate offices in Mexico City on 13 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 18 Dec — Latin America's biggest phone company, America Movil, controlled by billionaire Carlos Slim, said on Tuesday it had connected its Mexican lines to a newly built \$1.1 billion submarine cable that stretches from South America to the United States.

The cable, designed for high-speed data transmission, will boost service to America Movil's customers, particularly in Latin America where demand for internet capacity is rising rapidly, the company said.

The cable, which took 19 months to lay, will connect the United States,

Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Mexico-based America Movil said it will use the 17,800 kilometres (11,060 miles) of cable for transmitting voice, data and video traffic between the countries.

America Movil said in an annual report filed with US regulators that the cable is designed to transmit data at speeds of 100 gigabits per second.

A company spokeswoman said the \$1.1 billion cost announced on Tuesday included the cost of the land connections for the cable,

which reaches Florida in the United States.

It was not immediately clear when the cable will begin operation, but the spokeswoman said it could start early next year. The filing had said it would begin being used in late 2014.

America Movil, which controls more than 70 percent of Mexico's cellphone market and about 80 percent of its fixed line market, is facing increasing local competition after a government reform was passed earlier this year.

The company has lately been trying to expand outside of Latin America, with investments in Dutch phone company KPN and Telekom Austria. About one-third of the company's core profit still comes from Mexico.

Shares in America Movil were down 0.9 percent at 14.44 pesos in early afternoon trading.

The shares, which have been under pressure following the telecom reform in Mexico and after the company made an offer for KPN that it then withdrew, are down 2.7 percent this year.—Reuters



A man uses a Telecom Italia phone booth in front of St Peter's Basilica in Rome on 24 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

Most Telecom Italia investors sign up to vote on board's future

MILAN, 18 Dec — Investors with a combined 53.8 percent stake in Telecom Italia have registered so far for a key shareholder meeting on 20 December that will decide whether to oust the board, the company said on Tuesday.

It means Telecom Italia's controlling investor Telco - which has a 22.4 percent stake - will need the backing of other investors to fend off a proposal by rebel shareholders to remove the board. To pass, the proposal needs a majority of 50 percent plus one vote of shareholders at the meeting.

In a statement, Telecom Italia said the shares registered include a stake

of over 4.8 percent held by US giant investor BlackRock and its affiliates.

More shareholders can register between now and the meeting, which was called by Italian businessman Marco Fossati, a rebel investor with a 5 percent stake in Telecom Italia.

Telecom Italia is controlled by Telco, a holding company grouping Telefonica, Italian banks Intesa Sanpaolo and Mediobanca, and insurer Generali.

The vote could be crucial for the future strategy of Telecom Italia, and especially for its position in Brazil, where it is a direct competitor to Telefonica.

Reuters

Sprint, Dish to test wireless broadband service in Texas

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — Wireless service provider Sprint Corp and satellite television company Dish Network Corp said they will jointly develop a trial wireless service in Texas, in an apparent sign of improving relations between the companies.

Dish has been seeking a partnership with an established mobile operator to help it enter the wireless market. However, its efforts earlier this year to buy Sprint failed after a bitter public battle with Japan's SoftBank Corp, now the owner of 80 percent of Sprint.

Investors have been anxious to see a concrete wireless plan from Dish and

analysts see Sprint and T-Mobile US as the most likely candidates for a partnership if only Dish Chairman Charlie Ergen can reach an agreement.

"While the Press release does not announce a huge event, the fact these two parties have come together in some sort of partnership speaks loudly given their spotted (and at times acrimonious) history," Wells Fargo analyst Jennifer Fritzsche said in a research note.

Dish, which has spent about \$3 billion on wireless airwaves and is looking to buy more, declined to say if the trial could lead to a bigger agreement.



People talk on their cell phones as passers-by walk past a Sprint store in New York, on 15 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Trio of spacewalks planned to fix space station's cooling system

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 18 Dec — Astronauts aboard the International Space Station will begin a series of spacewalks this weekend to repair the orbital outpost's cooling system, delaying a cargo resupply flight until January, NASA said on Tuesday.

One of the station's two ammonia cooling systems shut down on Wednesday, forcing astronauts to power down unnecessary equipment and suspending some of the laboratory's science experiments. The six-member crew was not in any danger, NASA said.

Engineers on the ground tried to devise ways

to bypass an apparently faulty valve inside a pump, located outside the station. But by Tuesday afternoon, with the cooling system still down, the US space agency decided to have two astronauts aboard the station replace the pump with a spare.

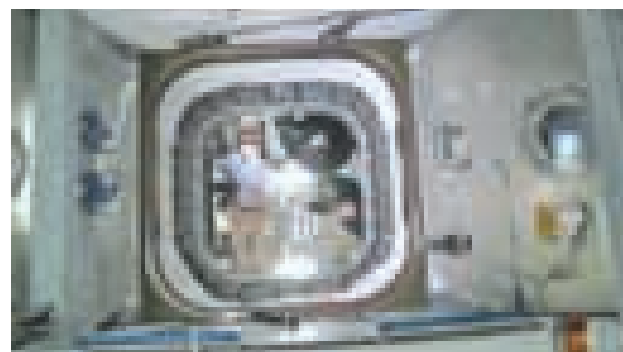
Three spacewalks are planned to complete the work, the first of which is scheduled for Saturday by station flight engineers Rick Mastracchio and Michael Hopkins. Two more spacewalks are targeted for 23 and 25 December.

Mastracchio and Hopkins will retrieve a spare pump from a storage site

outside the station and replace the faulty unit. Astronauts tackled the same job, which proved more difficult than anticipated, in 2010.

Repairing the station's

cooling system will sideline Orbital Sciences Corp's first cargo run to the station, a \$100 billion research lab that flies about 250 miles above Earth.—Reuters



The International Space Station crew opens a hatch at 4:10am EDT (8:10am GMT) to begin unloading cargo in this NASA handout photo taken on 30 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Antarctica may have a new type of ice: diamonds

OSLO, 18 Dec — A kind of rock that often contains diamonds has been found in Antarctica for the first time, hinting at mineral riches in the vast, icy continent — where mining is banned.

No diamonds were found, but researchers said they were confident the gems were there.

"It would be very surprising if there weren't diamonds in these kimberlites," Greg Yaxley of the Australian National University in Canberra, who led the research, said in a telephone interview.

Writing in the journal Nature Communications, an Australian-led team

reported finding the kimberlite deposits around Mount Meredith, in the Prince Charles Mountains in East Antarctica. Kimberlite is a rare rock where diamonds are often found; it is named after the South African town of Kimberley, the site of a late 19th-century diamond rush. That does not mean

Antarctica will soon see its own diamond rush. Antarctica is not only forbiddingly cold and remote but also protected by a treaty that preserves the continent for scientific research and wildlife, from penguins to seals. The 1991 environmental accord banned mining for at least 50 years.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Euro zone ministers agree on backstops for financing bank closures

BRUSSELS, 18 Dec — Euro zone finance ministers agreed early on Wednesday how to ensure financing for closing down banks in a deal that boosts chances of an agreement on the overall blueprint on dealing with failing lenders later on Wednesday.

The deal is part of European Union efforts to build a banking union in which bank supervision is shared at the EU level and so is the financial responsibility for winding down lenders that are no longer viable.

The final agreement on all aspects of closing down banks, for example, who will decide which bank is to be shut down and the procedure to be followed, is to be hammered out by European Union finance ministers, or the Ecofin council, on Wednesday.

“Tonight we produced



(L-R) European Union Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn, Executive Board Member of the European Central Bank (ECB) Joerg Asmussen and Swedish Finance Minister Anders Borg attend a European Union finance ministers meeting in Brussels on 10 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

a crucial breakthrough in the building of a banking union for Europe. This will pave the way for an overall compromise in the Ecofin council,” EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn told *Reuters*.

Banks will provide the

cash to pay for the closure of failed lenders, giving roughly 55 billion euros (\$76 billion) over 10 years accumulated in a Single Resolution Fund.

Until then, however, if there is not enough money from the fees, governments will be able to impose

more levies on banks. If that does not suffice, they would help with public money.

If a government would not have enough money, it could borrow from the euro zone bailout fund ESM, like the Spanish government did to recapitalize its banks in 2012, according to the deal reached by euro zone finance ministers.

“In the transitional period, bridge financing will be available either from national sources, backed by bank levies, or from the ESM, in line with agreed procedures,” a draft statement by euro zone finance ministers said.

This is a victory for Germany which was reluctant for euro zone countries to share the costs of winding down banks elsewhere in the euro zone for as long as possible.

Reuters

New health law may allow traditional Chinese doctors to practice in Hungary

BUDAPEST, 18 Dec — Hungary’s parliament amended the Health Act on Tuesday, opening the way for the Ministry of Human Resources to issue a decree that would allow doctors of traditional Chinese medicine to obtain permits to practice.

Until now the Ministry of Human Resources, which is responsible for the functioning of the national healthcare, was obliged to require that all medical practitioners have degrees equivalent to Hungarian ones.

If and when the ministry issues the decree, practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine who have certificates from schools requiring at least five years of university-level study and who can prove that they have not been banned from

practicing at home or in the last country where they worked will be able to apply for permits to practice in Hungary.

The new law authorizes the Scientific Council on Health to issue the permits. The degrees would not have to be recognized as equivalent to Hungarian diplomas since the law recognizes that Hungary has no equivalent to traditional Chinese medicine.

Thirteen permits to practice traditional Chinese medicine were granted in Hungary in 2003 when Peter Medgyessy was prime minister, but none have been issued since because of the equivalency requirement, which the new law now allows the ministry to bypass for practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine.—Xinhua

Drugmakers urge FDA security audit after cyber breach



A view shows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) logo at the lobby of its headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on 14 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

BOSTON, 18 Dec — The US Food and Drug Administration is under pressure from the pharmaceutical industry and lawmakers to undergo an independent security audit, after hackers broke into a computer

system used by healthcare companies to submit information to the agency.

Drug companies fear the cyber thieves may have accessed corporate secrets that are on file with the agency, such as data about

drug manufacturing, clinical trials, marketing plans and other proprietary information.

While some lawmakers charge that the hackers breached the FDA’s gateway, compromising confidential business data, the agency argues that the access was limited.

The breach came to light last month when the FDA sent letters to users of an online system at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. The letters said the breach was detected by the FDA on 15 October and that it resulted in the theft of usernames, phone numbers, email addresses and passwords.

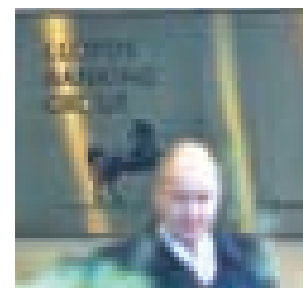
Reuters

UK got value for money from Lloyds share sale

LONDON, 18 Dec — The government’s first sale of shares in Lloyds Banking Group was managed effectively and provided value for money, Britain’s public spending watchdog said on Wednesday.

The endorsement of the sale process by Britain’s National Audit Office (NAO) may influence the Conservative-led coalition as it ponders how best to offload its remaining 33 percent stake. It wants to return Lloyds to full private ownership by the time of the next election in 2015.

The government raised 3.2 billion pounds (\$5.20 billion) through the sale of a 6 percent stake in the bank in September. It saw the disposal as a milestone



A man walks past the entrance to the head office of Lloyds Banking Group in the City of London on 11 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

in the country’s recovery from the 2008 financial crisis during which taxpayers pumped a combined 66 billion pounds (\$107 billion) into Lloyds and Royal Bank of Scotland.

The shares were sold to financial institutions such as pension funds and

insurers via an ‘accelerated bookbuild’ — enabling the shares to be placed in the period between the market closing and re-opening the following day.

Amyas Morse, head of the National Audit Office (NAO), said that UK Financial Investments (UKFI), which managed the sale for Britain’s Finance Ministry, had reviewed its options thoroughly and got its timing right.

“The sale took place when the shares were trading close to a 12-month high and at the upper end of estimates for the fair value of the business. Furthermore, the share price in trading after the sale has remained steady,” Morse said.

Reuters

Asia business sentiment falls in fourth quarter as global worries weigh

SEOUL, 18 Dec — Business sentiment among Asia’s top companies dropped sharply in the fourth quarter, extending last quarter’s declines, with global economic uncertainty and rising costs weighing on the region’s firms, a Thomson Reuters/INSEAD survey showed. The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asia Business Sentiment Index fell to 62 in the fourth quarter from 66 in the third quarter of 2013, the lowest reading since

the third quarter of 2012. A reading above 50 indicates an overall positive outlook.

Sentiment in Southeast Asia’s \$1.5 trillion economy was undermined by political turbulence in Thailand and a typhoon in the Philippines, causing dismal readings of 40 and 58 respectively, which were the lowest for both countries since the poll was first compiled in 2009.

Although China and India’s bullish scores of 75 and 82 respectively supported the index, export-

driven north Asian economies such as South Korea as well as regional trading hub Singapore also showed weaker readings, underscoring still-anaemic global business conditions.

“The global economic recovery is still very fragile,” Zhang Shiyuan, an economist at Shanghai-based Southwest Securities Co said. “There is a fundamental problem that there’s still too much debt. It’s a time bomb that may be detonated if monetary and fiscal



A man talks on the phone as he surfs the internet on his laptop at a local coffee shop in downtown Shanghai on 28 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

policies don’t coordinate well.” The survey showed

that the auto sector was the most negative with a read-

ing of 33, a sharp drop from 63 in the previous quarter, followed by the food and resources sectors with fourth-quarter scores of 50. The index surveyed more than 100 of the Asia-Pacific region’s top companies including Hyundai Heavy Industries (009540.KS), Fast Retailing (9983.T) and International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) (ICT.PS) in 11 economies, across sectors including property, financials and tech.—Reuters



The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games



Saw Dar Pot (Right) of Myanmar lend a blow to Bouaphan Phankeo of Laos during 54-kg category of Muay. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



Cyclists from different countries participate in 163 km Road Race of 27th SEA Games. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN

K K Thin of Myanmar strikes a caneball during double regu event between Myanmar and Indonesia. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

27th SEA Games Women's Football Result Myanmar 10 - 11 Thailand



Victoria of Myanmar kicks Sottha of Thailand during below 62 kg Taekwondo category. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Winners of equestrian event of 27th SEA Games. PHOTO: JULY MOE



Man's Best Friend: Two security officers take care of a sniffer dog as they go Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE





The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games

Gold medal goes to Singapore in Equestrian event

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Final match of Equestrian event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Horse Race Course, here, this morning.

Altogether 19 riders from Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cam-

bodia and Singapore participated in today's event.

Gold medal went to Janine Khoo (Singapore), silver to Jaruporn Limpichati (Thailand) and bronze to Jendry Palandeng (Indonesia) in individual show jumping event.—*July Moe*



Laotian cyclist capture gold in men's 163 kg cycling event

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Men's cycling 163 km event of the 27th SEA Games started from Leinli Bridge this morning.

No (22) Phounsavath Ariva of Laos swept gold medal with (4:24:22) in the event, followed by Vietnamese cyclist No (78) Mai Nguyen Hung, the silver with (4:29:07) and No (11) Manulang Robin of Indonesia the bronze with (4:29:26).

President of Asian Cycling Federation Mr. Datuk Hajiabu Samah Wahab and Vice-President of Myanmar Cycling Federation U Thet Oo presented medals and SEA Games mascots to the winners.—*Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)*

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Cycling event of the 27th SEA Games continued for the second day at Leinli Bridge, here, this morning.

In men's team cycling 163-kilometre road race event, goal medal went to Indonesia, silver to Malaysia and bronze to the Philippines.

President of Myanmar Cycling Federation U Tha Htay awarded the winners and his wife Daw Kyi Khin presented gifts to them.

Officials and mediamen from the ASEAN countries and spectators enjoyed the match.—*Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)*

Indonesian team takes gold in cycling event



Thailand secure two gold medals in Kata events

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The Judo events of 27th SEA Games kicked off at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C) today.

The first prize went to Thailand (430 points), second to Vietnam (423 points) and third to Myanmar (421 points) in men's Nage No Kata event. Meanwhile, Thailand won first prize (442 points) in Ju no

Kata event, Vietnam, second (433points) and Myanmar, third (418 points).

Singapore, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia participated in men's Nage No Kata event and Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand competed in women's Ju No Kata event. The first prize went to Sel Wee of

Myanmar in women's 45 kilo Judo event, second to Philippines and joint third prizes to Thailand and Laos.

In men's 55 kilo judo event, Vietnam won gold medal; Myanmar, silver; and Malaysia and Laos, joint bronze medals. The Judo events will go on till 21 December.

Myo Than (NLM)

Vovinam event on 19-21 December

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Opening ceremony of Vovinam event of 27th SEA Games took place at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A) here today.

Vovinam events will be held from 19 to 21 December. Seventy-two med-

als—18 gold, 18 silver and 36 bronze medals for men, women and mixed events will be conferred.

Tomorrow's events include men (65 kg), women (60 kg), dual sword form (two women), self-defence for women (mix), weapon

self defence (mix) and dual machete form (two men).

Altogether 120 athletes—76 male and 44 female—from Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia participate in the three-day events.

Myo Than (NLM)

Men's and women's volleyball events go on



Indonesian and Malaysian players in women's volleyball play-off event of the 27th SEA Games.—PHOTO: MYO THAN (NLM)

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Indonesia defeated Malaysia in women's volleyball play-off event of the 27th SEA Games. Meanwhile, Myanmar

women's volleyball team lost to Thailand. In men's volleyball event, Vietnam won over Laos. Men's volleyball semi-final events and women's

playoff event will go on tomorrow at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (B). The final events will be on 21 December.

Myo Than (NLM)



Two Judo athletes attacking against each other in action at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C) in progress.

PHOTO: MYO THAN (NLM)



PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 December, 2013

Migration and humanity

The world has just celebrated the International Migrants Day on 18 December. The 18 December is appointed by United Nations General Assembly in 2000, about 10 years after adoption of international convention on the protection of the rights of

migrant workers and members of the families. We have celebrated the day for 14 years. Have the conditions of migrant workers improved?

Myanmar has seen a lot of migrant workers migrating to neighboring countries over past two decades. They include a lot of ethnic groups. Do they really get protected by any legal framework or enjoy their rights?

There is also a huge amount of internal migration in Myanmar as people from least developed areas are flowing into a few relatively more devel-

oped parts of the country. Do they get decent jobs or are they treated as just cheap labour?

The number of migrant workers from Myanmar to neighbouring countries, especially to Thailand is ever increasing since 1990.

What we still need to do now is to give attention to the rights of migrant workers and get them treated well as a fellow human being in a bid to promote the humanity. The migration should not lose them the sense of being another human sharing the planet.

UEC Chairman enjoys Muay boxing events

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Muay boxing events of the 27th SEA Games continued today at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and the Union ministers, deputy ministers, officials and fans.

In men's 54 kg preliminary level competition, Saw Dar Pot of Myanmar won over Laotian Muay boxer Bouaphan Phankeo.

A total of 86 boxers



Dignitaries give boxers applause in Muay boxing events at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex.—MNA

**Optimist Team Racing, Half Rater in progress**

NGWEHSAUNG, 18 Dec — Optimist Team Racing and Half Rater competitions of sailing event of the 27th SEA Games took place yesterday.

After the match of Laser Standard Sailing on 16 December, Malaysia stood first in men's event while Myanmar managed to sail fifth place. Singa-

including managers and coaches from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines participated in today's Muay contests.

Men's Muay events include 48 kg, 51 kg, 54 kg, 57 kg, 60 kg, 63.5 kg, 71 kg and 75 kg and women's Muay events include 48 kg, 51 kg, 54 kg, 57 kg and 60 kg.

The preliminary competitions will continue tomorrow and semifinals and finals will be held on 21 December in conjunction with prize awarding ceremony.

MNA

pore topped Laser Radial event while Myanmar was ranked fifth in this event. Thailand stood first in RS One (Boy) event followed by Myanmar. In RS One (Girl) event led by Thailand, Myanmar finished third. While Malaysia stood first place in Optimist (Boy) Myanmar third. In the Optimist (Girl) and RS One Open events Singapore and Thailand stood first respectively.

Singapore seized the first place while Wai Pwint Wah Bo and Theingi Win Shwe of Myanmar took fourth place in Int'l 420 (Girl) event.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Parachute Division in India

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win left Palam Tech Area Airport in New Delhi for Agra by air on 12 December where they were welcomed by No (50) Parachute Division Commander Brig Jagjeet Singh Nanda, SM and wife.

The Vice-Senior General and party looked round

demonstration of soldiers in the parachute division and went to Agra Fort and Taj Mahal where they observed artifacts and preservations.

In the evening, they flew to Jaipur via Agra Airport and attended a dinner hosted by South-Western Command Commander Lt-Gen Gyan Bhushan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC at the officer's mess hall.

Myawady



Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends dinner party hosted by South-Western Command Commander Lt-Gen Gyan Bhushan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC of India at OTA officer mess hall.—MYAWADY

Public Announcement

The following junctions that have access to Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw will temporarily be closed from 12 noon on 22-12-2013 when the closing ceremony of the 27th SEA Games will be held till the end of the ceremony.

- (1) Junction of Pyinmana Taung Nyo Road and Nyana Aung Myay (at the top of Soe San street)
- (2) Junction of Mya Yee Nandar Road and Mani Sandar Road (near the junction of Swa road)
- (3) Junction of Zeyar Aung Myay Road and Mani Sandar Road (at the top of BEHS No (11) street)
- (4) Junction of Mani Sandar Road and Gate-5 (at Gate5)
- (5) Junction of Zeyar Aung Myay Road and Mani Sandar Road (at the top of Athletes' Village)
- (6) Junction of Pyinmana Taung Nyo Road and V4 Road (at the top of Nay Pyi Taw ring road)
- (7) Junction of Zeyar Aung Myay Road and Nan Chun village monastery road
- (8) Junction of Maha Zeyar Road and Zeya Bala Road (at the top of Kha Yay Housing)

Traffic Police Force

Is it true that people can watch the yacht race on boats at the sea?

Yes! Tickets are now available in advance on the Lover's Island at Ngwehsaung Beach. So fans can sail up to 15 nautical miles to watch the race.

Cartoon Tha Byay

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with Indonesian vice-president



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann chats with Indonesian Vice-President Dr Boediono.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw,

and Indonesian Vice-President Dr Boediono held talks in Jakarta today over strengthening bilateral friendship and exchanged views on democratic reforms.

Also present at the meeting were chairmen of Hluttaw committees Thura U Aye Myint, U Hla Myint Oo and U Htay Myint.

During his visit to Indonesia, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also held talks with Chairman of Regional Representatives Council of

Indonesia Mr Irman Gusman over parliamentary works and democratic reforms at Indonesian parliament in Jakarta today.

The Myanmar delegation led by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also visited the parliamentary meeting of Indonesia.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mr Marty Natalegawa and held talks over bilateral friendship and cooperation.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing...

(from page 16)

It was also attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe, the senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief Office (Army) and Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay.

After the meeting, the

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay.—MYAWADY

Senior General presented gifts to the officers, servicemen and their families, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, the cash assistance to the fund for station Maternal and Child

Welfare Association and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, sports gear.

Then, the Senior General and party cordially greeted those present.

Myawady



Myanmar win in Sepak Takraw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Myanmar defeated Indonesia in women's Sepak Takraw preliminary event. In men's Sepak Takraw preliminary event, Laos lost to Myanmar. Myanmar men's team will meet Indonesia tomorrow while Myanmar women's team will fight against Thailand. Myanmar men's is likely to secure gold medal.

MNA

Myanmar keeps gold at home in Taekwondo

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Taekwondo Competitions of the 27th SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A), here, this afternoon.

Thaw Zin Han swept gold medal in Men's Individual (poomsae) event, followed by the Philippines

and Vietnam.

In Women's Individual (poomsae) event, Yamin Kay Khine snatched gold medal, Singapore, silver and Cambodia, bronze.

In women U-62 kg (Light) event, Myanmar had to be content with silver.—Htin Lin Aung (NLM)

Correction

Please read 27th SEA Games instead of 29th SEA Games in 4th line of first column in the article under title of "Muay athletes punch and kick their way to glory and adulation" on page 10 of this daily issued on 18 December. Error is regretted.—NLM

Vision statement on ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation

Shared vision, shared indentify, shared future

We, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan;

Acknowledging the important of the joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together (Bali Declaration);

Noting the Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN diplomacy announced by the Prime Minister of Japan on 18 January 2013.

Committed to the principles, common values and norms stipulated in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asian (TAC);

Hereby reaffirm that ASEAN and Japan strengthen cooperation in the following four areas of partnership:

Partners for Peace and Stability

We reaffirm our enhanced commitment for the maintenance of peace, security, and stability, which is in the regional and global interests through:

- Further maintaining the stance as a peace-loving nation and strengthening peace-oriented values through, inter alia, respect for universally recognized principles of international law, and upholding the principle of moderation;
- Resolving disputes by peaceful means including through dialogue and consultations, renunciation of the threat or use of force and in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law;
- Enhancing dialogue and cooperation to promote the rule of law, good governance, democracy, and human rights law;
- Strengthening cooperation on disaster management, UN Peace-Keeping Operations, non-proliferation

and disarmament, counter-terrorism, translational crime and maritime security, among others.

Partners of Prosperity

We are committed to further enhancing our comprehensive economic partnership through:

- Strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to trade in goods, trade in services and investment, including to enhance the utilisation of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan 10-Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap;
- Supporting efforts to enhance ASEAN Connectively and a wider regional connectivity, as well as the utilisation of enhanced connectivity by business sectors, further promoting sustainable economic development, knowledge-based and innovation-driven industries, and continuing cooperation to narrow the development gap in the region; and
- Strengthening cooperation in air and maritime linkages between ASEAN and Japan in the region as well as ensuring freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the international Civil Aviation Organization (ICAD).

Partners for Quality of Life

We are committed to promoting human resource development and overcoming socio-economic and environmental issues by:

- Promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation, information and communications technology and cyber security;
- Strengthening partnership in agriculture, food security, energy security, nuclear safety, environmental protection and water resources management;
- Enhancing cooperation to eradicate poverty and tackle challenges arising from climate change, disasters, urbanization, and aging population;
- Sharing experience and knowledge in improving healthcare systems toward universal health coverage, social safety-net, and in empowering women to participate in political, economic, and socio-culture development; and
- Continuing to cooperate for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and beyond, as well as enhancing human security in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 66/290, in particular to further improve the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN and Japan.

Heart-to-Heart Partners

We will continue to strengthen mutual trust and "heart-to-heart" understanding as well as nurture friendship by:

- Promoting cultural and arts exchanged, and people-to-people exchanges in tourism, youth, and sports;
 - Enhancing cooperation in education, including, among others, language learning; and
 - Preserving diverse cultures and traditions;
- Adopted in Tokyo, with its Implementation Plan on the Fourteenth Day of December of the Year Two Thousand Thirteen.

Money exchange counter, mobile banking services available in Nay Pyi Taw during SEA Games

NAYPYITAW, 18 Dec—Nay Pyi Taw Bank Branch of Myanmar Economic Bank is providing the public including participants to the SEA Games and local and foreign sports fans with mobile banking services in downtown Nay Pyi Taw, apart from opening a money exchange counter at Social Zone in Sports Village,

here, as of 1 December.

The counter being kept open at Social Zone is conducting remittance service and foreign currency in exchange for local currency based on daily exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar, making change and exchanging old banknotes for new ones.

Moreover, mobile

banking services cars parked at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi sports complex from 9 am to 1 pm and at Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, Thabyegon Market, Junction Shopping Mall and Capital Shopping Mall from 2 pm to 6 pm are providing banking services to customers except local remittance service.—MNA

Health Care Activities

Midwifery refresher course conducted

SAGAING, 18 Dec—Sagaing District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and District Health Department jointly conducted the midwifery refresher course at the hall of Sagaing Township General Hospital (200bed) in Sagaing on 16 December morning.

U Myint Wai, Deputy Commissioner of Sagaing

District made an opening address.

Chairperson of District MCWSC Daw Thin Thin Cho made a speech.

Head of District Health Department Dr Thet Aung explained purpose of conducting the training course.

The ceremony was attended by town's elders, nurses of the Health

Department, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Aung Kyaw, members of District and Township MCWAs and Women's Affairs Organization, trainees from Sagaing, Myinmu and Myaung townships.

The training course was opened from 16 to 18 December.

Kyemon-Myo Win

Ambulance donated to Model Chaungkauk Village of Sinbaungwe Tsp

SINBAUNGWE, 18 Dec—Wellwisher Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara and disciples donated one ambulance to Model Village Hospital in Chaungkauk Village of the township on 15 December.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara and disciples donated ambulance worth K 13.5 million to Township Administrator U Ko Ko

Aung, Township Medical Officer Dr Kyaw Kyaw and Dr Su Su Lwin of Sanpyachaung Station Hospital.

Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Myint Ngwe explained the purpose of donation.

Township Administrator U Ko Ko Aung spoke words of thanks.

It was also attended

by Pyithu Hluttaw U Aye Naing of the township, the Township Administrator, members of Township

Opening ceremony of self-reliant Thein Htaik San library in progress in Yezagyo Township.



U Set Shwe explained process of taking census and scrutiny works.

Head of Township

Development Supportive Committee, wellwishers and local people.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

INRD U Saw Maung Hla explained the law of census and Head of District Information and Public Relations Department U Solomon population and housing matters.

It was also attended by members of the township, ward and village census committees, members of the development supportive committee and census committee members of regiments and units.

Head of District INRD U Set Shwe replied to queries raised by those present.

Kyemon-Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)

YEZAGYO, 18 Dec—A ceremony to open Thein Htaik San self-reliant library was held at the library in Salingon Village of Yezagyo

U Khaing Tun, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Daw San Yu Maw and Patron of the library U Soe Tint formally opened the library. On the occasion, the Township Administrator and the Head of Township IPRD explained durability of the library. Next, member of Township Development Supportive Committee U Aung San, National Literary Award winner U Than Aung (Than Aung-Anyamyay) and writer Swe Hlaing Oo (Swe Hlaing Oo-Yezagyo) gave talks on reading habit. The library was 20 feet long, 18 feet wide and 12 feet high. It was built at a cost of K 3 million contributed by the local people.—*Kyemon-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)*

Township on 14 December morning.

It was opened by Township Administrator

First textile diploma course opened

AMARAPURA, 18 Dec—Saungda Weaving and Vocational Institute of Small-scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives opened the textile diploma course was held at the institute on 16 December.

Director-General U Kyaw Ngwe of the

department made a speech. Principal Daw Tint Tint explained the disciplines of the school and plans to give lectures to the trainees.

The institute K 18000 each to trainees.

A total of 34 trainees are attending the one year course.—*Kyemon-Kyaw Zin Moe (Region IPRD)*

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

Charity Affairs

Blankets, offertories donated to 389 aged of over 70 years in Monywa

MONYWA, 18 Dec—The 11th ceremony to donate blankets, clothes and medicines were donated to 372 aged of over 70 years at Aung Dhammayon in Aungchantha Ward of Monywa on 15 December.

The organizing

committee presented gifts to 17 older persons who were affordable to attend the ceremony.

They donated goods worth K 1.8 million for

the aged. It was attended by Chairman of Monywa Township Management Committee U Nyunt Soe, and wellwishers.—*Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

HRD

Thein Htaik San library put into service



REGIONAL

Li urges administrators to build clean government

BEIJING, 18 Dec — Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday urged civil servants at all levels to take the lead with the “eight-point” guidelines to ban extravagance and formalism.

Li made the remarks at an award ceremony for individuals and collectives of civil servants, noting that they should not only be participants in reform, but promoters. “Civil servants should shoulder the burden of reform including streamlining government and delegating power to lower levels,” said Li. Li reiterated the importance of “serve

the people” and urged solution of the people’s problems and realization of people’s expectations. Civil servants at all levels should increase their legal awareness, abide by the law and perform in accordance with professional ethics, to build a law-based government.

A total of 99 individuals and 80 collectives were honoured at the ceremony, and an overwhelming majority are from grassroots positions and work in remote areas under harsh conditions but have achieved unusual success in ordinary positions.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang meets with representatives attending an awarding ceremony of outstanding civil servants and groups, in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 Dec, 2013. Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, also attended the ceremony. —XINHUA

Li called on Party committees and government at all levels to care more about grassroots civil servants, and to fully implement the spirit of the recent reform agendas.

Xinhua

India, Japan navies to hold 4-day exercise from Thursday

NEW DELHI, 18 Dec — The navies of India and Japan will hold a four-day exercise in waters off the Indian coast from Thursday, the Indian government said on Tuesday.

A government statement said the exercise in the Bay of Bengal will be participated in by the Indian Navy’s stealth frigate *Satpura*, guided missile

destroyer *Ranvijay* and missile corvette *Kuthar*, while the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force will send two guided missile destroyers, *Ariake* and *Setogiri*.

The two sides will hold practice boarding, searching and seizing of target vessels to enhance interoperability in antipiracy operations, while also

carrying out cross-deck helicopter landing practice and “operations in anti-surface, anti-submarine and anti-air threat scenarios.”

The exercise will be the second of its kind since the two sides agreed to hold them in November 2011 during Indian Defence Minister AK Antony’s visit to Japan. The first was conducted in waters off

Japan in January 2012, at which time India sent four naval ships.

It covered humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations, search and rescue, and antipiracy operations.

The Indian Navy and Japan’s MSDF have been collaborating to combat piracy off the Gulf of Aden.

Kyodo News

Singapore to deport 53 foreign workers following riot

SINGAPORE, 18 Dec — Singapore will deport 53 foreign workers over their suspected involvement in rioting earlier this month, in which a mob attacked police officers and police cars after a fatal bus accident that killed an Indian worker, according to a government website.

They will be repatriated to their home countries and banned from return-

ing to Singapore, said a statement on the Ministry of Home Affairs website, based on comments by Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean at a press conference on Tuesday. Local media reported that 52 Indian nationals and one Bangladeshi will be deported.

Rioting is rare in the wealthy city-state which has not seen such occur-

rences on its streets since racial riots in 1969.

“Their actions and conduct had threatened public order, thus making their continued presence in Singapore undesirable,” the statement said.

In addition, 28 people — all Indian nationals — have been charged in court for direct involvement in the riot, such as violent acts and damaging government property. According to Singapore’s penal code, any person guilty of rioting could be jailed and even caned.

The government has appointed a four-member committee chaired by a retired judge to look into the factors that led to the riot and to make recommendations to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future.

The government reacted swiftly to the riot by imposing several measures to restore peace in the Little India area, including a

temporary ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol during weekends, a period when thousands of foreign workers through the area on their days off.

But the measure has led to complaints of a sharp plunge in business for shops in the area, so the government is expected to announce some revised steps soon.

“The vast majority of foreign workers in Singapore are law abiding. They come here to earn a living and support their families in their home countries. In the process they contribute to Singapore by supplementing our need for workers,” the statement said.

But it added, “We have taken strong and decisive action to charge and to repatriate those who took part in the riot to send a strong signal that we will not tolerate actions by anyone which threaten law and order in Singapore.”

Kyodo News

Fukushima residents to vacate last evacuation centre by year-end

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 18 Dec — The occupants of the last evacuation centre housing people displaced by the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis will leave it by the end of this year, the mayor of an evacuated town in Fukushima Prefecture said on Wednesday.

“We will step forward to rebuild their lives,” Shiro Izawa, mayor of Futaba, which hosts the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, told reporters after a town assembly meeting. As of Tuesday, seven evacuees from Futaba were living at the center in Kazo, Saitama Prefecture, which was once used as a high school building, and all of them, aged 60 or older,

have found new accommodation, according to the municipal government.

Izawa said, “We will continue providing administrative services to the evacuees so they will not feel inconvenienced.”

The entire population of Futaba was evacuated in the wake of the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi plant on March 11, 2011, and the headquarters of the municipal government was transferred to the former school building before being removed to Iwaki, Fukushima, in June this year.

The evacuation center will officially shut down early next year following maintenance work, Izawa said. — *Kyodo News*



Kunihiro Takagi (R), leader of a sufferers’ group, and Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co President Sadao Senda shake hands, holding documents of agreement, in Toyama, Japan, on 17 Dec, 2013. The compensation issue over one of Japan’s four major pollution-caused disease cases reached a complete settlement, as sufferers of cadmium poisoning, known as “Itai-Itai Disease,” and the company responsible signed an agreement on it. — KYODO NEWS

Floods kill four, displace over 4,000 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 18 Dec — Floods hitting East Java Province of Indonesia since last weekend have left four people dead and forced more than 4,000 others to take shelters, a disaster agency official said here on Tuesday.

The Solo and Lamong rivers bloated by days of torrential rains burst their banks and submerged several areas in the Districts of Bojonegoro, Gresik, Tuban and Lamongan, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the National Disaster Management and Mitigation agency.

“In Mojokerto — two people were dead and in

Gresik two others (have) been killed, they were swept away by the currents,” he told *Xinhua* by phone.

The official said that the waters are likely to flood in other high lands in the province, while the evacuees have been taking shelters in buildings and tents at the higher grounds as about 15,000 houses have been inundated. The floods also submerged about 2,000 hectares of rice fields, he added. Seasonal downpours often incur floods each year in Indonesia, a chain of 17,500 islands where over millions of people live in flood-prone plains that are close to rivers. — *Xinhua*



Photo taken on 7 Nov, 2013 shows Kenji Miura, head chef at the Beaux Sejours French restaurant at Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto, cooking steaks at the restaurant in Kyoto’s Sakyo Ward. — KYODONEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (357)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (357) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THIGAYU VOY NO (04/13)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (04/13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) 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 KRUNG THON NAVA
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SN HARMONY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SN HARMONY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA NET SHIPPING
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

At least 21, including women and baby, killed in Congo's east

KINSHASA, 18 Dec—At least 21 people, including women and a baby, were killed over the weekend in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN peacekeeping mission there said on Monday.

The UN mission did not say who it believed carried out the massacre but a local elected official blamed Ugandan Islamist rebels.

Most of those killed appeared to have been hacked to death on Friday and Saturday in villages not far from Beni, in Congo's North Kivu Province, according to a statement by Martin Kobler, head of the MONUSCO peacekeeping mission.

"These atrocities will not go unpunished," he said. Three girls appear to have been raped and then behead-

ed while one of the victims was just months old, his statement added.

The killings highlighted the challenges still facing Congo's army and UN forces attempting to pacify Congo's mineral-rich east, which has remained a lawless patchwork of rebel strongholds and militia fiefdoms for nearly two decades.—Reuters

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

Visa-free travel for Turks to EU not in sight yet

ANKARA, 18 Dec—Agreements signed on Monday in Ankara between Turkey and the European Union (EU) fell short of expectations that Turks will get a visa-free travel to EU member states in specific time frame in exchange for admitting transition of illegal immigrants back to Turkey for repatriation.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom signed the agreement to

launch negotiations on lifting visa requirements for Turks travelling to Europe.

Yet the agreement does not guarantee that the visa-waiver will happen eventually and there is no deadline set for that goal. In exchange, Turkey has agreed to sign another accord called Readmission Agreement to allow EU member states to send illegal immigrants transited from Turkey back to Turkey.

"This agreement does not see an automatic dropping of visa requirements for Turkish citizens at the end of process," Idris Gursoy, political analyst and bureau chief for mass weekly news magazine *Aksiyon*, told *Xinhua*.

"It may very well leave Turkey with a heavy burden of tackling big number of illegal immigrants dropped by the EU in its own laps," he added. The opposition is also critical of agreements with main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) deputy Faruk Logoglu saying on Monday that the cost may be high for Turkey. "This agreement brings very heavy



Turkish Interior Minister Muammer Guler(R) and European Commissioner for Justice Cecilia Malmstrom shake hands at the signing ceremony of an agreement on EU governments' repatriation of illegal immigrants from Turkey in Ankara, Turkey, on 16 Dec, 2013.

XINHUA

obligations for Turkey.

We are in a position of burdening ourselves with heavy obligations for something which is not certain," he said a press conference in parliament.

Turkish government officials defended agreements saying that they have assurances that both deals will go in parallel.

"Today is a milestone in Turkey-EU relations," said Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a signing ceremony held in the Turkish capital of Ankara.

"Visa-free travel to Eu-

rope will begin in three to three-and-a-half years," he said. "We can't predict how long this (visa liberalization) dialogue will last. We hope that both sides will take advantage of this process ahead of us," Malmstrom said.

Turkey pledges to work on strengthening border security and building detention centres for illegal migrants for three years. The EU has to reevaluate Turkey's performance before giving a green light to visa-free travel to Turkish citizens.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Actor Joaquin Phoenix finds love in a virtual world in 'Her'

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — Joaquin Phoenix knew he had to star in Spike Jonze's latest film "Her," an unconventional romance that explores ideas about intimacy, isolation, relationships and technology, because it wasn't a typical love story.

Phoenix's depressed writer character finds love in the film, set in a futuristic Los Angeles, but the object of his affection isn't a co-worker or the girl next door. It's an intuitive, voice-controlled, computer operating system named Samantha.

"I thought it was really interesting and unique, that there was this great emotional centre you could grab onto, that it wasn't too esoteric," Phoenix told *Reuters* ahead of the film's opening in US theaters on Wednesday.

"There are these great big ideas and themes to explore but it felt totally accessible."

Phoenix, a triple Oscar nominee for his roles in "Gladiator," "The Master" and "Walk The Line," which also earned him a best actor Golden Globe in 2006, plays Theodore Twombly, a writer for BeautifulHandwritten-Letters.com.

By day he dictates affectionate letters that are transcribed by a computer into "handwritten" notes for clients to their loved ones. In the evening he plays a large video game alone in his high-rise, sparsely furnished apartment.

The National Board of Review named "Her" best picture of 2013, calling it "an outstanding achievement that is sure to become a new



Cast members Joaquin Phoenix (L) and Scarlett Johansson (R) arrive for a red carpet event for the movie "Her" at the Rome Film Festival, in this file photo from 10 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

classic," and awarded Jonze its best director award.

Phoenix, 39, nabbed his fourth Golden Globe nomination for his role in "Her," while the film won Globe nominations for best picture in a comedy or musical and best screenplay.

"In a tender about-face from his fearsome performance in 'The Master,' Phoenix here is enchantingly open, vulnerable, sweet-natured and yearning for emotional completion,"

The Hollywood Reporter said about his performance.

The New York Post praised Jonze, who wrote the screenplay and is known for pushing cinematic boundaries since his off-the-wall 1999 film "Being John Malkovich."

"Jonze seems to be heading for a far quirkier ending than the one he actually delivers, but he does tap into the zeitgeist with his unlikely romantic fable," it said.—*Reuters*

Shah Rukh Khan: Could not bear to see Swades end

MUMBAI, 18 Dec — For superstar Shah Rukh Khan, the greatest way to count his years in the film industry is by his landmark movies.

"The greatest way for an actor to count his years is for each of them to be defined by a film. DDLJ (Dilwale Dulhania le Jayenge) year, Swades year, KKKH (Kuch Kuch Hota Hai) year and so on," Shah Rukh posted on Twitter on Tuesday.

His film Swades completed nine years on Tuesday. The superstar said that since the making of the film was so close to his heart, he could not bear to see it end and hence he never saw the film.

"Making Swades was such an emotionally overwhelming experience that I never saw the finished product. Didn't want the feeling to end," he said.

The 47-year-old also thanked Swades director Ashutosh Gowariker and his team for the project.

"Thank you Ashutosh for changing my life. Gayatri (Joshi), A R Rahman and Javed (Akhtar) sahab for helping calling 'a Swades a Swades'. Respect," he said.

The film received critical acclaim but it did not enjoy a great run at the box office.

SRK is currently shooting for Farah Khan's Happy New Year.—*PTI*



A still from the movie Swades

Filipina chosen Miss International 2013

TOKYO, 18 Dec — Bea Rose Santiago of the Philippines won the 2013 Miss International pageant on Tuesday in Tokyo, saying she hopes to use her title to help reconstruction of her country which has been severely damaged by Typhoon Haiyan.

An earlier Miss International crowned Santiago, 23, as the 2012 Miss International, Ikumi Yoshimatsu, was absent from the event despite tradition that the previous year's winner crowns the new title holder.

Yoshimatsu, 26, told a Press conference on Monday in Tokyo that she was asked by the organizer to refrain from attending this year's pageant after she had received threats.

Representatives from 67 countries and territories attended the Tokyo pageant.—*Kyodo News*



Bea Rose Santiago,

Michael Jackson's children led a 'secluded' life



Michael's eldest son, Prince, says he didn't even know his father's name until he was six because of the sheltered lifestyle.—*PTI*

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — King of Pop Michael Jackson's children have spoken about their sheltered yet loving childhood with their late father at his Neverland ranch.

Prince Michael, 16, Paris, 15, and Blanket, 11 have opened up about their lives with their late famous father in a new documentary Remembering Michael, revealing they had little idea of what went on outside the

walls of the high-security Californian ranch, reported *New York daily News*.

Speaking in the tell-all film made by the Thriller hit-maker's mother, Katherine Jackson, Paris said, "There are a lot of bad people out there but he always wanted a taste of normal life. We didn't know a lot of kids our age. We were more secluded, we never left the ranch that often."

"He promised he would teach me how to moonwalk but never got around to it. I really hope his legacy lives on forever. I will never forget him ever. He was amazing," Paris added.

Meanwhile, Michael's eldest son Prince didn't even know his father's name until he was six because he led such a sheltered lifestyle.

"He never really wanted to tell us who he is as a person. It took me until I was six years old to learn his name was Michael Jackson—he was always Daddy to me and that was it," the teenager said.

Even Blanket, who is normally shielded from the media, recalls some of his earliest memories before Michael tragically passed away in 2009 from a lethal dose of Propofol. "Sometimes I would go in his room and watch videos of him dancing," he said.—*PTI*

Zlatan author to write

"Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" trilogy sequel

STOCKHOLM, 18 Dec — Stieg Larsson's blockbuster "Millennium" trilogy of thrillers is to be given a sequel written by Swedish author David Lagercrantz, Swedish publisher Norstedts said on Tuesday.

The books by the late author have sold more than 75 million copies in 50 countries, with the first, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo", be-

ing made into a Hollywood film with Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara in 2011.

The publishers were tight-lipped about where the story would take the main characters — investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist and the tattooed young hacker Lisbeth Salander—and would only say that they would return in the book, due for release

in August 2015. Lagercrantz co-authored the autobiography of Swedish football star Zlatan Ibrahimovic, "I am Zlatan", which was released in 2011.

"Obviously we are hugely excited," Norstedts Managing Director Eva Gedin told *Reuters*. "We believe we have found a quite superb author for this project."—*Reuters*

Alia Bhatt: Highway is like a journey for me

MUMBAI, 18 Dec — Young actress Alia Bhatt, who travelled across six states in north India for her next film Highway, says the experience of working in the movie has turned out to be an "experience she never had".

"This film (Highway) is not a film for me. This is an experience that I never had. I started working at the age of 18 and I always complained about that one experience that may be I will never have.

"You know like going

to college, being independent. But this is that experience. It is literally like video taping yourself and then releasing it. This is not a film for me, it is my journey, physical and emotional," the 20-year-old said here on Monday at the first look launch of the film.

Highway has not only been directed by Imtiaz Ali but he has also turned producer with it in collaboration with Sajid Nadiadwala.

The film hits theatres on 21 February next year.

PTI



Alia travelled across six states for her movie Highway.



27th SEA Games, Myanmar, 2013 Nay Pyi Taw

Danthai wins men's golf gold, Princess reigns over the women

By Alan Adams

Danthai Boonma of Thailand was in a crouch as he lifted his putter to eye level and tried to get a read of the green. With the SEA Games men's golf title on the line on the second playoff hole, he had little room for error.

Boonma got up, stood over the ball and steadied himself like a surgeon preparing for a major operation. He then drained a four-foot putt to claim the championship.

"It certainly feels good," he said afterwards.

Considering how he went into final round with a four-stroke lead, it had to.

Danthai was sitting at minus-10 for a four-stroke cushion over Gavin Kyle

Green of Malaysia after the third round, but the margin evaporated midway through the final round. Green had four straight birdies, starting at the ninth hole, and when Danthai had a bogey on the 13th, they were deadlocked at minus-10 with final five holes to go.

They exchanged the lead one more time and then both had birdies on No. 18 to set up the playoff.

Both golfers found the right side of the fairway on their tee shot on the first playoff hole, and they came up short of the green with their second shots. They all but mirrored each other with the placement of their chips and both saved par with short putts.

They returned to the tee at No. 18 for a third straight

time and Danthai drove the ball down the left of the fairway, about 35 yards past where Green placed his ball on the right.

Green's second shot failed to find the green and the ball ended up about two yards off the green to the left of the pin. Danthai's approach hit and stuck about seven feet from the pin.

After Green pulled up short on a long putt, Danthai showed great poise in sinking his pressure-packed 7-footer for the gold medal.

"That's golf," Green said. Poom Saksansin of Thailand finished at -3 and a 283 total for the bronze.

Thailand also won gold in the men's team event, with an 838 total over 72 holes. Myanmar won silver on 846, while Malaysia followed at

848 for the bronze.

The playoff on the men's side wasn't the only drama on the day. Princess Mary Superal of the Philippines won the women's individual crown with relative ease. She shot even-par on the final day and finished at -6 and a 210 total.

Superal is 16 and a phenom in her homeland. She takes home school and has a sponsor that allows her to concentrate on golf. She recently won a pro tournament in the Philippines when she finished at minus-9.

"I wasn't really challenged," Superal, who was the only woman to complete the 54 holes under par, said. Her efforts allowed the Philippines to claim the women's team title, and

that outcome was also never really in doubt.

The same could not be said, however, in the race for the silver and bronze women's team medals.

As the trios finished their rounds, the golfers would gather around the electronic scoreboard not to see who was atop the leaderboard but to do the math in the overall standings.

People used calculators on their cell phones to do the sums as they worked at the different configurations.

At one point, the Indonesia women were hugging each other when they moved into contention for the bronze medal, but a strong performance by Myanmar and Thailand dumped them down the leaderboard.



In the end, Myanmar took the silver with a 439 total, and Thailand was a stroke behind for the bronze.

"This is a great showing by Myanmar golfers," said Koray Sakaf, an Australian who is part of the Myanmar coaching staff.

"We've worked hard. The guys and gals have been on this course every day for about a month. We're getting better," he said.

Singapore wins individual show jumping, Cambodians jump in competition for first time in six decades

By Kerstin Winter

Individual Show Jumping began yesterday more like a rodeo than an equestrian event, when Indonesia's Andry Prasetyono was thrown by his horse at the triple combination.

Bucking around the arena, Fast Track was hard to get back under control.

"Perhaps he lost confidence in his first jump and wasn't set up for it, because he has done well before and is in the top 20 horses of the event, otherwise he wouldn't be here," Susanne Cunning-

ham, the president of the appeals committee of the SEA Games, said.

With most of the horses imported from Australia for the Games, they only had a few weeks to get used to the new environment, but the riders only had a couple of days to familiarize themselves with the horses each country got through a draw.

Talking about the draw before her gold medal win, Singapore's Janine Khoo said, "I am really lucky I got CP Safari. We're a good fit. He's competitive like me and we work well

together."

She said that although her horse was tired, having already competed in dressage at the Games as did most of the other horses, he seemed "much happier in jumping," having more experience in that discipline.

Singapore coach Roy Ibrahim said that while the horses are jumping 1.10m obstacles here, some of them are used to jumping 1.50m in Australia.

"But it all depends on the level of the horse. Our rider Catherine Chew is competing on Ruby, a rather inexperienced horse

that is more used to cross-country where they jump over big solid logs, not fences like here. So we had to figure out in a short time how to bring the best out in her in the combinations," Ibrahim said, adding the horses here mainly have experience at junior level events.

Chew, an experienced rider, boosted Ruby's confidence with clear signals, placing fourth in the event.

Indonesia narrowly lost out on silver in a jump-off against Thailand, but had prepared well, according to coach Adi Katompo.

"I closely watched all the horses in the previous events and took notes, and when we got Gunderman in the draw, I knew I had to relax him. He had been fighting against his Cambodian rider in dressage because he is sensitive in the mouth and has a sore back." Katompo changed the mouthpiece to a soft rubber one and used a rein in training to guide Gunderman to lower his head, which led him to stretch his back and relax it. "That helped him, and also our rider Jendry Palandeng is a calm, confident person who connects quickly with horses," he said.

While the Cambodian riders may not have had

the experience to deal with imported horses -- all three riders were eliminated in the first round -- coach Kathleen Marie Lovatt from Britain explained Cambodia had not competed in equestrian since the 1950s and her protégés have thus come far and overcame the most difficult circumstances.

Three of the six riders are from disadvantaged families, and "got free riding lessons at the Cambodian Country Club in Phnom Penh as part of the 'Horse Future' program that was initiated by my predecessor at the riding school there, a French lady who was manager," she said.

The kids were selected by local NGOs, most prominently Hollywood star Angelina Jolie's Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation, which used the prospect of learning horse riding as a reward and enticement for the children they look after.

"They came once a week for lessons and some of them were really talented. Then in June 2012 I got approached by the Myanmar equestrian federation if we could put together a team for the SEA Games," she said.

They stepped up the



training for jumping and dressage from once a week to twice and were only able in the last six months before the Games to train four times a week due to a shortage of horses, Lovatt said of the rocky road to Nay Pyi Taw.

"I am so happy to be here now, because I want to compete more and like meeting new people," said 19-year-old Narith Sim, a former Maddox protégé, who has been riding seven years and left his home country for the first time only a few months ago to gain experience in a couple of Asian events.

Teammate Sor Puthminea said he wants to work on his technique, adding he only started riding four years ago at age 16 and was a stable help at the country club before that.

"They can really be proud of themselves and what they have achieved," Lovatt said.



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 Gilmour 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

Winning ticket sold in California for Mega Millions lottery



A woman walks past a Mega Millions lottery sign with the estimated jackpot of \$586 million posted in Los Angeles, California on 16 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — A winning ticket for an estimated \$636 million Mega Millions jackpot, approaching the biggest US lottery prize ever, was sold in San Jose, California, a lottery official said late on Tuesday evening.

There was no immediate word about who won, but the winning ticket was bought at a retail location on Tully Road in San Jose, California, according to Alex Traverso, a lottery official in the western US state. The winning numbers for Tuesday's drawing were: 8, 14, 17, 20, 39, and 7, according to the lottery's website, Megamillions.com.

"There could be more, that's the only one we know right now," Traverso said.

If the winner chooses to take the lump sum cash option, instead of payments over 30 years, the jackpot would be \$341 million, the lottery said.

The prize swelled after a spike in sales ahead of Tuesday night's drawing. As much as 70 percent of the tickets are typically

bought on the day of the drawing, said Paula Otto, Virginia's lottery director, who heads the multi-state Mega Millions game.

At a corner grocery store on Manhattan's Upper East Side, ticket buyers lined up for a chance to strike it rich, and shared their dream shopping lists.

"I would give at least half of it to my church," said Keith Boyd, pastor at the nearby Trinity Baptist Church, who bought 20 tickets to give away as gifts while keeping one for himself. "It would be a way to bless others."

Syed Waheed, a 37-year-old immigrant from Afghanistan who bought a single ticket, said he would use the fortune to bring his entire family to the United States. Ticket buying reached a fever pitch over the weekend, with 20 percent more chances sold than expected, Otto said.

The surge of spending pushed the prize closer to the record US jackpot of \$656 million, won in March 2012 in a Mega Millions drawing.—Reuters

New Zealand, Australia to step up military cooperation

WELLINGTON, 18 Dec — The defence ministers of New Zealand and Australia Wednesday agreed a series of measures to deepen military and security cooperation between the two nations.

New Zealand Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said the annual bilateral meeting with Australian counterpart David Johnston in Auckland resulted in a commitment to build on progress in defence cooperation.

The two ministers shared assessments on the full range of global and regional security challenges, including developments in the Middle East, and agreed they would continue to collaborate on Pacific security issues, including through the South Pacific Defence Ministers Meeting.

Both countries reiterated the importance of working in close partnership with Pacific Island countries, Coleman said in a statement.

The ministers identified avenues for further practical cooperation, including discussions on naval cooperation and further cross-crewing initiatives, as well as the secondment of an Australian policy officer to the New Zealand Ministry of Defence from early next year.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(19-12-2013, Thursday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6:00 am | 3:30 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 11. Talks Show |
| 6:15 am | 4:00 pm |
| 2. Physical Exercises | 12. 27th SEA Games Football (Live) (Malaysia & Indonesia) |
| 6:25 am | (Semi Final) (Men) |
| 3. Documentary | 6:00 pm |
| 6:50 am | 13. News/Weather Report |
| 4. SEA Games Songs | 6:30 pm |
| 7:00 am | 14. Teleplay |
| 5. News/Weather Report | 6:20 pm |
| 7:30 am | 15. Talks Show |
| 6. Talks Show | 6:300 pm |
| 8:00 am | 16. 27th SEA Games Football (Live) (Thailand & Singapore) |
| 7. News/ International News/Rowing | (Semi Final) (Men) |
| 9:00 am | 8:40 pm |
| 8. Sepaktakraw | 17. News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 9. News/ International News/ Weather Report/Sepaktakraw | 18. Talks Show |
| 12:30 am | |
| 10. Documentary | |

Four militants killed, 23 arrested in Afghan

KABUL, 18 Dec — Four militants were killed and 23 others detained in military operations across Afghanistan since early Tuesday, the country's Interior Ministry said on Wednesday morning.

"In the past 24 hours, Afghan National Police (ANP) conducted several anti-terrorism joint operations with Afghan National Army and National Directorate for Security (NDS) to clean some of the areas from terrorists and enemies of peace and stability of Afghanistan,"

the ministry said in a statement.

According to the statement, the operations were conducted in Kandahar, Uruzgan, Wardak and Logar Provinces.

"As a result, four armed Taleban members were killed and 23 others were arrested by Afghan National Security Forces. Also, during these operations, Afghan National Police discovered and confiscated light and heavy rounds ammunition," the statement said.

Xinhua

Chelsea lack killer instinct, says Mourinho

LONDON, 18 Dec — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was forced to recount a familiar tale as he bemoaned his team's latest failure to turn chances into goals after their 2-1 extra-time defeat by Sunderland in the League Cup on Tuesday.

"The quality of football we produced is amazing. We never lost a match

because we didn't play or that the opponent was stronger, it's just we don't kill opponents and we give them life," Mourinho told *Sky Sports* after his team were knocked out in the quarter-finals.

"Every opponent knows they can score a goal (against us). We had fantastic chances to score and didn't score." While

Chelsea sit third in the Premier League and are safely through to the knockout stages in the Champions League, surprise recent results have forced the Mourinho on to the defensive about his team's chances of silverware.

Two defeats and a draw in their last seven Premier League matches as well as a double reverse against

Swiss side Basel in Europe have turned the focus on the club's mis-firing strikers, Fernando Torres, Demba Ba and Samuel Eto'o.

The trio have managed five league goals between them all season. Eto'o was handed the responsibility for leading the line against Sunderland and wasted an excellent chance to double the lead in the second half when he side-footed wide with only the keeper to beat.

Asked why his current Chelsea team is not as ruthless as the one he had in his first spell with the club, Mourinho said: "I can't answer this question. I'm the manager of this team not the manager of the old team. We are not behind the old team, but in front in terms of quality.—Reuters



Chelsea's Frank Lampard (R) shoots to score against Sunderland during their English League Cup quarter-final soccer match at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, on 17 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

19-12-13 07:00 am ~ 20-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Ananda Gu Phaya
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Travel To The Southern Part Of Shan State (Inn Lay Lake)
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * Product of Myanmar — Stone of The Heavens
- * World News
- * Porcelain and Glass
- * Local News
- * Soft Crab Breeding Procedure
- * World News
- * The Exotic Land of Myanmar
- * 27th SEA GAMES COMPETITION
- * 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
- * Local News
- * Lifestyle of Toddy Palm Climbers
- * World News
- * The beautiful lake ... where the natural biodiversity gathers
- * Local News
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec— Vice-President U Nyan Tun enjoyed the traditional boat race of the XXVII SEA Games at Ngalike Dam, here, this morning.

Athletes from Myanmar, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia and Thailand took part in today's events.

Myanmar seized gold, Indonesia, silver and Thailand, bronze in 1000-meter 10-oar men's traditional boat race while Myanmar secured gold, Thailand, silver and Indonesia, bronze in 1000-meter 10-oar women's traditional boat race.

In 1000-meter 20-oar men's traditional boat race, gold medal went to Myanmar, silver to Thailand and bronze to Indonesia while Myanmar took gold, Thailand, silver and Indonesia, bronze in 1000-meter 20-oar women's traditional boat race.

Gold medal went to Myanmar, silver to Thailand and bronze to Indonesia in 1000-meter mixed 10-oar traditional boat race while Myanmar got gold, Thailand, silver and Indonesia, bronze in 1000-meter mixed 20-oar traditional boat race.

The Vice-President, Union ministers U Thein Nyunt, Dr Kan Zaw and U

Myanmar sweep six gold in traditional boat race



Vice-President U Nyan Tun and traditional boat race winners celebrate victory after sweeping gold medals for home in 27th SEA Games.

MNA

Tint Hsan and Deputy Minister U Zaw Win awarded the winners.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets local people in Dawei

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla together with Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko this

morning viewed the medical treatment by base medical team No (1) to the locals at Ngagyinin monastery in Thabyechaung Village-tract and comforted the patients.

Defence Services mo-

bile medical teams are giving health care services to the locals in Dawei, Myeik and Bokpyin Townships and nearby areas starting from yesterday.

The Senior General then held a meeting with the officers, servicemen and their families at Aung San Hall in Dawei Station.

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Thailand wins over Vietnam in hockey

YANGON, 18 Dec—The Hockey competition of the 27th SEA Games continued at Theinbyu Turf Hockey Pitch, here, this afternoon.

Thailand won a landslide victory over Vietnam 8-0 while Malaysia beat Thailand 6-0.

MNA

Myanmar seize one gold, one bronze in Kempo Embu mixed double event

YANGON, 18 Dec— Kempo event of the XXVII SEA Games continued for the second day at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1, here, this morning.

Athletes from Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Timor-Leste and Vietnam participated in today's events.

After the matches, gold medal went to Vietnam, silver to Indonesia and bronze to Timor-Leste in women's double Embu Kyu Ken-shi event while Indonesia bagged gold, Vietnam, silver and Myanmar and Laos, joint-bronze in women's Randori event.

Myanmar athletes Aung Naing Tun and Ei Phyu Maung secured gold while Vietnam got silver

and Indonesia, bronze in Embu mixed double event.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and officials of Asian Kempo Federation, South East Asian Kempo Federation and Myanmar Kempo Federation awarded the winners.—MNA



Wassana Winacho of Thailand jumps during final match of Women's Long Jump.

PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

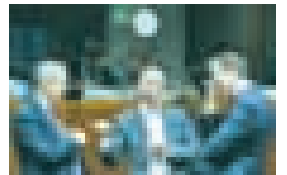
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UK rushes out welfare curbs to deter East European migrants



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Euro zone ministers agree on backstops for financing bank closures



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Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	73	66	62	201
Vietnam	54	52	62	168
Myanmar	53	45	49	147
Indonesia	50	60	71	181
Malaysia	30	30	55	115
Singapore	23	22	31	76
Philippines	20	24	28	72
Laos	5	8	26	39
Cambodia	5	7	14	26
Brunei	1	1	4	6
Timor-Leste	1	0	2	3



Myanmar athletes Aung Naing Tun and Ei Phyu Maung celebrating after securing gold medal in Kempo event.

MNA