

The New Light of Myanmar

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Volume XXI, Number 250

5th Waning of Nadaw 1375 ME

Sunday, 22 December, 2013

President awards winners in traditional boat race



President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham, U Nyan Tun and Union Ministers together with medal-winning rowers celebrate victory. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—The final events of Traditional Boat Races of the 27th SEA Games took place at Ngalike Dam, here, this morning. President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr

Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, Hluttaw representatives, officials and fans en-

joyed the events.

In Men's 20-oar 2000-m event, gold medal went to Thailand, silver to

Myanmar and bronze to Indonesia.

Myanmar took gold medal; Indonesia, silver

and Thailand, bronze in Women's 20-oar 2000-m event.

Myanmar secured gold medal in Mixed 20-oar 2000-m event, silver medal went to Indonesia and bronze medal to Thailand.

Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun and the member of SEA Games Council presented awards and gifts to the winners in Men's 20-oar 2000-m event.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and President of Myanmar Rowing Federation U Chit Khaing gave prizes and presents to medal-winning rowers in Men's 20-oar 2000-m events.

President U Thein Sein and Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presented the prizes to the medalists in Mixed 20-oar 2000-m event.

The President and party took a documentary photo together with winner Myanmar rowers.

MNA

Nway Nway takes home fourth Taekwondo gold with lightning-quick kick

Myanmar national taekwondo team notched up its fourth gold on the final day of Taekwondo hostilities at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A), here, today. The host country added one more gold to its medal tally from a thrilling gold fight in women's under-46 kg Taekwondo category.

Nway Nway brought fourth gold medal to her team in the final bout against Thailand's Panipak Wongpattanakit who was defeated by a count of 7-5 and got only silver. The Myanmar Taekwondo fighter secured the gold as she turned a one-point deficit into a 7-5 lead four

second before the end of the final round by landing a lightning-quick kick to her opponent's head. The Philippines and Indonesia shared the bronze in the event.

Myanmar national taekwondo team brought four gold, one silver and six bronze for the motherland in the regional sports festival for 2013, reaching its four-gold medal target as expected.

In other events, Ramnarong Sawekwiharee of Thailand defeated his Filipino opponent 11-9 in the men's under-54 kg final. Cambodian won gold through Seavmey Sorn who beat Indonesia's Selviana

By YM (NLM)

Angelia Jehabut 17-0 in the women's 67-73 kg event. Gold for the final fight of men's 80-87 kg event went to Vietnamese Taekwondo athlete Nguyen Trong Cuong who won by 5 points to nil against Cambodia's Sophal Mao. Davin Sorn of Cambodian fell to a 4-6 loss defeated by Filipino fighter Kirstie Elaine Alora in women's above-73kg event. Kristopher Robert Uy of Philippines took home gold by a count of 7-6 in men's +87kg event, leading one point to Vietnam's Quang Duc Dinah.



Nway Nway celebrating victory over Thailand rival in women's under-46 kg Taekwondo event. THURATOUNGGOO

LOCAL NEWS

Coordination on Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand held

YANGON, 21 Dec — Myanmar Ambassador held talks with Immigration Bureau Commissioner Pol Lieutenant General Phamu Kerdlapphon on Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand recently.

The Myanmar Ambassador at the meeting made a request not to arrest Myanmar migrants by Thai authorities, to issue visas to offspring of migrants and to collect visa fee no more than 500 bahts.

According to the discussions, Thai side is

taking necessary measures to issue visas to children of migrants as a directive has already been issued. Although there are arrests of undocumented migrants in accord with existing laws of Thailand, the Thai Labour Ministry is making arrangements for Cabinet resolution in order to grant a special exemption in which Myanmar migrant workers who passed the four years limit to work will not get arrested during a period of 180 days in accord with the request of Myanmar.

As of 21 October, 2013, ordinary passports have been issued to Myanmar workers who are going to work in Thailand in accord with the MoU between the two countries. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, works are underway to open six ordinary passport centres in Kawthoung-Ranong, Htikhi-Phunamshum, Mawtaung-Hsinkhun, Myawady-Mesok and Tachilek-Maesi including Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok of Thailand.

MNA

Health Care Activity

Mobile health care team gives service to patients



KYUNHLA, 21 Dec— Chairman of Khunhla Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Nang Cho Cho Pyone and party, members of District and Township MCWAs viewed learning of trainees at the midwifery training course at Township People's Hospital on 17 December.

The chairperson met expectant mothers.

Shwebo District Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant explained symptoms of expectant

mothers and nutritious foods for them and distributed iodized salt and nutritious foods to them.

The Township MCWA chairperson and party viewed health care services provided by Assistant Head of Township Traditional Medicine Department Daw Kyi Nwe to older persons at the clinic at Myinmamaing Ward of Kyunhla.

Later, they donated medicines to the aged and cash to the clinic.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Development

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw development fund allotted to 46 township works

MOHNYIN, 21 Dec— Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's development fund K 100 million was earmarked to be spent on nine rural water supply tasks, 21 road transports, 11 rural region basic education building renovation tasks, one renovation of rural health centre building and other three totalling 46.

Moreover, the development fund K 100 million must be spent on the tasks in 2013-14 fiscal year. So, if all the fund cannot be spent, the remaining amount must be refunded to the Hluttaw.

The Union government is carrying out rural development tasks undertaken by respective ministries. The Hluttaw

fund is to be spent on rural development tasks that were not included in the projects of the government. These tasks can be implemented with the Hluttaw development fund quickly. In the international arena, the constituency development fund is allotted.

Such fund is to be spent immediately on natural disaster or damages of buildings for example school without waiting for the fund of the Union government. Due to regulations, the departments may allot the fund on the tasks at least one year," said U Kyaw Soe Lay, Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Mohnyin Township.

NLM-001

MoU on cooperation in investment promotion in Myanmar signed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec— The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and International Finance Corporation (IFC) have signed an MoU on cooperation in investment promotion in Myanmar at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

On the occasion,

Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration U Aung Naing Oo and Resident Representative Mr Vikram Kumar of IFC signed the MoU that supports private sector development of the country and attracts long-term investments.

MNA

Continuing medical education programme held



SITTFWAY, 21 Dec— The seminar on continuing medical education programme, organized by Sittway Township Medical Association, took place at Sittway Township General Hospital of Rakhine State on 18 December.

It was attended by Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Aye Nyein,

Medical Superintendent of Sittway General Hospital Dr Aung San, specialists, surgeons from Township Health Departments in Rakhine State, doctors from social organizations and assistant surgeons and house surgeons totalling over 150.

The seminar shared practical works of specialists on medical point of view and they replied to queries raised by those present.

"The continuing medical education programme contributes much to qualification of us. So our

hospital will organize such seminar one after another," said Medical Superintendent Dr Aung San.

The seminar was sponsored by United Pharmaceutical Co Ltd. It will be held monthly.

MMAL-La/003

Vendors, beggars from friendship bridge removed

TACHILEK, 21 Dec— Vendors and beggars on No 1 Friendship Bridge may tarnish the image of the nation, reported by a local

in the Myanma Alinn daily on 22 October.

Thus, workers of Tachilek Township Development Affairs

Committee and Myanmar Police Force have cleared them from the bridge, recently, said Township DAC.—MMAL-Swe Nyein



Agriculture

Model plots of quality paddy strain continues

SALIN, 21 Dec— The harvesting of model plot of quality paddy was held in Salin Township of Magway Region on 15 December morning.

It took place at the model

plot of farmer U Mya Win.

The ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Tun Thein, members of Township Agricultural Coordination

Committee, township level departmental officials and local farmers.

Later, they put production of paddy on record.

MMAL-Township IPRD

WORLD

Obama rejects 2013 as worst year of presidency, expects "breakthrough" in 2014

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — At the end of his fifth year in the White House, US President Barack Obama on Friday rejected the year of 2013 as the worst of his tenure, and expected 2014 to be "a breakthrough year for America."

Speaking at his year-end news conference in the White House briefing room, Obama opened his remarks with the good news of the US economic growth and cited the latest improvement of the health plans sign-ups under his signature healthcare overhaul. Asked if 2013 had been the worst of his

presidency, he laughed and dodged the question. He downplayed the recent poll results, as his approval rating has slid to all-time low of his presidency.

The latest CNN/ORC poll released about an hour before the president's year-end news conference showed his approval rating fell to 41 percent, the lowest of his presidency.

"If you are measuring this by polls, my polls have gone up and down a lot through the course of my career," said Obama. "If I was interested in polling, I would not have run for president."

"I've run my last political race. So at this point, my goal every single day is just to make sure that I can look back and say we're delivering something, not everything, because this is a long haul," he added.

The president admitted that the problem with the health care website, which has been through a rocky rollout since 1 October, was "a source of great frustration."

"The fact is it didn't happen in the first month, first six weeks, in a way that was at all acceptable. And since I'm in charge, obviously we screwed it up,"

said Obama.

But he moved quickly to stress that the enrollment number of the healthcare website has picked up pace in the past month, which he described as "a big deal."

"More than half a million Americans enrolled on HealthCare.Gov in the first three weeks of December alone," he said.

The figure outpaces the enrollment number for October plus November, and brings the total number under ObamaCare to more than 1 million.

The White House is trying to recover from months of negative news



US President Barack Obama hosts the year-end Press conference in the Brady Briefing Room of the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 20 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

about the implementation of the healthcare overhaul, which is believed to have dragged down his approval ratings.

Several of the president's domestic legislative

priorities, including tightening up gun control, made little progress at Capitol Hill in 2013. Obama vowed to gain ground in the upcoming new year.

Xinhua

Mexico's president signs law to reform energy market, attract investment



Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto shows the document after he signed into law a radical reform of the country's energy, at the National Palace in Mexico City on 20 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 21 Dec — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Friday signed into law a radical reform of the country's energy market, ending a 75-year oil and gas

monopoly in the hope of attracting major investments to increase production. "This is a transformational reform ... that will allow the country to produce more energy at lower costs,"

Pena Nieto said at the signing ceremony flanked by lawmakers at the national palace.

The overhaul of three articles of Mexico's constitution passed the Congress last week and over the weekend was approved by a majority of the country's state legislatures.

The president's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and his conservative allies in Congress approved the reform arguing that it promises more jobs and economic growth by allowing private sector participation in country's lucrative oil, gas and electricity sectors. Congress is likely to approve by April so-called secondary legislation that will implement the reform and flesh out crucial commercial details.—Reuters

Kidnapped Taiwanese released in southern Philippines

MANILA, 21 Dec — A female Taiwanese who was kidnapped in Malaysia last month was freed in the southern Philippine province of Sulu Friday afternoon, local military said on Saturday. The victim, identified as Evelyn Chang, was rescued by joint military and police units at Liban village in Talipao town at around 3:55 pm local time, said Captain Ryan Lacuesta, civil military operations officer of the 2nd Marine Brigade.

He said authorities received information from

Talipao residents regarding the kidnapped victim who was apparently abandoned by her unidentified captors.

Chang was seized on 15 November at Pulo, Pulong-Pulong, Sampurna, Sabah, Malaysia and was brought to the municipality of Indanan, Sulu. The recovered kidnap victim was immediately brought to Camp Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital for medical check up and trauma treatment, said Lacuesta, who did not mention if ransom was paid for Chang's safe release.—Xinhua

Former Japan officer invited to Nobel Prize ceremony

TOKYO, 21 Dec — Ichiro Akiyama, who served as first director of the Inspectorate Division at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, was invited to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo earlier in December, as his contributions to the organization were highly acclaimed.

Akiyama headed the inspection bureau of the 16-year-old global chemical weapons watchdog, which has won this year's Nobel Peace Prize, for a total of 10 years.

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — US Secretary of State John Kerry announced Friday that he has sent a special envoy to South Sudan to support the efforts to end the violence in the African country.

US Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth departed Friday to "support regional efforts already underway" to end the armed conflict in South Sudan, Kerry said in a statement.

Kerry said he called South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Thursday night to urge him to protect all South Sudanese citizens and work toward reconciliation.

"Now is the time for South Sudan's leaders to rein in armed groups under

their control, immediately cease attacks on civilians, and end the chain of retributive violence between different ethnic and political groups. The violence must stop, the dialogue must intensify," Kerry said.

Kerry strongly condemned Thursday's attacks on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) base in Akobo County in Jonglei State, while urging all parties to respect UNMISS, refrain from any attacks on its personnel, and help facilitate its mission to protect civilians.

The top US diplomat warned that any armed attack on the South Sudanese capital of Juba "will be seen as an attempt to achieve an unlawful usurpation of power, which would be universally condemned."

"Those who seek to take or hold power by violence or division of South Sudanese along ethnic lines

will not have our support. Violence today will not pave the way for a more stable or prosperous tomorrow," Kerry said.

With violence escalating in South Sudan, US President Barack Obama on Wednesday deployed 45 US troops to the African country to protect US citizens and property. The US government on Thursday evacuated more citizens from South Sudan, as a private charter flight lifted some 130 persons from Juba.

Since fighting broke out on Sunday between forces loyal to President Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar, who was removed from office in July, some 450 people have been killed so far in Juba. Meanwhile, Machar has rejected an offer of talks by Kiir, calling instead for the president's removal by the ruling party and the army.

Xinhua

Police officials examine the blast site in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 20 Dec, 2013. At least three people including a police officer were killed and nine others injured on Friday evening when a blast targeted a police vehicle in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, local media and officials said. XINHUA



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China launches communications satellite for Bolivia, Xi voices congratulations

XICHANG, (Sichuan), 21 Dec — China successfully sent a Bolivian communications satellite into orbit with its Long March-3B carrier rocket from southwest



A Bolivian communications satellite is launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre (XSLC), southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 21 Dec, 2013. — XINHUA

Xichang Satellite Launch Centre at 0:42 am (Beijing Time) on Saturday.

Bolivian President Juan Evo Morales Ayma was present, the first time a foreign head of state has witnessed a satellite launch in China.

The satellite was produced by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) with a designed longevity of 15 years. It is Bolivia's first communications satellite.

The satellite is named Tupac Katari in homage to an 18th century indigenous hero who fought Bolivia's Spanish colonizers.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of congratulations to President Morales, saying the successful development and launch of the satellite represents the latest achievements and level of cooperation between China and Bolivia in the field of science and technology.

"The satellite will play an important role for Bolivia to improve its broadcasting, education and medical services. It will make important contributions to promote cooperation between China and Latin American countries," Xi said.

Xinhua

AT&T to join Verizon in government data-request disclosures

NEW YORK, 21 Dec — AT&T Inc will join rival Verizon Communications in disclosing details on government requests for customer data starting in 2014, after investors called on the two largest US carriers to reveal more about controversial spying operations.

New York-based Verizon, the second-largest US telephone company by revenue, unveiled its move on Thursday following pressure from activist investors concerned about the extent of network operators' roles in systematic government surveillance.

"Like Verizon recently announced, we intend to publish a semi-annual online report that will provide information on the number of law enforcement requests for customer information that our company receives in the countries in which we do business," AT&T said in a statement on Friday.

Investors, including Boston's Trillium Asset Management and the New York State Common Retirement Fund, publicly pushed Verizon and AT&T last month to disclose details on their sharing of

customer information with government agencies.

The carriers' moves come days after a White House-appointed panel proposed curbs on various US National Security Agency operations, including a halt to bulk collection of phone call records.

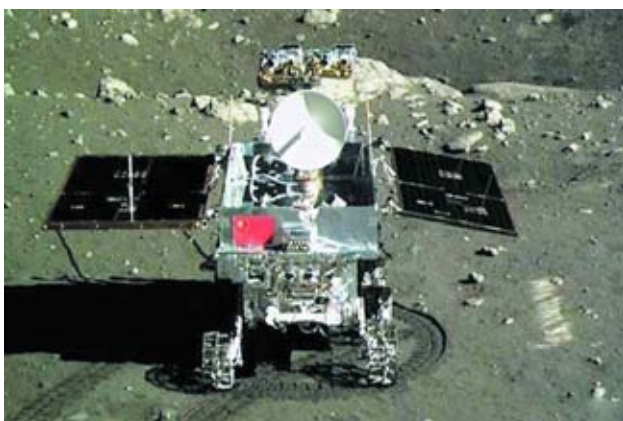
The shift by carriers toward greater disclosure followed similar initiatives from tech companies such as Google Inc and Yahoo Inc, in the wake of revelations by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden that highlighted close ties between spy agencies and technology firms.

Silicon Valley, worried about a customer backlash, has called for greater transparency around US government requests for user information. Until now, telephone companies like Verizon had been much less outspoken than their technology and Internet counterparts. AT&T said it intends to start next year by disclosing the total number of requests received in 2013 in criminal cases, the number of customers affected and details about legal demands.—Reuters



The AT&T logo is pictured by its store in Carlsbad, California, on 22 April, 2013. REUTERS

China's Yutu "naps", awakens and explores



Screen shows the photo of the Yutu moon rover taken by the camera on the Chang'e-3 moon lander during the mutual-photograph process, at the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre in Beijing, capital of China, on 15 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 21 Dec — China's moon rover, Yutu (Jade Rabbit), continued exploring after a "nap", according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence on Friday.

At about 8:00 pm Beijing Time, the six-wheeled rover started moving again after shutting down its subsystems on 16 December.

Yutu has had to deal with direct solar radiation raising the temperature to over 100 degrees centigrade on his sunny side, while his shaded side simultaneously fell below zero.

"The break had been planned to last until 23 December, but the scientists decided to restart Yutu now for more research time, based on the recent observations and telemetry parameters," said Pei Zhaoyu, spokesman for the lunar

programme.

Yutu separated from the lander on 15 December, several hours after Chang'e-3 soft-landed on 14 December. It moved to a spot about 9 metres to the north where Yutu and the lander took photos of each other.

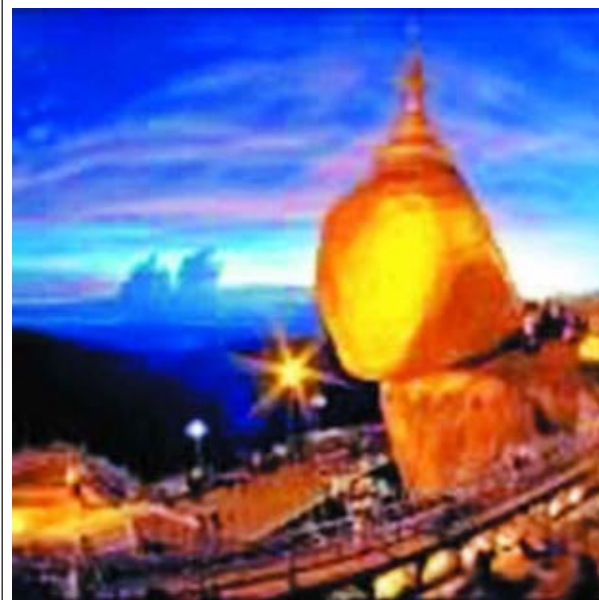
Yutu will survey the moon's geological structure and surface substances and look for natural resources for three months, while the lander will conduct in-situ exploration at the landing site for one year.

Bilateral ties have been progressing smoothly while pragmatic cooperation in all areas are making steady headway since China and Bolivia established diplomatic ties 28 years ago, Xi said.

Xi said China hopes for more space collaboration with Bolivia, which will promote mutual beneficial cooperation and friendly relations, bringing benefits to the people of both countries.—Xinhua

MON STATE

The following is the reproduction of Myanmar Hotels & Tourism Guide 2013. Visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed



Kyaik-hti-yo "Golden Rock" Pagoda

Mon State

Capital	Mawlamyine
Population	Over 2.7 million
Languages	Mon, Myanmar
Major Industries	Agriculture, fishery
How to get there	Car, Bus, Air, Train, Boat
Traditions and Culture	The Mon are proud of their rich culture and heritage, which includes cuisine based mostly on seafood.

Kyaik-hti-yo "Golden Rock" Pagoda

Kyaik-hti-yo, or Golden Rock Pagoda, near the town of Kyaikhto, is regarded as a miracle by Buddhists. It is a small spire 5.5 metres (18 feet) high which is believed to enshrine a hair relic of the Buddha. It is set dramatically atop a huge boulder which in turn is balanced on the edge of a cliff. A wide terrace gives a fantastic view of distant mountains, especially a sunset.

Mawlamyine

The Mon State capital is the third largest city in Myanmar after Yangon and Mandalay and has long been an important port. It was captured by the British in 1826 during the First Anglo-Myanmar War and served as their capital from 1827 to 1852. The Strand is a pleasant place to stroll with beautiful colonial buildings facing the river.



Win Sein Reclining Image

Win Sein Meditation Centre is famous for the world's longest reclining Buddha image, at 183 metres (600 feet). Entrances in the image lead to meditation chambers.

Thanbyuzayat

About 29 kilometres (18 miles) south of Mawlamyine is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Thanbyuzayat. It honours the remains of prisoners of the Japanese who died while working on the Myanmar end of the infamous Death Railway during World War Two.

Yadana Bon Myint Monastery

It was donated by Queen Sein Don, a muck-loved queen of King Mindon. This monastery was originally her residence and it incorporated many features of Mandalay Palace, including a replica in scale of the Lion Throne. She gave away much of her wealth to religious causes, including her mansion, before she died in 1905 aged 69.

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Government sees Pacific trade pact talks taking time



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) and US Trade Representative Michael Froman talk prior to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation ministerial meeting in Bali on 4 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 21 Dec —Negotiations on a trade pact between a dozen countries around the Pacific Rim will take whatever time they need as the deal has to be both ambitious and comprehensive, US trade representative Michael Froman said on Saturday.

The US-backed deal, which Washington had wanted to conclude this year, aims to establish a free-trade bloc stretching from Vietnam to Chile and Japan, encompassing about 800 million people and almost 40 percent of the global economy. But differences over farm tariffs between the United States and Japan have proved to be one of the major roadblocks and it will now not be final-

ized this year.

“I think we’re focused on trying to reach agreement among the 12 countries as soon as possible, but based on it being an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard agreement and we’ll take whatever time is necessary to do that, letting the substance of the negotiations dictate the timetable,” Froman told *Reuters*. “There are a number of outstanding issues including state owned enterprises, intellectual property rights, the environment, labour,” he said in Beijing, where he was visiting for annual China-US trade talks.

“These are all issues that we’ve been devoting a lot of attention to over the last four months to make sure that we

come out with an ambitious outcome,” Froman said, adding there was no date or venue yet for the next round of talks. More far-reaching than other deals, the TPP pact is aimed at going beyond tariffs on physical trade and it will try to regulate sensitive areas such as government procurement and give companies more rights to sue.

The two countries held talks during a four-day TPP meeting in Singapore this month on the issue but have not come to any agreement. The TPP negotiations, which have run for three years, have been mired in controversy over a lack of transparency, and slowed by the conflicting interests of the negotiating countries, US lawmakers and advocacy groups.—*Reuters*

For pre-diabetics, just 2,000 steps a day cuts heart attack risk

LONDON, 21 Dec — People who are already on the way to developing diabetes could significantly reduce their risk of having a heart attack or stroke by walking for just an extra 20 minutes a day for a year, scientists said on Friday.

A large international study of people with a condition called impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) — a precursor to diabetes — found that taking an extra 2,000 steps a day over one year cut the risk of serious

heart illness by 8 percent.

IGT affects around 344 million people worldwide, or almost 8 percent of adults, and this number is projected to rise to 472 million by 2030 as populations grow and age and unhealthy diets contribute to increasing rates of diabetes.

“People with IGT have a greatly increased risk of cardiovascular disease,” said Thomas Yates of Britain’s University of Leicester, who led the research.

“While several studies

have suggested that physical activity is beneficially linked to health in those with IGT, this is the first study to specifically quantify the extent to which change in walking behavior can modify the risk of heart disease, stroke, and cardiovascular-related deaths.”

Yates’ team took data from a trial covering more than 9,300 adults in 40 countries who had IGT and heart disease or at least one cardiovascular risk factor.

Reuters

Twin US studies unlock mystery of how HIV causes AIDS

CHICAGO, 21 Dec — US scientists have discovered the basic mechanisms that allow HIV to wipe out the body’s immune system and cause AIDS, which could lead to new approaches to treatment and research for a cure for the disease that affects 35 million people around the world.

Instead of actively killing immune system cells known as CD4 T cells, much of the damage done by HIV occurs when the virus tries to invade these cells and fails, triggering an innate immune response that causes the cells to self-destruct in a fiery kind of cell suicide known as pyroptosis.

The findings, published simultaneously in the scientific journals *Science* and *Nature*, also suggest

that an experimental anti-inflammatory drug owned by Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc that has already been tested in people with epilepsy could be repurposed as a possible new treatment for AIDS.

“Our papers deal with the fundamental issue that

causes AIDS, and that is the loss of CD4 T cells,” said Dr Warner Greene of the Gladstone Institutes, an independent biomedical research nonprofit based in San Francisco, whose lab produced the research in both papers.

Reuters



A drug user gives blood sample for a HIV test inside a clinic in Athens on 25 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Quinvaxem vaccine not related to deaths among Vietnamese kids

HANOI, 21 Dec — World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) released a joint Press announcement in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Friday, saying there is no connection between the Quinvaxem vaccine and possible deaths among children after vaccinated. In the past year, death toll after Quinvaxem vaccination has increased to 10, mostly infants of several months-old, quoted the announcement, adding that this triggered worries among Vietnamese parents about the links between the deaths or undesirable responses in some children and the “five in one” Quinvaxem vaccine.

Upon Vietnamese

government’s request, WHO and UNICEF co-organized an investigation with international and national independent technical assistances. The report on result of the investigation is no evidence found between the safety of Quinvaxem and direct or indirect causes to deaths of children after vaccinated. The report is globally announced, according to the Press release.

Quinvaxem is a South Korean-imported vaccine that protect children out of five deadly infectious diseases. Since being tested quality by WHO in 2006, 400 million vaccine doses have been used in 91 countries all over the world. The vaccine is recorded to be safe in use, said the press release.—*Xinhua*

Wall Street gains on GDP data; indexes post strong week

NEW YORK, 21 Dec — Stocks rose on Friday, capping the best week for major indexes in months as unexpectedly strong data on economic growth increased confidence that the recovery was accelerating.

Gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 4.1 percent in the third quarter, the fastest pace in almost two years, and exceeding the 3.6 percent pace reported earlier this month. Business spending was also stronger than previously estimated.

Until recently, investors have viewed positive data as a negative because it suggested that the Federal Reserve would begin to trim its stimulus programme. The central bank had said

it would start tapering its monthly bond buying when certain economic indicators met its targets.

The Fed, however, said on Wednesday that it would pare its market-friendly

monthly asset purchases by \$10 billion to \$75 billion, starting in January. It also suggested that its key interest rate would stay at rock bottom longer than previously promised.



A trader listens to an announcement by the US Federal Reserve on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York on 18 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

“If tapering had not been announced, I don’t think this news would be as welcomed by the market as it is right now,” said Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at the ConvergEx Group in New York.

“But now, there’s no real risk that there will be more tapering any time soon, and on top of that, growth is absolutely stronger than many were expecting.” Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said that if US job gains continue as expected, then the bond purchases would be cut at a “measured” pace through much of next year, and would probably be wound down “late in the year, certainly not by the middle of the year.”

Reuters



The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games



XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



Hla Yin May poses for photo after accepting gold medal for 48-kg Muay category.
PHOTO: THURA (TOUNGGO)



Vice-President U Nyan Tun and Union ministers congratulate Nway Nway for her victory in Women's below 46-kg Taekwondo event on 21 Dec. 2013. Nway Nway snatched the gold medal after defeating Thailand's Panipak Wong.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Indonesian team competes in the event of Female Defense Against 3 Males with Weapon of Vovinam. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE
Saw Dar Pot (R) lands a blow in chest of Philip Delarmino of the Philippines. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Ramnarong of Thailand (R) fights with Francis Aaron of the Philippines in Men's below 54-kg category of Taekwondo.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Myanmar's Taekwondo medalists greet Vice-President U Nyan Tun.—PHOTO: THURA (TOUNGGO)





The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL

27th SEA Games



The kings and queens of volleyball at the 2013 SEA Games are from Thailand

By Alan Adams

The Thais defended their respective crowns on Saturday, with the men beating Indonesia 3-0 (25-20, 25-17, 25-21) and the women handling Vietnam 3-0 (25-16, 25-20, 25-17).

The Thai men have won gold in three of the last four SEA Games and now have five championships overall.

The Thai women all but own the gold medal as this was their ninth straight championship and 11th overall, and it also marked the seventh straight time they met Vietnam in the final.

"We're so proud of what we accomplished," said women's captain Apinyapong Wilavan.

It marked the first time the Thai men defended their title in 18 SEA Games appearances and that milestone wasn't lost on Montri Vaenpradab.

"I am so happy because we've never won the gold medal twice in a row," he said.

The women took to the court first and they gave the Vietnamese a lesson on how the game is played. The Thais were in control from the start and frustrated their

opponents almost at will, as Vietnam was never able to sustain any momentum.

Case in point came in the second game. The Vietnamese went block for block with the Thais on a long rally and it was the first time they matched skills with the defending champions to win the point.

But rather than carry any momentum from that exchange, they followed it up by putting their serve into the net.

Thai coach R. Kiat-tipong was asked why his team was in control from start to end.

"We are a team, we are together all year and we have a long-term plan," he said.

"We send our team to many tournaments and we send our players to play in pro leagues and we get a lot of experience from that. Teamwork is very important for us."

He went on to say the players have input on strategy.

"Our girls are very smart. When we have training camps, we listen to what the girls have to say and we give them input. If they have an idea, we listen. We



like them to be creative. If their ideas work, we support them. If they don't we take what they say and we work with it and try to get better."

Lastly, he said, the Thais study their opponents.

"We have a copy of their games and we analyze it. We learn how to beat every team and our girls did a very good job. If a team wants to beat us, they must be ready to train like professionals. We train 30 hours a week, six days a week and we have nearly 60 games in a year."

Apinyapong said it helps when everyone is on the same page.

"We're good because we have been preparing for a long time, we have been together for a long time. We make mistakes but we learn from them," she said.

"We also learned about them. We watched video of their games against other



Thai women's Volleyball team pose for group photo after the match.

PHOTO: KYAW THU WIN

teams and after that we had a meeting with the coaching staff. We learned about every player, which players attack and what they like to do on the court. That's why we were able to defend so well."

The men's championship game was a more even match-up but the Thai men were just that much better.

There was no shortage

of trash talking and taunting each other at the net, to the point where the referee cautioned players to show a little more respect.

Thailand's lanky trio of Jiruyu Raksakaew, Kissada Nilsawai and Montri Vaenpradab formed a wall at the net and blocked dozens of spikes.

Jiruyu also served up a couple of leather lunches

where his spike ricochet off the floor into the face of an opponent.

"We trained hard for this," said Montri.

The women watched the game from the stands and after the Thai men won, Apinyapong summed up the feeling of the gold medalists.

"King and queen sounds good," she said.

Nothing but drama at the Muay Thai finals



There was no shortage of drama, fits of rage and tears at the finals of Muay Thai on Saturday with 14 furious fights that turned the stadium into a hornet's nest on fire as Myanmar and Thailand swept the majority of medals.

Vietnam's ThiQuynh Bui had to be dragged off the ring by her coach, refusing to accept defeat by Hla

Nattawut Borngern of Thailand lands a blow to Kienkay of Lao in 48-kg category of Muay.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Yin May of Myanmar in the women's 48-kg category.

Emerging as the stronger fighter in the match, she celebrated her expected win with a run around the ring, waving her country's flag before breaking down on the floor in tears seconds later when the judge's decision favored Myanmar.

"I simply knew her weak points and how she would fight, but I feel sorry she is upset and I am sympathetic," gold medalist Hla Yin May said.

With screaming spectators hanging off fences on the press tribune and the

crowd out of control entering the judges' area, security issues were swept aside for most of day as a relatively inexperienced Myanmar team continued to win medal after medal.

The Philippine team did not disguise their sentiments about the defeat of Philip Delarmino, who even for the untrained eye was clearly superior over his Myanmar opponent Saw Dar Pot who lost focus several times having to deal with a series of ferocious kicks to his heads.

When it was announced that gold would

go to Myanmar Delarmino shook his head with a smile that said a thousand words, and walked off.

"I won," was his brief statement to reporters. His coaches and team officials found stronger words, "It's crazy, Philip knocked him down four times and still loses," one of the coaches said.

(See page 9)



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 December, 2013

Don't be swayed by failure

No doubt to say we all have a high passion for victory over other competitors. Likewise, we all realize that it is impossible to whitewash the opponents in every game. What is the aim of hosting this beautiful Games? We see so that presenting Myanmar to the international community that smiling Myanmar people are intelligent, candid, friendly and civilized is the most important point for bringing the greater glory to the country, rather than medal success.

Unfortunately, Myanmar national football team fell to a 1-0 loss defeated by Indonesia and its goal for football gold faded away, without even having a chance to cruise to semifinal. Here, how our athletes and spectators see the sports has become important. Everyone loves winners. No one wants to be losers. But, we all have to understand that a game is only a game. It is common to see winners and losers when the game is over.

We could earn a reputation for good sportsmanship only through a genuine victory brought about by a win with dignity. So, we would like to urge our footballers and their supporters "Don't get swayed by failure". Desisting from playing a blame game that sounds as if taking an easiest way to resolve the problem is imperative not only to shine our national image with accountability but also to manage anger sparked by failure.

If we could not dare to accept the reality, we would be real losers. A lesson we got from the lost match is that every natural predator delivers the same amount of efforts whenever stalking its prey, without counting on big or small, weak or strong. Although there is a belief that the home team has a 60 percent probability of winning the game, home field advantage will not become real if the team lacks teamwork and intelligence that could win even championships. It is high time to reshape the future of Myanmar football by taking the lessons we got from the game we lost.

All in all, football gold is not a gold of the Games. The gold we have to win is to present the beautiful game of wonderful Myanmar to the world. Let's show the world that we can do the games that made us known that our hope of branding our nation won plaudits from the critics.

Myanmar men's hockey team clinches bronze medal

YANGON, 21 Dec—Myanmar secured bronze medal in men's hockey event after defeating Thailand 2-0.

Myanmar men's Hockey team participated in the 24th SEA Games four countries competed in, but did not get any medal. Hockey did not include in 25th and 26th SEA Games. Myanmar men's

and women's teams won two bronze medals in the 27th SEA Games.

The first prize went to Malaysia and second to Singapore. Plan is under way to build an turf hockey pitch in Shan State or Mandalay Region, according to U Htin Zaw Win, President of Myanmar Hockey Federation.

MNA

President of Cambodian ...

(from page 16)

bilateral cooperation between the two parliaments, experience on parliamentary affairs, political reform processes, strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker together with officials of Cambodian National Assembly visited Independent Monument and laid a wreath there.

The Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by the President of National Assembly of Cambodia at Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann seen together with President of Cambodian National Assembly at welcoming ceremony.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win observes training schools in Manipur and Mizoram States in India

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School in Mizoram State of India.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win left No (3) Corps in Dimapul in Assam State by helicopter for Leimakhong in Manipur

State passing Kohima in Nagaland on 15 December. They were welcomed there by Commander of No (57) Mountain Division Maj-Gen PM Bali, VSM and wife. They then viewed demonstration of communications, engineer and logis-

tics, raid of commando and close combat of infantry companies in the division.

They then flew to Vairangte in Mizoram State where they were welcomed by Commandant of Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare

School Maj-Gen Rajeshwar Singh, SM and wife. They observed facts about the school, training and demonstration of counter insurgency attack. Local national races entertained them with traditional dance there. Next, traditional costumes were dressed to the Vice-Senior General and wife by local national races. Afterwards, they left Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School by helicopter and arrived at Silchar Airport in Assam State.

They left Silchar Airport by Indian armed forces special flight and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening via Kolkata.—MNA

MWAF donates K 3 million to Nay Pyi Taw hospital 1000-bed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF) donated K 3 million to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital 1000-bed to mark the formation of 10th founding anniversary of MWAF here yesterday.

Patrons of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Ni Ni Win, Daw Kyin Khaing, Daw Mya Theingi and Daw Khin Mi Mi donated K 500,000 each.

On the occasion, Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Ni Ni Win explained the purpose of donation and Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Phyu Phyu spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Invasive Cardiac Laboratory commissioned into service

YANGON, 21 Dec—Opening ceremony of Invasive Cardiac Laboratory of Asia Royal Hospital was held at Chatrium Hotel this morning.

At the ceremony, General Electric Segment Leader Mr Jeoffery Christanday of GE Health Care System explained the machines which are able to be used for cardiovascular disease patients.

Cardiac Specialist Dr Cho Lay Mar extended greetings and Managing Director of Asia Royal Hospital Dr Myat Thu presented gifts to Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Myint Swe.

The Chief Minister gave a speech on the occasion and Cardiovascular

Invasive Specialist Dr Than Htike Aung explained the purpose of the ceremony.

MNA



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe addresses opening ceremony of Invasive Cardiac Laboratory of Asia Royal Hospital.—MNA

NATIONAL



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gold medals to Thai team which emerge champions in football tournament of XXVII SEA Games in Zeyar Thiri football stadium on 21-12-2013.
(News on page 16)

MNA

Development partnership organizations to be set up

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec— A coordination meeting on establishment of development partnership organizations for rural development, took place at Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon this morning.

Union Minister U Soe Thane said that rural development tasks include seasonal job creation, natural resources management and construction of rural infrastructures. Cooperation of partnership organizations is essential for fulfilling the needs of rural people. It can contribute to development of SMEs as well as to encouragement of rural entrepreneurs.

Union Minister U Aung Min said that in implementing development tasks, it needs to pay more attention to conflict-affected regions rather than other regions. Due to diverse cultures and

tradition, different forms of development programme should be adopted. In addition, job creation and vocational training are a must.

Union Minister U Ohn Myint said that as a focal ministry, the Rural Development Strategic Framework is being drawn by the ministry

in cooperation with development partnership organizations, INGOs, NGOs, social organizations and experts. The coordination meetings have been held for six times so far. Setting up of development partnership organizations is one of five follow-up tasks that came out from the

workshops.

Later, delegates and experts from development partnership organizations, social organizations and international organizations held talks on formation of development partnership organizations for rural development.—MNA



Coordination meeting on establishment of development partnership organizations for rural development in progress.—MNA

Myanmar snatch six gold, seven bronze in Kempo ...

(from page 16)

gold, Laos, silver and Vietnam, bronze with Myanmar while gold medal went to Myanmar, silver to Indonesia and bronze to Timor-Leste in mixed-doubles Yudansha event.

Indonesia seized gold, Timor-Leste, silver and Laos, bronze in men's Embu Pair Yudansha event while gold medal went to Vietnam, silver to Indonesia and bronze to Myanmar in women's Embu Pair Yudansha event.

The first Kempo event was held in the 26th SEA Games. Myanmar participated in the 27th SEA Games and took six gold and seven bronze in this event.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and

wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Yangon Mayor U Hla Mint and wife and officials of Asian Kempo Federation, South East Asian Kempo Federation and Myanmar Kempo Federation awarded the winners.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presented K 700,000 each to gold medalists and K 300,000 each to bronze medalists.

President and Vice-President of MKF awarded K 1 million each to gold medalists and K 500,000 each to bronze medalists, K 300,000 each to other Myanmar Kempo athletes, K 500,000 each to five managers from Sports Ministry and USD 1000 each to five Indonesian coaches.

MNA

Nothing but drama ...

(from page 7)

“They should show the score after every round on the board,” Stephen Hontiveras of the Philippine Olympic Committee said, while his colleague Benjamin Peralvarez lamented the scoring “was subjective, there were four knock-downs and clear headkicks, (Delarmino) has won the match.”

While the Philippine team went off to recover from the shock, it was time for Vietnam to get revenge over Myanmar. An experienced, confident and ultra-strong Yen Ly Bui showed no intimidation despite ear-piercing screams of the crowd that supported Grace of Myanmar in the 51-kg

category.

Following a match that saw her relentlessly kicking her opponent's stomach, she started crying, in full anticipation of being denied her fully earned gold medal. When she was announced the winner, her coach Trung Son Tran – who had dragged her teammate out of the ring– broke down in tears.

“There was so much pressure on us to win after we lost the last match. We needed that to regain confidence,” he said. There were more tears by the Vietnamese women when Thi Ngoc Linh Phan was defeated by 15-year-old SirisopaSirisak of Thailand.

She had to be com-

ported by Thi Quynh Bui who had accepted her silver medal, but could not hold back her tears on the podium when the gold medal was handed over to Myanmar.

Fighting since she was 10 to earn money for the family, Thai media officials said that in their country, children as young as 8 become professional boxers to support their family.

Thai fighter in the men's Pissalamsiri attributed his win to his constant training, being a professional fighter in his home province where he earns money boxing to pay for university.

He said his two months of training at the pro camp in Bangkok also helped him to be “confident.”

Thai reporters said Pissal earns 7,000 baht per fight in Kampong Petch Province and that the prize money in Bangkok is a lot higher.

Thai team leader Daungrit Benjathikul-Chairungruang said his country had such a strong showing “because Thailand is the cradle of muay Thai and we have the most experience in the sport.”

Panupong Tanjadwas perhaps the most feared fighter of the event, having gained years of experience as a pro fighting at Lumpini Stadium in Bangkok.

The 29-year old defeated Jonathan Polosan of the Philippines who said after the 3-2 match, “He is much more experienced, but I did my best and we we're almost the same. I thought he

would be stronger.”

Teammate Philip Delarmino found his smile again, after his shock defeat, when his girlfriend Preciosa Ocaya boxed her way to gold over Laos.

“I was so down after my fight, but my team said that I was the winner. That cheered me up, and also her win now is great,” he said.

In the last two fights, Indonesia's Indra Ashari Jaya was knocked out in the second round by Myanmar's TunTun Min and had to be carried out of the stadium on a stretcher by medics as the packed-to-the-last-seat stadium exploded in ecstasy.

The home crowd was brought down a decibel in the last match when Aung Myint Win lost against

Mohd Faizal Bin Ramli of Malaysia, who was celebrated as a hero by his team.

He too was close to meltdown with tears coming down his face, showing relief it was all over.

Coach Mohd Hamdan Bin Mokhtar said after the fight, “The low kicks made it for him. We were worried because the judges are biased... maybe cut that out, might give him trouble and we didn't know how the Myanmar guy would fight because they have never competed internationally.”

One of the Malaysian coaches summed up not only the fight but pretty much the whole event.

“This was beyond our expectations.”

66th Anniversary Independence Day, 2014



Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Ko Ko Khaing (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

Progress of new school buildings inspected

KALAY, 21 Dec— Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo together with departmental officials made an inspection tour of construction works at one-storey brick noggings buildings at Basic Education Middle School Branch in

Kanpale Village of Kalay Township and BEPS in Hepalok Village, two-storey building at BEMS Branch in Thanpo Village and two-storey building at BEMS Branch in Khontoe Myotha Village on 19 December.

They also looked into erosion at the bank of Manipur River along Myauksee Ywama Village and coordinated with village administrators and village elders on dredging of diversion drain for water course of the river so as to prevent erosion.

Kyemon-Joe Net



Tourism Industry

Globetrotters arrive in Myawady to visit various tourist attractive townships



Tourists arrive in Myawady with the use of motor-cycles.

MYAWADY, 21 Dec— Under the arrangements of All Asia Exclusive Travels & Tours Co Ltd, a total of 13 globetrotters—four from Thailand, six from Germany, one from Australia, one from Switzerland, one from the United States of America—arrived at Myawady by motorcycle on 3 December.

The tourists paid visits to Myawady, Kyaikhtiyoe, Bago, Pyay, Bagan, Mandalay, Inlay, Nyaungshwe, Toungoo, Hpa-an townships.

Accompanied by tour guide U Myo Kyaw Thu, they left Mae Sot of Thailand from Myawady on 14 December.

Tun Tun Oo

(Myawady Border Town)

Culture

Prevention of women against violence talks held

KALAY, 21 Dec—The talks on prevention against penetration of alien culture for women, organized by Kalay District Women's Affairs Organization, took place at Kabaw Hall-3 of Kalay University on 18 December.

It was attended by responsible persons of Kalay District and Township Women's Affairs Organization, faculty

members of the university and first year students.

At first, Chairperson of District WAO Daw Thaphy Win made an opening address.

Member of District WAO Daw Mary Myint explained cultural intrusion and Secretary Daw Ohnma Aung human trafficking and prevention of women against violence law.

Kyemon-Joe Net



Students attend talks on prevention against penetration of alien culture for women.

Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton thriving in Myinmu Tsp



MYINMU, 21 Dec— Long staple cotton plants were cultivated on 10 acres of land of farmer U Khin Maung Tin in No 293 plot south of Nigyawdayon Monastery in Allakappa Model Village of Myinmu Township on 15 August.

Now, 350 acres of cotton plantations are thriving around the field.

The field day of long staple cotton was held at the plantation, and 123 farmers from 35 village-tracts were invited to view the thriving plantations.

Sagaing Region

Hluttaw representative U Thaug Myint made a speech.

Head of Sagaing Region Industrial Crops Development Department U Tun Shein gave instruction on use of quality cotton strains and cultivation of late monsoon mixed cropping. Head of Sagaing District ICDD explained boosting of production with the use of high technology.

Later, Township Administrator U Thein Zaw discussed cultivation of high income crops.—*Kyemon-Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)*

Tradition

Shan Literature and Culture Committee celebrates New Year harvest ceremony

DAWPHONYAN, 21 Dec—The 2108 New Year harvest ceremony was held in Phakay Village in Moele Region of Dawphonyan Sub-Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State on 16 December with the participation of local Shan national races from 21 villages.

Chairman of the committee U Aik Lin explained the purpose of ceremony in line with the traditions and matters

related to New Year festival and harvest festival.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees in Shan literature.

It was attended by the Sub-Township Administrator and departmental officials, older persons and town's elders. The entertainments were performed with music and dances with the use of Shan traditional dance and long drum of Shan nationals.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

REGIONAL

Gov't to cooperate with business, labour circles toward wage hikes in Japan

TOKYO, 21 Dec — The government agreed with leaders of business organizations and labour unions on Friday to cooperate in seeking to raise worker salaries in Japan, a key goal under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" economic policy mix.

"We will lead expansion in business earnings to wage increases," they said in an agreement signed at a joint meeting. Abe welcomed the "shared awareness" and urged the groups to "boldly put (the agreement) into action."

It is rare for the government, representatives of corporate executives and labour unions to strike a written accord.

"I will ask companies to aggressively allocate to employees the outcomes of economic expansion," Hiromasa Yonekura, chief of the nation's biggest business lobby Keidanren, told reporters after the meeting at the prime minister's office, suggesting he will push other employers to raise salaries instead of retaining earnings.

Nobuaki Koga, head



Representatives of the government, corporate executives and labour unions gather for a meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 20 Dec, 2013. They struck a written accord later that day to cooperate in seeking to raise worker salaries in Japan. —KYODO NEWS

of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, who also attended the meeting, doubted the agreement would solve every problem immediately. "I don't think all conditions are set. We must make steady efforts in negotiations" with employers, Koga said before annual wage talks begin early

next year.

As part of efforts to end nearly two decades of deflation in Japan, Abe has asked companies to raise worker salaries in exchange for government stimulus measures, including tax breaks and deregulation to encourage business investment.—Kyodo News



Upper photo shows Nishinoshima Island (back), an uninhabited islet in the Ogasawara islet chain some 1,000 kilometres south of Tokyo, and a new island formed nearby as a result of an undersea volcanic eruption, on 21 Nov, 2013; the bottom photo shows the same two islands on 20 Dec, 2013. Volcanic geology experts say if the new island continues to grow, the two islands might merge by the end of the year.

KYODO NEWS

Thai premier proposes post-election reform plan, protests continue

BANGKOK, 21 Dec — Thai caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Saturday proposed a tentative plan for the country's reform while protests against her government continued.

In a televised speech, Yingluck said the government would ask political parties to agree to the setting up of a reform council after the 2 February election. She said the reform council would consist of

representatives from all walks of society, including academics, political parties and political groups. "The new government has to set the reform council as a national agenda. The government assures that the reform can proceed along with the election," Yingluck said.

"It is necessary to have an election because the parliamentary mechanism would be the driving seat for the reform process," she added. The council would

have up to two years to complete the reform, according to Yingluck.

Despite Yingluck's proposal, antigovernment protesters plan to go ahead with their plan to hold street rallies in Bangkok on Sunday. The protesters have vowed to stop the snap election called by Yingluck earlier this month in a bid to defuse the crisis. They demand that political reform first be carried out before the election.—Kyodo News

Landslides in Central Java leave four dead, four injured

JAKARTA, 21 Dec — Landslides triggered by torrential rains in Kebumen district of Central Java, Indonesia on Friday killed four people and wounded four others, official said.

Piles of soil smashed a house, where all the eight

people were staying in, in Kali Gending village, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency, told Xinhua over phone.

One of the injured people suffered serious injury, while three others sustained

minor wounds, he said.

All of them have been rushed to a nearby hospital for medical treatments, said Sutopo. Elsewhere in the district, floods occurred in Kedungwaru hamlet after a dam broke, he said.

Xinhua

Philippine to continue military modernization by acquiring more assets

MANILA, 21 Dec — Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III pledged Friday to continue the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by acquiring more military ships and helicopters. Aquino said the above words when he inspected three newly-acquired AgustaWestland 109 Power Helicopters which was bought by the Philippine Navy at the cost of 1.33 billion pesos (about 29.95 million US dollars).

"In time of challenges, there is huge expectation from our soldiers. This is the reason why the state should provide you with

sufficient capability to face your responsibility," he said, adding that the government would continue to implement the modernization programme of the AFP.

Aquino said that two more of these aircraft are expected to be delivered in 2014 for a contract price of 850.91 million pesos (19.16 million dollars). President Aquino disclosed that his administration was also planning to buy two more C-130 aircraft in addition to the current three units, adding that more maritime vessels will be acquired aside from the existing BRP Gregorio del Pilar and BRP Ramon Alcaraz.—Xinhua

Taiwan shuts down top chip packager plant discharging toxic water

TAIPEI, 21 Dec — Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Inc, the world's top chip packager and chip testing services provider, was on Friday ordered to shut down its biggest plant in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan, for failing to make improvements after being caught dumping untreated wastewater into a river.

Chen Jin-de, director of the Kaohsiung city government's Environmental Protection Bureau, told reporters that it was necessary to shut down ASE's "K7" plant as the company failed to make any improvement after being fined six times for violating the Water Pollution Control Act since 2011.

Chen said the wastewater discharged by the K7 plant was found to contain 4.38 milligrams of nickel per liter, more than four times the 1 mg/l limit set by regulations, Chen said.

Chen also accused the company of forging and concealing wastewater data and improperly operating its wastewater treatment plant. Chen said the bureau will consider letting the plant resume operations should the city find the company's wastewater improvement plan capable of effectively resolving the problem.

Kyodo News

Gov't eyes financial aid for students from low-income families

TOKYO, 21 Dec — Japan's central government is planning to create a financial aid system with no obligation for repayment for public and private senior high school students from households with annual incomes under 2.5 million yen starting in the fiscal year beginning in April.

The government will also increase the aid of about 120,000 yen given annually each to private senior high school students from low-income families under the existing tuition waiver program. The education ministry is planning to include out-

lays for these measures in the fiscal 2014 draft budget. At a press conference on Friday, education minister Hakubun Shimomura said of the measures, "We can now start them in April next year, and we would like to make efforts at further expanding them."

The measures will be implemented along with the April introduction of an income cap on households eligible for tuition waivers.

The new aid will be up to about 130,000 yen a year for public school students and about 140,000 yen for those attending private institutions.—Kyodo News



A couple from Thailand, one of whom was the 10 millionth foreign visitor to Japan in 2013, are greeted by Hello Kitty wearing kimono at Narita airport near Tokyo on 20 Dec, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SIMA PERFECT VOY NO (1009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY NO (1009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2013 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



Indonesian police officers participate in "Operasi Lilin 2013" (Candle Light Operation 2013) ahead of the Christmas and New Year celebrations in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 Dec, 2013. Indonesian police have planned to deploy more than 86,000 security personnel to ensure public safety and order during the Christmas and New Year celebrations in the country. — XINHUA

One dead, dozens hurt in tour bus crashes in rainy California

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec — At least one person was killed and dozens were hurt on Thursday in two separate casino tour bus crashes on a rain-slicked Southern California highway, California Highway Patrol officers said.

A bus heading for the Valley View Casino north of San Diego overturned near the community of Fallbrook at about 2:30 pm, killing one person and injuring more than 20 other passengers, California Highway Patrol Officer Jim Bettencourt said.

He said all the bus passengers, who were in their 40s to 60s, were taken to local hospitals with injuries ranging from minor to serious. Investigators had interviewed the 56-year-old driver, and the cause of the wreck was under

investigation. The bus was being operated by Five Star Charter. In the second incident, all 30 passengers on board a tour bus traveling northbound on the same highway were hurt when it spun out near Corona, officer Travis Monks said.

Monks said most of the passengers had minor injuries but several were taken to area hospitals with moderate injuries. The bus, owned by Sina Coach Tours, was travelling to Orange County from a San Diego-area casino, he said.

Monks said the cause of the crash was under investigation but that rain might be a factor. "When it's raining out here, drivers always need to be a little more cautious," he said, adding that the roadway was wet at the time of the accident.—Reuters

New Jersey governor to approve in-state tuition for illegal immigrants



Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie waves to supporters at his election night party in Asbury Park, New Jersey, on 5 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 21 Dec — New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said on Thursday he would sign a bill passed by the state legislature that would allow illegal immigrant students living in the state to pay lower, in-state college tuition.

The move would make

New Jersey the 16th US state to allow students without legal immigration status to pay in-state rates, and comes after lengthy political wrangling between the Republican governor and Democrats in the state legislature.

"The most important thing is for these young

men and women of our state, who we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in their K-12 education, we're now going to give them an opportunity in an affordable way to be able to continue their education," Christie said in Trenton.

"This will be once again an example of New Jersey showing how you can come to bipartisan agreement," said Christie, who is widely expected to seek the Republican nomination for the White House in 2016.

"Not that we agree on everything, but that we find a way of bringing people together and come to a position that will benefit all the people of this state," he said. The tuition bill applies to students who have attended at least three years

of high school in New Jersey.

Christie vetoed a previous version of the bill that would have allowed some illegal immigrant students to qualify for financial aid, *the New York Times* reported.

According to the National Immigration Law Centre, 15 US states have laws permitting some undocumented students to pay in-state tuition if they have attended and graduated from primary or secondary schools there.

Those states are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington, according to the centre.

Reuters

45 US soldiers sent to S Sudan to protect citizens, embassy

WASHINGTON, 21 Dec — US President Barack Obama has dispatched 45 US troops to South Sudan to protect US nationals and embassy there amid the African nation's volatile security situation.

In a letter sent to Congress on Thursday, Obama said the troops left for South Sudan on Wednesday, and would remain there until the situation improves.

Meanwhile, more US citizens were evacuated from South Sudan on Thursday, as government troops and rebel forces continued to clash.

A private charter flight lifted some 130 persons from capital Juba, among whom were US citizens

and third-country nationals, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told a regular news briefing.

She said a small number of Americans also flew out of the country aboard a British military aircraft.

A day earlier, Washington airlifted three groups of American nationals, including non-emergency diplomatic personnel, US citizens and third-country nationals, out of South Sudan.

Since fighting broke out on Sunday between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar, who was removed from office in July, some 450 people have been killed in clashes so far

in Juba.

Machar has rejected Kiir's offer for talks, calling instead for the president's removal by the ruling party and the army.

Kiir accused Machar of orchestrating a military coup against him and declared on Monday a state of emergency in the country with a curfew imposed from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am local time.—Xinhua

Residents search for survivors at a damaged site after what activists said was an air strike from forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Takeek Al-Bab area of Aleppo, on 17 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Russia blocks UN statement condemning Syrian attacks

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Dec — Russia blocked a UN Security Council statement on Thursday that would have condemned the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for recent missile and "barrel bomb" attacks on civilians, including children, UN diplomats said. The council's failure to approve the US-drafted statement elic-

ited an angry reaction from Washington. "We are very disappointed that a Security Council statement expressing our collective outrage at the brutal and indiscriminate tactics employed by the Syrian regime against civilians has been blocked," said Kurtis Cooper, a spokesman for the US mission to the United Nations.

"These barrel bombs

— and the explosive materials contained within them — further underscore the brutality of the Assad regime and the lengths they will go to attack and kill their own people, including women and children," he said.

"Surely, at a minimum, the Security Council should be able to condemn such barbarities," Cooper added.

He did not say who blocked the statement, though several council diplomats said on condition of anonymity that the Russian delegation demanded the removal of any reference to the Assad government in the draft statement, after which Western council members decided to withdraw the proposed text.—Reuters



ENTERTAINMENT

Small countries highlight Oscars' top foreign film short list

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec —Films from Cambodia, Palestine, and Bosnia and Herzegovina made the short list of candidates vying for the best foreign language film Oscar nomination, the Academy Awards organizer said on Friday.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sci-

Missing Picture," which uses clay figurines to tell the story of the bloody reign of the Khmer Rouge government, made the list, taking a step closer to becoming the country's first film to score an Oscar nomination. Director Hany Abu-Assad, whose 2005 film "Paradise Now" earned Palestine's

sode in the Life of an Iron Picker."

Drama "The Great Beauty" from Italy, which has won a record 13 best foreign picture Oscars as a country, and Danish drama "The Hunt" starring Mads Mikkelsen also made the list a week after both films picked up Golden Globe award nominations for best foreign language film.

Belgian Flemish-language drama "The Broken Circle Breakdown," German thriller "Two Lives" and Hungarian drama "The Notebook" also made the short list.

Acclaimed Hong Kong director Wong Kar Wai's ode to Kung Fu, "The Grandmaster," made the list. The art house director, considered one of the world's top filmmakers and best-known for dramas "Chungking Express" and "In the Mood for Love," has never had a film nominated for an Oscar.

Notably absent from the list was Iranian domestic drama "The Past" starring French actress Berenice Bejo and directed by Asghar Farhadi, whose 2011 drama "A Separation" won the best foreign language Oscar.

France's coming-of-age lesbian love story "Blue Is the Warmest Color" was also absent as its release in France did not make the September 30 deadline to be eligible for submission.

The annual Academy Awards, Hollywood's top film honors, will be handed out on 2 March.—Reuters



Director Rithy Panh (*S21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*) won the Un Certain Regard prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival for this startlingly original work, which uses handmade clay figurines and detailed dioramas to recount the ravages that Pol Pot's regime visited upon the people of Cambodia following the communist victory in 1975.—REUTERS

ences winnowed down 76 foreign films to nine in the first phase of the nomination process.

The five nominees for the Oscar award will be announced on 16 January.

Cambodia's French-language documentary "The

only Oscar foreign-language nomination, made the list with thriller "Omar." Bosnia and Herzegovina, which won the Oscar statuette in 2002 for "No Man's Land" in the only instance it earned a nomination, made the short list with the drama "An Epi-

Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux meet counsellor to prepare wedding

LONDON, 21 Dec—Celebrity couple Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux have reportedly been having counselling sessions to prepare for their much-awaited wedding.

The pair, who have been separated for work over the past few months, have vowed to spend more time together in the next year, reported *Showbiz spy*.

"Jen and Justin love each other, they are fully committed. They had hoped to be married by now but work commitments this year meant their plans went astray.

"They have had some counseling. They both regret not spending more time together this year and they're determined that next year will be different," a source said. Engaged since August 2012, they have been discussing wedding plans.

"Jen and Justin are looking at it like it's a party for their friends. They've downgraded the scale of their wedding. Justin is adamant it will happen in 2014 but that it will be more 'spontaneous and organic' than they'd previously wanted," the source added.—PTI



Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux got engaged in August 2012.—PTI

Tom Cruise settles defamation lawsuit with publisher

LOS ANGELES, 21 Dec —Actor Tom Cruise on Friday settled a \$50 million defamation lawsuit against a German media company that published a report saying the Hollywood star had "abandoned" his daughter Suri after his divorce from actress Katie Holmes.

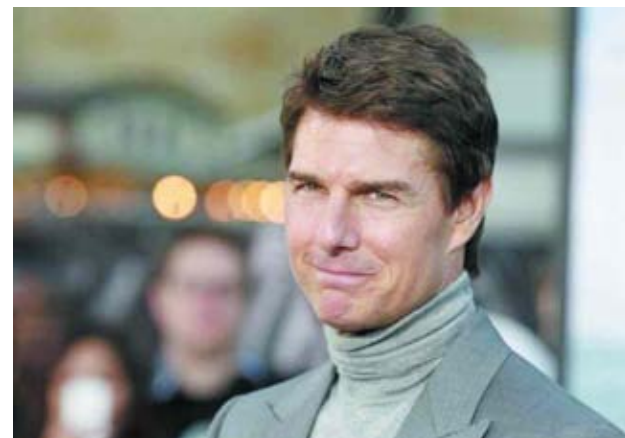
Attorneys for Cruise and Bauer Publishing Company, which publishes US-celebrity magazines *Life & Style* and *InTouch Weekly*, agreed to have the lawsuit dismissed, with each paying their own costs and attorneys' fees, according to a document filed in US District Court in Los Angeles.

The actor's attorneys said in a statement that Cruise and Bauer settled the dispute and that the publishing company "never intended to communicate that Tom Cruise had cut off all ties and abandoned his daughter, Suri, and regret if anyone drew that inference from anything they published."

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed and are confidential, the statement said. Bauer's attorneys were not immediately available to comment.

Cruise's lawsuit, which also alleged invasion of privacy, gave a glimpse into the "Mission: Impossible" actor's tightly guarded private life, including his divorce from Holmes and his Scientology religion.

The case was scheduled to head to trial in



Actor Tom Cruise smiles as he poses at the premiere of "Oblivion" in Hollywood on 10 April, 2013.—REUTERS

June 2014. In a declaration filed in federal court last month, Cruise denied that he had cut his 7-year-old daughter out of his life, "whether physically, emotionally, financially or otherwise."

The initial lawsuit was filed by Cruise in October 2012, after Bauer's magazines published reports claiming Cruise, 51, had abandoned Suri following his 2012 divorce from Holmes.

"Has he chosen Scientology over Suri for good? Abandoned by Daddy? I mean come on, that is absolutely disgusting. That is absolutely disgusting," Cruise said according to a transcript of a September video deposition.

Cruise added that one of Holmes' "assertions" for their 2012 divorce was that she wanted to protect Suri from Scientology and that his only daughter from his marriage to Holmes was

not currently practicing the religion.

Cruise also said in the deposition that while Holmes, 35, was a practitioner of Scientology before and during their six-year marriage, she left the church when she filed for divorce.

The actor is one of the highest-profile members of Scientology, a religion founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard in 1954.

Its followers, which also include actor John Travolta, believe humans are immortal beings whose existence extends beyond one lifetime. Critics of the church describe it as a cult that harasses people who try to quit.

Actress Leah Remini was one of the most prominent celebrities to leave the Church of Scientology earlier this year, and has spoken out about being cut off by many friends due to her decision.—Reuters

Harry Potter play to make debut on London's West End stage

LONDON, 21 Dec—Harry Potter, the world's most famous boy wizard, is set to make his debut on London's West End stage in a new play to be created in collaboration with author JK Rowling.

The theatrical production will explore the previously untold story of Harry's early years as an outcast and orphan.

Rowling will co-produce the stage show alongside experienced theatre producers Sonia Friedman and Colin Callender, according to a statement on her website.

"Over the years I have received countless approaches about turning Harry Potter into a theatrical production, but Sonia and Colin's vision was the



British author JK Rowling, creator of the Harry Potter series of books, poses during the launch of new online website Pottermore in London on 23 June, 2011.

REUTERS

only one that really made sense to me," Rowling said. "After a year in gestation it is exciting to see this project moving on to the next phase," she added.

In Rowling's book

series, Harry is introduced at the age of 10, living unhappily in a cupboard under the stairs in the home of his aunt and uncle. The new production would "offer a unique insight into the

heart and mind of the now legendary young wizard", the statement said.

Rowling will collaborate with a playwright on the new production but will not script it herself. British media said the production was expected to open in 2015.

Rowling's "Harry Potter" book series has sold some 450 million copies worldwide and the eight movies from the Warner Bros. studios have taken more than \$7.7 billion at global box-offices, making the films the largest-grossing franchise in history.

Earlier this year Rowling revealed she would also be working on a new Harry Potter-themed film series for the Warner Bros. studio.—Reuters

Rooney faces late fitness test for West Ham game

LONDON, 21 Dec— Wayne Rooney faces a late fitness test but could be available for Manchester United's home match against West Ham United on Saturday as David Moyes seeks more goals from more of his players.

The England striker missed United's midweek League Cup quarter-final win at Stoke City due to a groin injury but manager Moyes sounded slightly more optimistic after training on Friday.

"Wayne has got a chance," the Scot told reporters. "So we'll see how he is tomorrow."

The Premier League game at Old Trafford kicks

off a busy period for the champions, who have last season's top scorer Robin van Persie sidelined by a thigh strain until January, with seven games in 21 days.

United are eighth overall, 10 points adrift of leaders Arsenal, but are on a bit of a roll after three wins in their last three games across all competitions.

Moyes said Portuguese winger Nani, who has not played since the home defeat to Newcastle United on 7 December, would be out for several weeks.

"Nani has a hamstring injury, which is a little bit worse than we thought," he said.

Ashley Young played against Stoke and scored his first goal in 18 months, becoming United's 14th different scorer in all competitions this season, and Moyes was pleased with the performance of some of those less in the limelight.

"The players have done really well," he said. "That is why there is such a good squad and a big squad here because throughout the season, the amount of games we have to play here, you do need those extra players."

"We have seen recently, in the last couple of games, we have been a little bit short in areas but the players who have come in have done brilliantly well.



Aston Villa's Matthew Lowton (L) challenges Manchester United's Wayne Rooney during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

We have needed the whole squad, we really have."

The return of Scotland international Darren Fletcher,

after almost a year out with a serious bowel condition, had also given everyone a lift.

"For Darren to get a couple of games and come back into the team is great," said Moyes.—Reuters

Fowler, Matsuyama, Molinari among 14 to get Masters invite



Rickie Fowler of the US walks off the 14th green during the third round of the Barclays PGA golf tournament in Jersey City, New Jersey 24 Aug, 2013. The Statue of Liberty is pictured in the background.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 21 Dec — American Rickie Fowler, Hideki Matsuyama of Japan and Italy's Francesco Molinari are among 14 players who have been invited to compete at the US Masters in April.

Thomas Bjorn, Jamie

Donaldson, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Matteo Manassero, David Lynn, Thongchai Jaidee, Peter Hanson, Victor Dubuisson, Joost Luiten and Branden Grace are the other 11 invitees, the European Tour

said on its website (www.europeantour.com) on Friday.

The 14 earned their places in the first major championship of the year at Augusta as a result of their positions in the final world rankings list of the season published on Monday.

Ninety golfers have already secured a spot at the Masters, raising the prospect of more than 100 players competing in the event for the first time in almost half a century.

A total of 103 players took part in 1966.

Players not already qualified can still book a ticket for the Masters by winning one of the early-season US PGA Tour events, apart from the Puerto Rico Open, or by being in the top 50 of the world rankings at the end of March.

Reuters

Tevez has no World Cup hopes, avoids watching Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Dec — Carlos Tevez holds out no hope of being part of Argentina's World Cup squad and prefers not to watch their matches on television, the Juventus striker said on Friday.

The 29-year-old, who has been in fine scoring form with 10 Serie A goals for Juve so far this season, has been overlooked since Alejandro Sabella became Argentina coach in August 2011.

"If Sabella hasn't called me up, I'm not go-

ing to phone him to find out why he doesn't pick me," Tevez told Argentina's La Red radio station.

"Sabella must not be asked to call me up... Let him work in peace because it's not easy for Sabella not to call me. I know there's a lot of pressure especially from fans."

The former Manchester City, Manchester United and West Ham United striker said he had a good relationship with the Argentina players and national team captain Lionel Messi.

"I have no problems with the group and I get on great with Messi. I don't lose sleep over the World Cup. I don't think I will watch it because it hurts me to see the national team, it's bad for me," he said.

Some media pundits say Tevez, who last played for Argentina in the 2011 Copa America quarter-final defeat by Uruguay, may not fit into Sabella's tactical plans while others argue that he might disrupt the squad's harmony.

Reuters

Messi recovers from injury, can start fitness work

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Dec — Lionel Messi has recovered fully from his thigh muscle injury and can begin work on his fitness although no date has yet been set for his return to action, the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said on Friday.

The Argentina captain was given the good news by team doctors at the AFA's training complex, which is on the city's outskirts, where he has been recuperating from the 10 November injury he suffered with Barcelona. After the first stage of his recovery involving rest in Barcelona, the forward has now passed the second stage.

"The tests carried out today at the AFA facility have confirmed that Lionel Messi has overcome the clinical stage of his injury," read a statement on



Argentine striker Lionel Messi jogs during a training session in Buenos Aires on 2 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

the AFA website (www.afa.org.ar). "The player will begin next Monday with the third stage of his recovery process - physical preparation.

"He will do this in (his home town) Rosario under Barcelona physical trainer Elbio Paolorosso and members of the (Argentina) national team's medical staff." Spanish champions Barcelona are top of

La Liga and through to the last 16 of the Champions League and King's Cup with Messi working hard to return so he can help their bid for a treble.

The World Player of the Year, who has been in Argentina since the start of December, is aiming to finish the season by leading Argentina to a third World Cup title in Brazil in July.

Reuters

Djokovic call even surprised me, says Becker

LONDON, 21 Dec — Boris Becker said Novak Djokovic approached him to become his head coach the day the Serb lost the world No.1 ranking to Spaniard Rafa Nadal in October this year.

Djokovic's announcement this week that the German six-times grand slam champion was to become his coach was greeted with surprise and Becker himself said it had been unexpected.

"I was approached by Novak and his manager while he was playing in Beijing," London-based Becker

told BBC Sport on Friday. "He decided he needed somebody in his corner that had been there and done it."

"I was surprised - I didn't expect the phone call. I was very honored."

Marian Vajda, who has been 26-year-old Djokovic's coach for each of his six grand slam titles, will continue as part of the team but Becker is set to assume head coach responsibilities at the forthcoming Australian Open which starts on 13 January.

Reuters



Juventus' Carlos Tevez celebrates after scoring against Sassuolo during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Juventus Stadium in Turin on 15 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

GENERAL

African mediators try to avert civil war in South Sudan

JUBA, 21 Dec — African mediators said they held “productive” talks on Friday with South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir, trying to prevent an almost week-long conflict plunging the world’s newest nation into an ethnic civil war.

In a sign of the nervousness among South Sudan’s neighbours, Ugandan soldiers flew in to help evacuate their citizens. Two anonymous military sources said they would also help secure the capital, which lies about 75 km (50 miles) from Uganda’s border.

Kiir, a member of the Dinka ethnic group, has accused his former vice president Riek Machar, a Nuer who was sacked in July, of attempting to seize power by force. Fighting that began on Sunday in the capital Juba has swiftly spread, and UN staff have reported hundreds killed.

Kiir has said he is ready for dialogue. Machar told French radio he was ready to “negotiate his departure from power” and said the army could force Kiir out unless he quit.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said he spoke with Kiir on Thursday and would send his envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Ambassador Donald Booth, to help facilitate talks.

“Now is the time for South Sudan’s leaders to rein in armed groups under their control, immediately



Medic peacekeepers from the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) treat civilians at their compound in the outskirts of South Sudan’s capital Juba, in this 19 Dec, 2013 handout provided by UNMISS.—REUTERS

cease attacks on civilians, and end the chain of retributive violence between different ethnic and political groups. The violence must stop, the dialogue must intensify,” Kerry said in a statement. As fighting has moved out of the capital, it is increasingly driven by ethnic loyalties as much as political rivalries.

The UN said on Friday at least 11 people from the ethnic Dinka group had been killed during an attack by thousands of armed youths from another ethnic group on a UN peacekeeping base in Jonglei state. Two Indian peacekeepers died.

The United Nations had earlier said at least 20 people were killed, and South Sudan’s government said earlier 54 Dinka had been killed in the incident. The United Nations mission

in South Sudan is still trying to verify the exact number of dead.

Deputy UN peacekeeping chief Edmond Mulet told the UN Security Council on Friday 35,000 civilians were sheltering at UN bases across the country.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(22-12-2013, Sunday)

6:00 am	News/ Speaktakraw
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:00 pm
6:15 am	11. Sport News
2. Physical Exercises	2:15 pm
6:20 am	12. Speaktakraw (Victory Ceremony)
3. Documentary	3:00 pm
6:50 am	13. Teleplay (SEA Games)
4. SEA Games Songs	3:30 pm
7:00 am	14. SEA Games Songs
5. News/Weather Report	4:00 pm
7:30 am	15. News/Weather Report
6. Talks Show	4:30 pm
8:00 am	16. SEA Games Songs
7. News/ International News/Speaktakraw	5:00 pm
11:15 am	17. 27th SEA Games Closing Ceremony (Live)
8. SEA Games Songs	9:00 pm
12:00 pm	18. News/ International News/ Weather Report
9. News/ International News/Weather Report	9:30 pm
12:30 pm	19. Talks Show
10. Round Up of The Week’s International	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

22-12-13 07:00 am ~ 23-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Image of the Monks
- * World News
- * Shots & Logs (Episode-2) Ye’ Pyae
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Tourist Area
- * World News
- * An Ode to Love
- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up (Episode-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
- * World News
- * Product of Myanmar - Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
- * 27th SEA GAMES COMPETITION
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts
- * World News
- * Licuala Palm Leaf
- * Local News
- * A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * Walking Along Orchard Road
- * World News
- * Shop Shop Shop - Bogyoke Market
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-6)
- * World News
- * Creations of a Designer

Turkey scrambles warplanes to intercept Syrian aircraft

ANKARA, 21 Dec — Turkey scrambled four F-16 fighter jets to intercept two Syrian aircraft approaching its airspace, a military statement said on Friday. A Syrian SU-24 plane and a Syrian MIG-21 fighter jet approached the Turkish airspace above Hatay Province in southern Turkey, said the statement issued by the

General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces.

It said four F-16 planes were scrambled from Incirlik airbase in southern Adana and from Diyarbakir on an interception mission, and that the Syrian planes flew back when they were less than 10 km from above the Turkish border.

Similar incidents have taken place since a Turkish

F-16 was shot down in September 2012 by the Syrian army when it reportedly entered Syria’s airspace, according to local media.

Turkey, once an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, has become a leading voice urging his ouster and reportedly provided Syrian rebel leaders with sanctuary.

Xinhua

Chelsea must hurry up and adapt to Mourinho, says Torres

LONDON, 21 Dec — Spain striker Fernando Torres has urged his Chelsea team mates to “hurry up” and adapt to the style of play demanded by manager Jose Mourinho.

The 2012 European champions occupy third place in the Premier League and appear genuine contenders to win the title as they prepare for Monday’s trip to leaders Arsenal.

Chelsea are also through to the last 16 of the Champions League but Tuesday’s shock 2-1 Capital One Cup quarter-final defeat at Sunderland was symptomatic of their sometimes inconsistent performances this season. “When

a new manager comes in he needs ... to know the quality of the players, he needs to build the team and adapt the players to his ways,” Torres told Sky Sports television on Friday.

“We are in this process but it’s not easy. Sometimes you need two months for things to settle, sometimes you need three years.

“But in football these days you have no time to do that and we need to hurry up. Everyone needs to adapt to what the manager wants.”

Torres, himself, has blown hot and cold since joining Chelsea from Liverpool for a British record fee of 50 million pounds (\$81.78 million) in January

2011. He has experienced some great highs, helping Chelsea to the Champions League and FA Cup double in 2012 and scoring a dazzling solo goal in last season’s Europa League final victory over Benfica in Amsterdam.

Torres though has also gone through several goal droughts during his time at Stamford Bridge and the barren run he and fellow strikers Samuel Eto’o and Demba Ba have experienced this season has been a constant source of frustration for Mourinho.

“We need to score more goals ... and we have to improve, we know that,” said the Chelsea number nine who also won the 2010

World Cup with his country and the European Championship in 2008 and 2012.

“I don’t think he is only blaming the strikers. They of course are responsible because it’s their job to score goals but I think he’s talking about the team too, that’s the way I like to see it anyway.”

Torres has taken almost three years to bag 41 goals for Chelsea while at Liverpool he was razor-sharp, bagging 81 in 142 games including 33 in his first season.

Asked if he was happy overall with his move to Stamford Bridge, he replied: “Yes with the trophies and performances but not about the goals. I came



Chelsea’s manager Jose Mourinho (R) talks to his striker Fernando Torres as he leaves the field after being sent off during their English Premier League soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane in London on 28 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

here to win trophies and I have.

“I’ve been lucky enough to win almost everything and I still have time to win the Premier League, something I’ve never won.

“I’m quite happy with

my work contribution to the team but not about my goals. I should have scored more and I have to look at myself but it doesn’t matter who scores the goals, it’s about the team winning.”

Reuters



Myanmar boxers dominate Muay events

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—The final events of Muay took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium today. The stadium was teeming with sports fans as Myanmar Muay fighters advanced to final.

secured silver medal after losing to Vietnam. The men's 54-kg event was a very fascinating one. Saw Dar Po of Myanmar defeated the Philippine fighter in third round.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, the Union ministers and deputy ministers awarded the medalists.

Hla Yin May of Myanmar won gold medal in women's 48-kg event after defeating the Vietnamese fighter. In women's 51-Kg event, Grace of Myanmar

Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye and Union Ministers together with gold medalist in Muay events pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Senior General, wife enjoy SEA Games football final match

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoyed the football final match between Thailand and Indonesia of the 27th SEA Games at Zeyathiri Sports Ground, here, this evening.

It was also enjoyed by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior Gen-

eral Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief's Office and their wives, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye and officials and fans.

Thailand beat Indonesia 1-0.

The Senior General presented gold medal to Thailand, the Vice-Senior General, silver to Indonesia and Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, bronze to Singapore and Thailand Football Federation President Mr Dato' Warawi Makudi, Indonesia Football Federation President Mr Johar Arithin Huseih and Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw presented gifts to the winners.—*Myawady*

President of Cambodian National Assembly welcomes Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of National Assembly of Cambodia, a visiting goodwill delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and

Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann arrived at National Assembly of Cambodia yesterday afternoon.

They were welcomed by the President, Vice-Presidents and officials of Cambodian National Assembly.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker met with the President of National Assembly at the hall of the assembly.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed (See page 8)

Myanmar snatch six gold, seven bronze in Kempo event



Myanmar celebrate victory after receiving gold medal in Kempo event at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium-1—MNA

YANGON, 21 Dec—Finals of Kempo event in the XXVII SEA Games took place at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1 on Waizayanda Road in Thingangyun Township, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U

Myint Hlaing enjoyed the matches and presented cash to the athletes.

At today events, gold medal went to Vietnam, silver to Indonesia and bronze to Myanmar and Laos in women's 48-kilo Randori event while Indonesia secured gold, Vietnam, silver

and Myanmar, bronze with Cambodia in women's 51 Randori event and Myanmar took gold, Indonesia, silver and Laos, bronze with Vietnam in women's 54-kilo Randori event.

In men's 54-kilo Randori event, Indonesia got (See page 9)

Myanmar Health Team provides health care to typhoon Haiyan victims

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Dec—A Myanmar Health Team comprising special-

ists of Directorate of Medical Services of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office

led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung provided health care services to patients in Typhoon-hit Bogoh, Philippines from 7 to 15 December.

Myanmar donated ECGs worth US\$ 37,000, pharmacy and pharmaceutical equipment, traditional medicines and relief aid to storm victims of the Philippines.

Moreover, the team presented US\$ 1000 for construction of a house for victims and medicines donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for the aged through the mayor.—*MNA*

Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	106	94	80	280
Myanmar	84	61	85	230
Vietnam	73	85	86	244
Indonesia	64	83	109	256
Malaysia	43	38	76	157
Singapore	34	29	44	107
Philippines	29	34	37	100
Laos	13	16	48	77
Cambodia	8	11	28	47
Timor-Leste	2	3	5	10
Brunei	1	1	6	8

**XXVII SEA GAMES
Football Final
Result
Thailand 1-0 Indonesia**