

## President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Japanese Emperor, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2013, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.—MNA

## President U Thein Sein hosts dinner to support groups for successfully holding 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games



President U Thein Sein cordially greets attendees at dinner in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—President U Thein Sein presented certificates of honour to support groups for successfully holding the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games at a dinner hosted by the President in front

of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, here, at 5:30 pm today.

It was attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U

Shwe Mann, Amyotha Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice General Min Aung Hlaing, of the Union U Tun Tun (See page 8)

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Announcement No (4/2013)  
6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1375 ME  
(23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013)

### Ninth Regular Session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw summoned

It is hereby announced that in accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3 and Sub-rule (b) of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, has been summoned to hold in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME, Monday (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014).

Sd/ Thura Shwe Mann  
Speaker  
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyithu Hluttaw

Announcement No (3/2013)  
6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1375 ME  
(23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013)

### Ninth Regular Session of First Pyithu Hluttaw summoned

It is hereby announced that in accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of Pyithu Hluttaw Law, Ninth Regular Session of First Pyithu Hluttaw has been summoned to hold in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME, Monday (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014).

Sd/ Thura Shwe Mann  
Speaker  
Pyithu Hluttaw

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Amyotha Hluttaw

Announcement No (3/2013)  
6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1375 ME  
(23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013)

### Ninth Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw summoned

It is hereby announced that in accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of Amyotha Hluttaw Law, Ninth Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw has been summoned to hold in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho, 1375 ME, Monday (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014).

Sd/ Khin Aung Myint  
Speaker  
Amyotha Hluttaw

LOCAL NEWS

**Assistance provided to hailstones-hit farmers**

DABAYIN, 23 Dec— Hailstone hit Dabayin due to untimely rains on 15 December night.

The incident had laid waste to paddy plantations.

Head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department U Thein Win, Head of District Settlement and Land Records Department U Myo Min Oo, Chairman of Township Management Committee Township Administrator U Nyein Chan Aung, Head of Township Agriculture

Department U Thant Zin Kyaw and township officials heard reports on the local farmers.

The local people reported on requirements on difficulties for recultivation of summer paddy in 2013-14.

The Agriculture Department pledged to provide one basket of paddy strain for one acre to farmers and it will take such paddy in harvest time from farmers.—MMAL-Township IPRD

**Experience on arts show recounted**

MANDALAY, 23 Dec—A ceremony to recount the experience on joint arts show displayed in Imphrel of Manipur State in India from 21 to 27 November was held at Hsinbyudaw Gallery on 36<sup>th</sup> Street between 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Streets in Mandalay on 19 December.

The art show was jointly organized by Mandalay Art Club and Manipur Art Society.

It was attended by media persons and artists.

Firstly, Chairman of Mandalay Arts Group Artist Nyo Pyar gave a speech. He expressed thanks to Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and the Indian Consul General and those who participated in the trip.

Veteran artist Daw Cho Cho Aung and Artist U Myint Tun recalled experience on the trip and participation in the Saigan Festival in



Imphrel of Manipur State in India and art show jointly organized by Manipur Art Society.

The Saigan Festival was participated by Mandalay Art Group, Sagaing Moe Zar Troupe, Ywahtaung silver wares, Mandalay Music and Harp Troupes.

It was led by Mandalay

PYINOO LWIN, 23 Dec— The year of 2013 brings significant cold to the nation.

Various towns in the country have seen significant cold.

PyinOoLwin is one of the towns with lower temperature.

On 19 December, the whole town of PyinOoLwin was under zero degree Celcius. On that day, the fog covered across the town and some part of the town saw dew.

As of early evening, the grass, trees and plants were wet with dew. As night falls, trees in the town were gradually covered with dew.

Waking early in the morning, seeing a

**PyinOoLwin wet with dew**



picturesque scene from the window is feeling of the

past. Local people missed such a chance for many years.

At present, poinsettias are blooming in the town welcoming the X'mas. So, everybody can see red flowers matching with its environs.

People take exercises

along the bunds of Kandawgyi and Kandawlay lakes and along the circular road of PyinOoLwin in the morning.

PyinOoLwin regains its dream of the past with foggy beauties.

MMAL-Thet Naing (PyinOoLwin)



**A wellwisher presents medal of honour to U Soe Lin who had donated blood for 75 times at the 37<sup>th</sup> ceremony to honour the blood donors at Yangon University of Nursing on 14 December.—MMAL-NATIONAL BLOOD CENTRE**

**UNFPA launches State of World Population 2013 in Myanmar**

YANGON, 23 Dec— Every day, 20000 girls under the age of 18 give birth in developing countries. Nine in 10 of these births occur within marriage or a union, and the girls affected have little or no say in decisions about when or whether to become pregnant. Girls under the age of 15 account for 2 million adding the total up to 7.3 million new adolescent mothers a year. If current trends continue the number of births to girls under the age of 15 could rise to 3 million a year in 2030.

Worldwide, in developing countries, the number of adolescent

pregnancies is 680,000. This is worrying numbers, because there is an estimated 3.2 million unsafe abortions among 15-19 year olds. This means for every teenage birth there are five abortions, mostly unsafe. Unsafe abortions by an unqualified practitioner are predominately responsible for complications post-abortion and at worst results in deaths of young mothers. In Myanmar, this is the case in over 10% of pregnancies within the age group 15-19, largely because of barriers based on social and cultural values that prevent young people accessing reproductive

health services, including those for birth spacing.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) calls in its *State of World Population 2013* for action that empowers girls, uphold their basic human rights, and put them on an equal footing with boys as well as for the girls to receive an education. According to the report girls who remain in school longer are less likely to become pregnant. The Myanmar launch of UNFPA's flagship report took place in Yangon, on 10 December 2013. The official launch of the report was on 30 October.

“Myanmar may not

Myint Tun, Ingar Oo, Daw Cho Cho Aung, Kyaw Min Oo and designer Phyu Pyar Nyunt.

The festival has been organized since 2010.

Thanks to the trip, artists from Mandalay could further cement relationship with those of India.

MMAL-Khin Khin Win

have many adolescent mothers, nor do the majority of the country's girls marry young. However this does not mean that many young girls are not vulnerable to unintended pregnancies. We know they are. Part of protection adolescents is through access to information and access to reproductive health services, including contraception. This will help reduce their vulnerability and strengthen their ability to take responsibility. Prevention is the best way to avoid unsafe abortions, and this is happening in many places, thanks to youth spaces and adolescent

friendly services,” said Ms Janet Jackson, UNFPA Myanmar Representative in her statement.

Ms. Jackson emphasized that “today is about committing to ensure that changes are implemented as part of the nation's post 2015 agenda, in order to ensure that all girls are protected and that they have access human rights, health and education, which prevents them from realising their ambitions and living out their true potential. These are important considerations for Myanmar as it prepares for taking on the ASEAN chair in 2014, where social policies and social

development should be championed alongside investments in trade and interest for economic growth.”

UNFPA congratulated the Ministry of Health for launching the National Services Standards and Guidelines on Adolescent Health Care in July with support from WHO and UNFPA. UNFPA remains committed to work with the Government and all stakeholders to help meet the needs and potentials of the young people of Myanmar. UNFPA is also a member of the recently established National Task Force for youth policy.

Moe Thu



## NATIONAL

# President U Thein Sein's video message to teams that made contributions to SEA Games success

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—The following is the translation of the video message of President U Thein Sein shown at a dinner in honour of the teams that made contributions to the success of the 27<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games at the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this evening.

## Esteemed youth,

The 27<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games has successfully concluded. Myanmar has had an opportunity to host the Games again after 44 years.

As Myanmar had the opportunity to successfully holding the Games it hadn't been able to hold such a game due to various reasons in the past, the Games brought four opportunities to it. The first opportunity is to make known the internal and external critics who had voiced concern about whether Myanmar would be able to host such international sporting event that Myanmar and its people were capable of hosting the Games.

The second opportunity is to present morale, ability, sense of fair play and courage of Myanmar athletes the world. The third one is to show kindness, hospitality and morality of Myanmar people to athletes and visitors from foreign countries. The final one is to promote the image of the nation and its people while foreign visitors enjoyed sports events and visited places of interest in Myanmar.

Throng of athletes from respective countries, guests

and local and foreign journalists participated in the SEA Games.

Like winning medals in the competitions, it is also important to describe Myanmar whose people are kind, hospitable and helpful and possess high morality and ability to host the Games. Young people who took part in the opening and closing ceremonies, liaison officers, volunteer officers and work forces discharged this responsibility.

All of you, of your own volition, assumed these responsibilities. Volunteers are those who are willing to offer help as much as they can for the sake of others and the nation, without having any intention to gain advantages or opportunities. So, it was seen that all of you had a strong sense of duty to promote the national image, made active participation while discharging this responsibility and overcame difficulties and problems patiently and understandingly throughout the Games. It was the proudest moment of the nation as all of you from various parts of the country joined hands for SEA Games success with Union spirit.

Like you, leading committees, supportive committees, athletes, officers and other ranks of Defence Services and Police Force, musicians and other technicians also made all-out efforts for the successful holding of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

So, successful holding the Games is the national victory brought about by the entire people including all of you with Union spirit and genuine nationalistic fervor.

Now we are in the democratic transition building the new nation and moving towards national reconsolidation which is an urgent need for the development of the nation. Successful realization of the national duty brought about by civil societies and all walks of life with a sense of cooperation at this time produced a brand new boost to move forward. If we are able to establish the national unity like this, it is sure to shape an era of peace and prosperity.

That's why, I would like to call on all of you to apply a wealth of experience and spirit gained whilst working in the Games to nation-building endeavours.

May you all have peace of mind and good health.

## WORLD

## US will seek triggers to reimpose sanctions on Iran



US National Security Advisor Susan Rice looks up during a meeting beside US President Barack Obama at the G20 Summit in St Petersburg, Russia on 5 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

HONOLULU, 23 Dec—The United States and its allies will have ways to reimpose sanctions on Iran if the Islamic Republic is caught making bombs after striking a deal to freeze its nuclear programme, national security adviser Susan Rice said on Sunday.

In an interview on the CBS news programme "60 Minutes," Rice rejected the idea that, once relaxed, the economic sanctions on Teheran would be hard to reinstate.

Any United Nations Security Council resolution that enshrines a final nuclear deal with Iran — not the interim six-month deal signed in Geneva in November — could have triggers to automatically reimpose sanctions on Iran if they violate the deal, she said.

"We will not construct a deal or accept a deal in which we cannot verify exactly what they are doing," Rice said. "And if they're caught, we will ensure that the pressure is reimposed on them."

A mechanism for such "automatic triggers" has not been finalized, Rice said. Any deal beyond the current arrangement is still months away.

"We haven't designed that resolution yet. But this is something that's quite doable," Rice said. The United States does not want Iran to be "in a position to race towards a bomb undetected."

Rice said it was still unclear if Iran was hurting enough from existing sanctions on its oil exports and other industries to give up its nuclear ambitions in a "verifiable way."—Reuters

KIEV, 23 Dec—Ukrainian opposition leaders urged supporters at a rally on Sunday to stay on Kiev's main square through New Year and Christmas, as street protests appeared to be losing momentum.

About 100,000 people gathered at Kiev's Independence Square to demonstrate for the fifth weekend in a row against President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to shelve a trade deal the European Union and pursue closer ties with Russia.

Although it was a relatively strong showing — enough to fill the square and adjacent streets — the

number was the lowest this month, and around half the previous weekend's turnout which was estimated at up to 200,000 people.

"We will not leave," Vitaly Klitschko, a heavyweight boxing champion who leads the liberal UDAR (Punch) party, told the rally. "We will celebrate the New Year here and we will celebrate Christmas here."

In the Ukrainian Orthodox Church's calendar,

Christmas falls on 7 January.

Seeking to consolidate the protest movement, he and leaders of other major opposition parties said they were establishing a nationwide political movement called Maidan, a reference to the Ukrainian name of the protest site, Maidan Nezalezhnosti. "We will make life hell for this government," said far-right nationalist leader Oleh Tyahnybok.

Street protests erupted after Yanukovich's decision

on 21 November to walk away from an agreement on free trade and political association with the EU, after years of careful preparation, and turn to Ukraine's former Soviet overlord Russia.

The U-turn, while backed by many in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine which is Yanukovich's power base, angered others in western and central areas, where people see the country's future in Europe.

Reuters

## Ukraine opposition urges more protests, forms political bloc

## Police fire teargas, water cannon at Istanbul protesters

ANKARA, 23 Dec — Police fired water cannon and teargas at protesters marching in Istanbul on Sunday against the Turkish government's urbanization plans and a corruption investigation in which scores of people, including the sons of ministers, have been arrested.

Hundreds of protesters gathered in a square in Istanbul's Kadikoy District, holding banners calling Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government to resign, Turkey's *Dogan News* agency reported.

Erdogan has denounced the corruption inquiry as the work of "dark alliances" and has vowed to expose those involved. In a crackdown on the police command, he has already removed dozens of police chiefs from their duties.

Reuters



Turkish riot police use water cannons against protesters during a demonstration against Turkey's ruling Ak Party (AKP) and Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in Istanbul on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Astronauts nail first spacewalk to fix station's cooling system

CAPE CANAVERAL, 23 Dec — Two NASA astronauts, their spacesuits rigged with snorkels in case of a water leak, floated outside the *International Space Station* for 5-1/2 hours on Saturday, successfully completing the first steps to fix the outpost's cooling system.

The spacewalk, which was broadcast live on NASA Television, was the first for NASA since July when the spacesuit helmet worn by Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano began filling with water, a situation that could have caused him to drown.

No such leaks were detected in Saturday's spacewalk, the first of two or possibly three that will be needed to complete the cooling system repair.

The operation was prompted by the December 11 shutdown of one of the station's two US ammonia cooling systems, which

forced the crew to turn off non-essential equipment and shut down dozens of science experiments.

While the six-member crew is not in danger, the remaining cooling system cannot support the three laboratories and other modules on the US side of the \$100 billion station, a project of 15 nations. The Russian side of the station has a separate

cooling system.

Engineers at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston tried devising ways to bypass a suspected faulty pump valve, but with time running short, managers decided to have astronauts replace the pump, located outside the station, with a spare.

The work, which began shortly after 7 am EST, went smoothly, with station flight

engineers Rick Mastracchio and Mike Hopkins finishing up an hour earlier than expected.

They were able to not only disconnect the old pump, but also remove it from its pallet on the station's exterior truss, a task slated for a second spacewalk originally planned for Monday and later delayed until Tuesday, NASA said late on Saturday.

A third spacewalk, if needed, presumably also would slip one day, from Wednesday to Thursday.

NASA said an extra day was needed to prepare a backup spacesuit for Mastracchio to use.

"During repressurization of the station's airlock following the spacewalk, a spacesuit configuration issue put the suit Mastracchio was wearing in question for the next excursion," NASA said in a statement.—Reuters



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

REUTERS

## Finnish city Oulu sees light at end of Nokia tunnel

OULU, 23 Dec — From early December, the Finnish city of Oulu is trapped in darkness for all but a few murky midday hours, a darkness some feared might be matched by its economic prospects after big local employer

Nokia (NOK1V.HE) hit the skids.

Oulu, with a population of about a quarter million, was once a key Nokia R&D site, before the mobile maker was left for dead in the global smartphone race by Apple's (AAPL.O)

iPhone and handsets running Google's (GOOG.O) Android software.

Nokia and its networks venture at one point employed about 5,000 people in Oulu, more than three times the next biggest private sector employer, but now it has work for less than half that.

The city's unemployment rate topped 16 percent in the summer, a level not seen since the Finnish financial crisis of the early 1990s.

But despite the gloom, and an average annual temperature of 2 degrees Celsius (36F), the buds of a recovery are visible in Finland's biggest northern city, 600 kilometres from Helsinki.

It is becoming a model for the rest of the country as

it fights to fill the gap left by Nokia's tumbling sales and the tens of thousands of job cuts that preceded the former world beater's September decision to give up the mobile business and sell to Microsoft (MSFT.O).

Oulu is now a leading candidate to host a new data centre for Microsoft, which wants to invest \$250 million on such facilities in Finland after it takes over the Nokia business next year.

Former "Nokians" are starting to land on their feet, too. Pasi Leipala, a former senior manager at Nokia, is now chief executive at Haltian, which designs electronics and software products and is one of the city's most successful start-ups. Last year you could count its employees on the fingers of one hand. Now it has a staff of 70.—Reuters



Nokia employees arrive for a personnel briefing in Oulu, on 14 June, 2012.

REUTERS

## French government will police quality of 4G services

PARIS, 23 Dec — The French government will act to ensure telecom operators provide decent service as they roll out cut-rate plans for new high-speed 4G broadband service, a minister for digital issues said on Sunday.

Low-cost operator Iliad this month added 4G service to its Free Mobile offers without raising the price, putting pressure on leading telecoms companies Orange, Vivendi's SFR and Bouygues Telecom to follow suit with competitive offers.

The contest has led executives to trade barbs in the media, with Orange CEO Stephane Richard accusing Iliad of compromising quality on its 4G service. Iliad is still building its mobile network and had 700 mobile antennas capable of handling 4G speeds as of 1 December.

The minister, Fleur Pelleting, said the government would act to ensure that the telecom regulator Arches regained the power to enforce quality standards, after a Constitutional Court ruling that prevented

it from imposing penalties.

"We are going to correct this situation in early 2014," she told *Le Parisien* daily. "We are going to give the telecoms policeman his stick back."

The Iliad offer has led to a price war as well as a war of words among the telecom operators. Orange said some of its customers would get 4G wireless at no additional charge, shortly after smaller rival Bouygues extended the same offer to its low-cost subscription plan.—Reuters



A sales assistant walks inside a China Mobile store in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on 18 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## Apple, China Mobile sign long-awaited deal to sell iPhones

NEW YORK, 23 Dec — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) said it has signed a long-awaited agreement with China Mobile Ltd to sell iPhones through the world's biggest network of mobile phone users.

In a deal that could add billions of dollars to its revenue, Apple said its smartphones will be available to China Mobile customers starting on 17 January. Pricing and availability details for the iPhone 5S and 5C lines will be disclosed at a later date, it said in a statement.

China Mobile, which has about 760 million customers, will begin registering orders for iPhone from 25 December, the company said on its account on the Sina-Weibo micro-blogging service.

The tie-up provides a much-needed boost for Apple in a country where it's trailing rivals, even though China is its second-largest market after the US. It will also give Apple extra firepower in its intensifying global competition with South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Apple didn't disclose financial terms of the agreement. Tim Cook, Apple's chief executive, said

in its statement that China is an extremely important market for the Cupertino-based company.

In a country where smartphone sales are booming, Apple has trailed its competitors. Shipments of iPhones in the country grew 32 percent year-on-year for the third quarter, about half of China's Lenovo Group Ltd, which had the next slowest growth at 64 percent year-on-year.

China Mobile could gain 17 million new iPhone activations in 2014 alone, according to research firm Forrester — more than double the 16.8 million iPhones Apple sold in mainland China for the 12 months ended September, according to Forrester data.

But after an expected initial surge, Apple is likely to find itself back in a costly marketing battle with Samsung Electronics.

The deal has been years in the making, with numerous visits by Apple to the state-owned carrier's Beijing headquarters. Negotiations have been tricky, in part because of disagreements over details like revenue-sharing, analysts have said.

Reuters



A Samsung mobile phone is displayed during a news conference to present SFR's 4G public offers in Paris, on 23 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS



## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Boeing machinists to vote 3 January on revised contract

NEW YORK, 23 Dec — Unionized workers at Boeing Co (BA.N) will vote on 3 January on the company's latest proposed contract, according to a statement issued by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers on Sunday evening.

In November, machinists at the Everett, Washington plant where Boeing's 777 jet is built voted 2

to 1 against the company's initial offer.

Under that eight year contract, production of Boeing's next jet — the 777X — would have remained in Washington state. But in exchange, management wanted to replace the workers' pension plan with a 401(k)-style retirement savings account and raise healthcare costs.

In the aftermath of the

vote, Boeing said it would look for other locations to build the 777X, the only jet the company is likely to develop in the next 15 years.

Boeing later made a revised offer that included a larger signing bonus and other concessions, and asked union leaders to endorse it. But the leaders of IAM District Lodge 751, which represents the 31,000 workers, refused endorse it

or put it up for a vote, saying the changes were not significant enough.

Details of the new offer will be sent to IAM District 751, District W-24 and District 70 members by mail prior to the vote, the IAM said in its statement, noting that the new proposal "contains significant improvements" from the earlier offer made by management in November.—Reuters



Construction cranes and palm trees line the entrance at South Carolina Boeing in North Charleston, South Carolina on 19 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## Traffic at Target stores falls after data breach — WSJ



Merchandise baskets are lined up outside a Target department store in Palm Coast, Florida, on 9 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

CHICAGO, 23 Dec — In the wake of a massive data breach, Target Corp (TGT.N) suffered reduced customer traffic over one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The number of transactions at Target fell 3 to 4 percent compared with last year's final weekend before Christmas, while, transac-

tions at other retailers were strong, the Journal said, citing estimates by retail consultancy Customer Growth Partners LLC.

Target said on Thursday that hackers had stolen data from as many as 40 million credit and debit cards of shoppers who visited its stores during the first three weeks of the holiday season.

At least 2 million shop-

pers who used bank debit cards at Target stores during its recent data breach are facing lower limits on how much cash they can take out of teller machines and spend at stores.

"This is the worst possible time something like this could happen," Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners told the Journal.

The consultancy firm estimates that US retail sales on Saturday totaled \$17 billion, exceeding those on Black Friday by \$2 billion, according to the paper.

A Target spokeswoman declined to comment to the Journal specifically on this weekend's results, saying the retailer reports sales on a quarterly basis.

Target could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters outside of regular US business hours.

Reuters

## Russia's red-hot car market stalls

MOSCOW, 23 Dec — A year of disappointing auto sales in Russia has dealers and carmakers worried that a once-red hot market that was set to become Europe's largest may have slipped out of gear.

Stuttering economic growth, unhelpful demographic trends and a coming increase in car capacity could dampen one of the few bright spots in a global market that is under

pressure. In a Moscow showroom of dealership Premium Motors, packed with budget models such as Russian-made Ladas and Chevrolets, a dealer bemoaned the lack of customers. "In October and November — sales were bad ... there were few people," he said.

A few doors down, a dealership selling more expensive imported Volkswagens was finding it equally

hard. "Maybe people ... need to save money instead of buying a car," said a manager. Asked about the outlook for next year, he said: "Nobody knows. We hope." In a traffic-clogged city peppered with Porsches (PSHG\_p.DE) and Maseratis (FIA.MI) - trademarks of the super-rich who profited personally from Russia's resource wealth - it is the middle class who provide the bread-and-butter sales.

Yet after three years of double-digit growth as Russia recovered from the 2008-2009 economic crisis, sales so far this year are down around 6 percent according to the Association of European Businesses, a Moscow-based lobby group that counts major auto makers among its members. Auto executives, resolutely bullish that Russia's rising middle class will support sales long-term, do not predict another crisis, but are worried about an extended contraction.—Reuters



An employee works on a Renault Sandero at an assembly line of a plant that produces Renault automobiles, in Moscow, in this 15 May, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

## French implant firm Carmat could seek investors

PARIS, 23 Dec — France's Carmat, developer of an artificial heart implanted into its first patient last week, may seek an injection of funds from fresh investors to help tap a potential multi-billion-euro global market, a senior executive said.

"We could, at some point, call on new investors," Carmat co-founder Philippe Pouletty was quoted saying by Le Monde newspaper on Saturday. "Our aim, if possible, is to remain independent."

The company said after Friday's stock market close it had carried out its first implant of an artificial heart that can beat for up to five years, marking a potential

breakthrough for patients with heart conditions.

Company officials warned it was too early to draw firm conclusions from the operation carried out in a Paris hospital on Wednesday, but noted the male patient in his 70s was conscious and talking in intensive care.

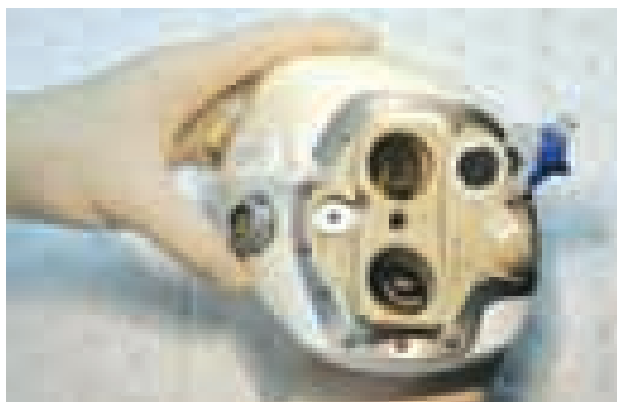
Pouletty told Le Monde that, once put on sale, the 130,000 euro (\$177,700) device had a potential market of 100,000 patients in the United States and Europe. "The medical need is significant, with a market potential of several billion euros," Pouletty said. "The issue is whether it will be reimbursed by healthcare systems. We are

confident about that (as) much less sophisticated artificial hearts of comparable cost are already authorized and reimbursed in a number of countries."

Shares in the company

closed at 102.86 euros on Friday, to give it a stock market value of about 436 million euros. The stock was listed on the Paris bourse in 2010 at 18 euros.

Reuters



A picture shows an artificial heart holding by an employee of the French Carmat company outside Paris.

REUTERS

## Toyota to recall over 11,000 cars in S Korea for defective air-conditioning

SEOUL, 23 Dec — Japanese carmaker Toyota Motor was ordered to recall more than 11,000 cars in South Korea due to defective air-conditioning system, Seoul's transportation ministry said on Monday.

A total of 11,507 cars sold by Toyota in the country were equipped with a faulty air-conditioning system, in which water produced by the radiator flows into the airbag control system and causes malfunction in the airbags and steering wheel, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT).

Subject to the recall

that covered 10,961 passenger cars of three models, including Camry, manufactured between 20 Oct, 2011 and 16 May, 2013. The recall also affected 546 units of the Venza compact utility vehicles made between 14 Aug, 2012 and 28 March, 2013.

Owners of the defective vehicles can contact service centers operated by Toyota Motor Korea for free repairs from Thursday.

Jaguar and Land Rover was also told to recall 888 units of the Jaguar XF 2.2 diesel vehicles for defective fuel lines that may cause fire, the ministry said.

Xinhua

## Emperor turns 80, hopes to continue to fulfill his role

TOKYO, 23 Dec — Emperor Akihito, on the occasion of his 80th birthday on Monday, reiterated his intention to do his best, while he is expected to hand over some of his official duties to the younger generation in the year after next.

“While accepting the limits arising from age, I hope to continue to fulfill my role as best I can,” the emperor said at a customary Press conference held on Wednesday ahead of his birthday.

Emperor Akihito, enthroned on 7 Jan, 1989, is

the second Japanese emperor to have turned 80 while on the throne, following his father Emperor Hirohito.

Next year will be the last time for the emperor and Empress Michiko, 79, to make annual visits to kindergartens on Children’s Day in May and facilities for the elderly on Respect for the Aged Day in September, as they will pass on those visits made since 1992 to their children including Crown Prince Naruhito.

“We already have quite an age gap with the

children, while we will be around the same age as the elderly citizens,” said the emperor, adding, “My health has had no bearing on this decision.” Regarding the passing on of official duties to reduce his burden, he said, “I would like to maintain the status quo for the time being.”

Asked about the relationship between politics and the activities of the imperial family following Princess Hisako’s involvement in Tokyo’s successful bid to host the 2020 Olympic Games, the emperor

said, “It is my intention to continue to attend to my duties in a manner compliant with the Constitution.”

“The Constitution of Japan stipulates, ‘The Emperor shall perform only such acts in matters of state as are provided for in this Constitution and he shall not have powers related to government,’” the emperor said. About the events that have left a special impression on him during the course of his life, the emperor pointed to “the Second World War.”

Kyodo News

Members of Japan’s Ground Self-Defence Force hand water to people taking refuge at a UN peacekeeping mission base in Juba on 22 Dec, 2013, amid fighting in South Sudan. KYODO NEWS



## Syrian helicopter bomb raids kill 42 in Aleppo



People carry a wounded man on a stretcher after what activists said was an air raid by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, at Masaken Hanano in Aleppo, on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 23 Dec — At least 42 people, including children, were killed on Sunday when Syrian army helicopters dropped improvised “barrel bombs” in the northern province of Aleppo, a monitoring group said.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said separate air raids hit several districts in Aleppo, but the biggest toll was in Hanano, east of the city. At least six children

were among the dead.

“They hit a convoy of cars on a road in Hanano, many cars were destroyed. There were civilians there,” said the Observatory’s Rami Abdelrahman.

Human Rights Watch said in a report over the weekend that barrel bomb attacks had killed scores of civilians in Aleppo in the last month. It described the attacks as illegal and said they had hit residential and shopping areas.

“The Syrian air force is either criminally incompetent, doesn’t care whether it kills scores of civilians, or deliberately targets civilian areas,” HRW senior emergency researcher Ole Solvang said in the report.

Barrel bombs are explosive-filled cylinders or oil drums that are often rolled out of the back of helicopters with little attempt at striking a particular target. They are capable of causing widespread casualties and significant damage.

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

They have been unable to recapture eastern and central parts of Aleppo, which rebels seized in the summer of 2012, but they have driven rebel fighters back from towns to the southeast of the city in recent weeks.—Reuters

## UN chief urges donors to give more aid to Haiyan victims

MANILA, 23 Dec — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday urged the international community to provide more support to ongoing efforts to rebuild the central Philippine communities devastated by powerful typhoon Haiyan last month.

“I urge all donors to add to their generous response so that we can help communities to build back better and safer,” Ban told a joint news conference with Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario.

Ban arrived in the Philippines late on Friday for a

weekend visit to areas hit by Haiyan on 8 Nov, leaving 7,888 people killed or missing.

On Saturday, Ban flew from the capital Manila to the central Philippine city of Tacloban, one of the hardest-hit areas in the eastern central Philippines facing the Pacific Ocean.

“Yesterday, I was deeply moved and also inspired by my visit to Tacloban. People are working hard to recover,” Ban said. “We must not allow this to be another forgotten crisis.”

On Wednesday, the

Philippines launched an \$8 billion strategic plan for reconstruction in the affected areas.

“The plan aims to restore the economic and social conditions of the affected areas at the very least to pre-typhoon levels and to create a higher level of disaster resilience,” Ban said.

The world body and its partners have also launched a one-year strategic response plan worth \$791 million. Ban said only 30 percent of that amount has been funded so far.

Kyodo News

## Bomb explodes on Israeli bus, no one hurt

JERUSALEM, 23 Dec — A bomb that Israeli authorities suspect was planted by Palestinian militants exploded in a bus near Tel Aviv on Sunday after passengers were evacuated, and police said no one was hurt.

No group claimed responsibility for the bombing. But Fawzi Barhoum, a spokesman for the Islamist militant group Hamas, said in a statement the blast was a “heroic action” in

response to what he termed the “continued crimes” of Israel’s occupation of land Palestinians seek for a state.

Photographs from the scene, in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam, showed the blast blew out the vehicle’s windows.

“There were about 12 passengers on the bus. The driver stopped immediately when he was alerted to a suspicious object. It was a bag on the back bench, and he immediately

ordered everyone off,” Eitan Fixman, a spokesman for the Dan bus company, was quoted as saying on the YNet news site.

“We confirm the explosion on the bus today was a terror attack, based on assessments and evidence gathered at the scene,” said Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld, referring to suspected Palestinian militants. Police had set up roadblocks at entrances to the occupied West Bank and were searching cars for the perpetrators.

It was the first such incident since Israeli-Palestinian peace talks — which have shown few signs of progress — resumed in July. “We strongly condemn the bombing of a bus near Tel Aviv today. Our thoughts are with those affected and with the Israeli people at this time,” US State Department spokesperson, Jen Psaki, said in a statement on Sunday.

Reuters



Israeli police explosive experts survey a damaged bus at the scene of an explosion in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Massive ice storm in Toronto leaves many in darkness, flights grounded

TORONTO, 23 Dec — A massive weather system has left the largest Canadian city blanketed in a thick coat of ice, and nearly 300,000 people without power since early on Sunday morning. The bouts of heavy overnight freezing rain caused numerous complications on the road, disrupting travel and Toronto’s transit service on one of the busiest travel weekends of the year.

Over 300 departing flights have been cancelled at Toronto Pearson International Airport since the morning. With ice-coated

tree branches toppling over across the city pulling down power lines, and more than 90 “large-scale outages” throughout the city, Toronto Hydro warned that many could be left without power until Christmas Day.

“The city is experiencing widespread outages. We cannot provide restoration time, please plan for a worst case — up to 72 hrs,” Toronto Hydro, the largest municipal electricity distribution company in Canada, tweeted.

The freezing rain warning has been lifted in

Toronto, but it seems the worst is yet to come.

Toronto Hydro is expecting high winds later Sunday, which could result in even more power outages. Winds are expected to gust as high as 50km/hr.

Calling the storm one of the worst in Toronto’s history, Mayor Rob Ford said at a news conference on Sunday afternoon that the city is not yet in a state of emergency, but that could change if the weather conditions continue to worsen over the next 24 hours.

Xinhua



## WORLD

## Pilot to blame for Mozambican plane crash

MAPUTO, 23 Dec — The preliminary investigation into the Mozambican plane crash on 29 November indicates that the disaster was caused by the pilot deliberately, the country's civil aviation authority said on Saturday. "The investigation commission concluded that all it observed in the records shows that the descent was all with automatic pilot activating. This is an indicator of clear intention," Joao Abreu, chairperson of the Institute of Civil Aviation of Mozambique said at Press conference in Maputo.

According to the report, investigations into

the plane's black box at the National Transport Safety Board in the United States found that the plane operated normally with no mechanical malfunctions at 38,000 feet and had good communication with the Gabarone control centre in Botswana, but suddenly it started to descend, then vanished from radar screen and lost all communication with the control centre just before it crashed.

Abreu said the copilot went to the bathroom a few minutes before the crash, leaving the pilot, Herminio dos Santos Fernandes, alone in the cockpit.

It was then the altitude

selector was manually altered three times, bringing the plane's altitude down from 38,000 feet to 592 feet. The throttle control was set to idling, but the velocity selector was operated manually several times, bringing the speed up to the plane's VMO (Maximum Operating Velocity).

"These actions set off low and high intensity alarm signals, and there were repeatedly hits on the cockpit door, which can be heard on the recording, presumably indicating the copilot was trying to enter the cockpit but found the door locked against him," said Abreu.—Xinhua

## Thousands of Swedes rally against racism

STOCKHOLM, 23 Dec — Thousands of Swedes took to the streets of Stockholm on Sunday in a protest against racism following a neo-Nazi attack on a similar but much smaller rally last weekend, police said.

The protest followed events last weekend when around 30 neo-Nazis attacked another anti-racism rally in the same suburb, Karrtorp, throwing bottles and firecrackers at protesters. Two people were stabbed and 26 neo-Nazis were detained by police.

Sweden, long seen as a bastion of tolerance, has seen a rise in support for the far right as immigration has grown. Anti-immigration party Sweden Democrats has reached around 10 percent in the polls ahead of a parliamentary election next year. Stockholm was hit by the worst riots in years in



Protesters rally against racism during a demonstration in the Stockholm suburb of Karrtorp on 22 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

May in mainly poor immigrant Stockholm suburbs, with youths throwing rocks at police and setting cars on fire for more than a week.

The violence in one of Europe's richest capitals shocked a country that prides itself on a reputation for social justice, and fuelled a debate about how Sweden was coping with

youth unemployment and the influx of immigrants.

The organizers of Sunday's demonstration estimated more than 16,000 people took part. The crowd chanted "End racism now" and "No racists on our streets", and prominent Swedish artists played on a stage set up on a soccer field.—Reuters

## Israel's Mossad headhunters to attend college job fair

JERUSALEM, 23 Dec — In highly unusual move, Israel's Mossad intelligence agency will dispatch recruiters to interview prospective candidates in a job fair at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in the Negev on Monday, the *Jerusalem Post* reported on Sunday.

While its US counterpart, the Central Intelligence Agency, has been recruiting on college campuses across America for decades, the fabled Mossad, which for the most part of its existence had opted to remain deep in the shadows, had only begun

approaching graduating seniors in person in recent years.

The adoption of the CIA's favourite recruiting method could hint at the increasing competition posed by the private sector, which offers higher salaries and no risk. Although the Mossad is relatively unfamiliar with job fairs, the agency, like the Shin Bet security service, has made recruiting new personnel a top priority, placing periodic advertisements in newspapers and receiving applications via its official website since 2005.—Xinhua

ROME, 23 Dec — Seven years ago, Dagmawi Yimer was "between life and death" when Italian navy officers rescued him and 30 others from a skiff in heavy seas between Libya and the island of Lampedusa.

Today, Yimer directs documentary films about immigrants like himself from the home in the northern city of Verona he shares with his Italian partner and their two-year-old daughter.

He is part of the fast-growing immigrant population that is changing the face of Italy, just as it has transformed the populations



South Sudanese women carry water in a UN camp in Juba, capital of South Sudan, on 22 Dec, 2013. The two main UN camps have received millions of refugees as of Sunday. Deadly clashes have escalated in South Sudan since last weekend, according to media reports, following what President Salva Kiir's government claimed was an attempted coup by soldiers loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, who was dismissed in July. — XINHUA

## Palestinians insist own stance in push for peace talks

RAMALLAH, 23 Dec — The US administration is likely to present its plan for a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in February, a Palestinian official said on Sunday.

Riad al-Maliki, the Palestinian minister of foreign affairs, added that Washington raised several points for discussions and has not yet presented any official scheme as it pushes for a deal by spring.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who sponsors peace talks between the two sides since their resumption in July, has forged a security plan for the West Bank, trying to take the security question off the negotiating

table.

Having reservations on the plan, al-Maliki said the Palestinian leadership "reacted quickly in proactive approach," with President Mahmoud Abbas sending a message to President Obama last week "defining what is acceptable and what is not for the Palestinians."

On Saturday, Abbas received Arab support as Arab foreign ministers, who met in Cairo, announced their adoption of the Palestinian position concerning upcoming US proposals. Al-Maliki said that the Arab ministers' meeting was also "a proactive measure."

In their final statement, the Arab ministers

emphasized that they don't accept less than an independent Palestinian state on all lands that Israel has occupied in 1967 with a capital in East Jerusalem. They also urged the Obama administration to force Israel to stop settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Kerry's security plan envisioned, among others, Israeli presence or indirect control on the borders of their future state, especially in the vital Jordan Valley, for 10 to 15 years. The Palestinians have always stated they don't accept any kind of Israeli military control on their borders with Jordan.—Xinhua

## Chinese merchant killed during robbery in Russia

MOSCOW, 23 Dec — A Chinese merchant was killed and another one injured on Saturday during a robbery in Russia's Yekaterinburg, the Chinese Consulate General in that city said on Sunday.

Three unidentified attackers broke into a rented

apartment and tied and beat up three Chinese merchants, the Consulate General said. One person was killed on the spot and the injured was later sent to a hospital for treatment. The third merchant was unharmed during the incident.

The perpetrators fled

the scene with undefined amount of cash, mobile phones and jewelry, the Consulate General said.

The Chinese Consulate General has urged local authorities to hold those responsible for account. A criminal case has been opened.—Xinhua

## African immigrants use films and books to fight Italian racism



Director Dagmawi Yimer from Ethiopia walks past a mural in downtown Rome on 13 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

of more northern European countries such as Britain, France or Germany.

He is also one of many

foreigners who are trying — through cultural initiatives such as films and books — to change the rac-

ist views of many Italians of the immigrants in their midst.

Contrary to popular perceptions, immigrants are making their mark across the Italian economy, politics and society. African-born author Kossi Komla-Ebri, a 59-year-old medical doctor, has published six books, all in Italian.

"Many immigrants think our emancipation is only economic and political, but we are convinced it's cultural and that we can have a more profound influence through culture," he said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 December, 2013

Effective tool

In the past, newspapers of the Information Ministry—Myanma Alinn, The Mirror, and The New Light of Myanmar—are government-centred dailies. But now, people-oriented public service media is the destination of two Myanmar language dailies focusing mainly on the wishes and interest of the great majority as per the democratic principles. Public Service Media—PSM is an integral part of media reforms of Myanmar.

The English language daily—The New Light of Myanmar—will become a joint-venture newspaper.

The government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar formed the PSM Governing Body on 18 October last year to steer the transition to the public service media.

The State-owned Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) is on its way towards public service broadcasting (PSB). We expect international cooperation towards this end.

As for the Fourth Estate, the President has already instructed the amendment or the substitution of some outdated laws concerning the media and literature and the laws that are no more in conformity with the stipulations of the Constitution. As the cabinet is responsible for the people through the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the parliament), its functions focus on the wishes and aspiration of the people.

Now we have already permitted over 30 private daily newspapers, and more will come out. And we have four TV networks including two private channels and also six private radio stations.

We are making great strides in our media reform process believing that media is an effective tool for the rule of law and democratic administration.

Union FM felicitates Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.—MNA

Myanmar-Japan discuss conducting financial services

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein met with Mr Furu-kawa, Japanese Vice-Minister of Finance in Tokyo, Japan on 18 December.

They discussed preparations for holding of ASEAN Finance Ministers' meeting, ASEAN Deputy Finance Ministers and ASEAN+3 Meetings in Myanmar's 2014 ASEAN chairmanship.

The deputy minister and Commissioner of Financial Services Authority (FSA) of Japan Mr Hatanaka exchanged views on signing an MoU between the Ministry of Finance and FSA for conducting financial organizations and financial services in Myanmar.

The deputy minister together with executive officers from private insurance companies of Myanmar met with officials from the General Insurance Association and insurance companies of Japan from 16 to 19 December.—MNA



President U Thein Sein presents certificate of honour to a contributor.—MNA

President U Thein Sein hosts ...

(from page 1)

Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Union ministers,

the senior military officers, Hluttaw representatives, distinguished persons and those who made contributions to the 27th SEA Games.

Firstly, President U Thein Sein cordially greeted those who gave a helping hand to the 27th SEA Games and presented certificates of

honour to the liaison officer group, the volunteer group, work force group, GMS group and others.

The State symphony orchestra of the MRTV under the Ministry of Information entertained the attendees with songs.

A total of 15562 artistes, intellectuals and intelligentsia, liaison officers and volunteers attended the

dinner.

Likewise, on behalf of the President, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe hosted a dinner to supportive groups for successfully holding the 27th SEA Games at the Yangon Region Government's Office this evening.

Over 1000 volunteers enjoyed the dinner.

MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann being given an audience by King of Cambodia His Majesty Preah Karona Preah Bat Samdech Baromneath Norodom Sihamoni.—MNA

Cambodian king ...

(from page 16)

They exchanged views on cementing amity and friendship between the two countries, progress of political reforms in Myanmar, strengthening cooperation between the parliaments, governments and peoples of the two countries.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party viewed round the Royal Palace of Cambodia on 20 December evening.

They also attended a luncheon hosted by Chairman of International Cooperation, Information, Media and Foreign Affairs Commission Mr. Chheang Vun at Sokha Club on 21 December afternoon.—MNA

Operation Dove Debriefing held in Yangon

YANGON, 23 Dec—Operation Dove Debriefing jointly conducted by Myanmar Police Force and Interpol IMEST for taking security measures of the 27th SEA Games from 2nd to 20th December was held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, here, on 20 December.

On behalf of the chief of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar delegation led by Police Col Aung Htay Myint from Transnational Crime Corps, and Leader and high ranking officer of Interpol IMEST, Expert Mr. Rastislavt Sasik and four delegates and representa-

tives from Brunei, Malaysia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the discussions.

They discussed making a check with Interpol crime database to the foreigners who enter Myanmar by flight during the SEA Games and inspection and

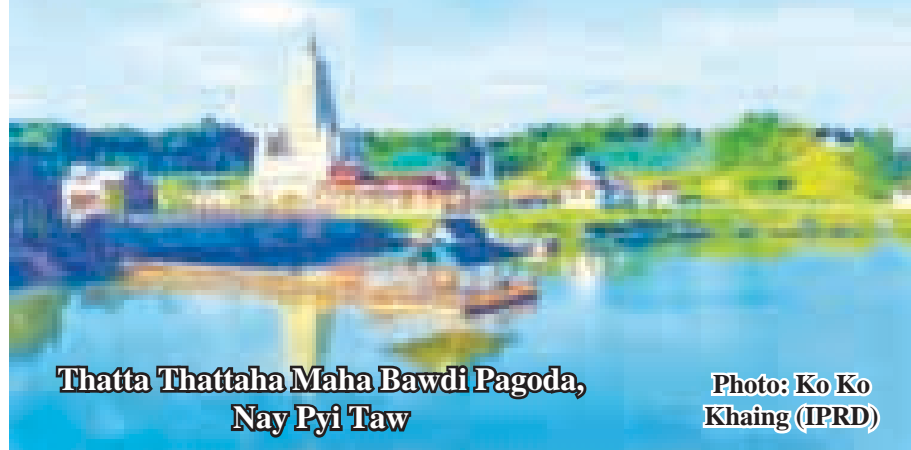
exchanging information at the airports of the countries.

Over 1700 persons underwent a check going through crime database of Interpol at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport and 123353, at Yangon International Airport till 20 December.—MNA



LOCAL NEWS

66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day, 2014



Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Ko Ko Khaing (IPRD)

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

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

National Sports

Second Mandalay Hill Invitational Cycling Contest on 25 Dec

MANDALAY, 23 Dec—The Second Mandalay Hill Invitational Amateur Cycling Contest will be held on 25 December.

The participants will be launched from the starting point in front of Sedona Hotel at the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> Streets.

They must pass the finish line at the platform of

Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill.

As the second part, the Mandalay Hill Bike Challenge will be held.

Those wishing to take part in the contests may dial 09-5161323 at O Store at the corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Streets in Mandalay.

*Kyemon-Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Route of Mandalay Mayor Mini-marathon announced

MANDALAY, 23 Dec—The Mandalay Mayor Mini-marathon 2014 will be launched at 6.30 am on 11 January 2014.

The mini-marathon will include men's and women's open and novice contests.

The participants will be launched in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office. They have to run the 13 miles route along 80<sup>th</sup>

street, 12<sup>th</sup> street, 66<sup>th</sup> street, 10<sup>th</sup> street, 62<sup>nd</sup> street, Theikpan Street, 78<sup>th</sup> street passing Yangon-Mandalay Highway junction, and 30<sup>th</sup> street and will pass the finish line at Bahtoo Stadium.

The open event will be categorized from men's and women's 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, novice men's and women's classes. Handsome prizes will be given to the winners.

*Kyemon-Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Seizures of drugs increased more than previous years in Kalay

KALAY, 23 Dec—Seizures of narcotic drugs could be seized in Kalay of Sagaing Region more than that of previous years.

The authorities arrested 88 men and 22 women in 65 cases of heroin, 95 men and 13 women in 65 cases of opium, 12 men and five women in nine cases of stimulant tablet, 20 men and four women in eight cases of pseudo-ephedrine, 15 men

and four women in 11 cases of Khatpon, three men and one woman in two cases of capsule, said the commander of Kalay District Police Force in meeting with media on 20 December.

Members of Kalay District Police Force investigate trafficking of narcotic drugs. In 2012, they seized 104 cases of narcotic drugs and 158 in 2013.

*Kyemon-Lin Let Kyei Sinn*

Irrigation

Hluttaw, Irrigation Department, farmers to dig Ingyingon feeder canal

MOHNYIN, 23 Dec—As Ingyingon Village-tract in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State is engaged in cultivation of monsoon paddy and cold season crops, the local farmers can earn increased income from cultivation tasks. So, they have enjoy better socio-economic life.

Farmers from Ingyingon Village are relying on Hsahlaw Creek and Mayangon Drain for cultivation of crops. They irrigate water from the drains to over 1000 farmlands.

Sometimes, the drains may cause overflow at the harvest time. In consequence, the local people suffer loss in reduction of per acre yield of paddy and loss and damages of paddy.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Lay and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin Aung of Mohnyin Township together with Head of Township Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Lwin, Deputy Head of Township Agriculture Department U Min Thein and Deputy Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Min Zaw, made a field

trip to inspect the Ingyingon field.

Spending the fund allotted by Irrigation Department in 2014-15 fiscal year, the water control building will be built at Hahlaw Creek. The Department will carry out dredging of Ingyingon Drain with the use of heavy machinery spending the fund allotted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of Mohnyin Township.

Moreover, the local people will join hands with the department in implementing the project.

*Kyemon-K Hsai Naw (Phakant)*

Finished Ingyin fossil gets East Europe market

NATOGYI, 23 Dec—Ingyin petrified wood fossils from Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region get not only domestic market but also the market from China, Taiwan and Singapore, said U Phone of Toe Aung

Myint Co. One lot of Ingyin fossil can fetch K 40000, he said. Now, the company accepts many offers from the Taiwanese customers.

Green Ingyin fossils are marketable in Chinese market while orange and red

brown colour products in East European and Taiwanese markets.

Tow Aung Myint Co is producing finished Ingyin fossil products for the market all the year round.

*Kyemon-Htay Myint*

*Pieces of Ingyin petrified wood fossils displayed for domestic and foreign markets to be able to fetch income for the nation.*



## WORLD

## Suicide bomber kills seven outside Libya's Benghazi

BARSIS, (Libya), 23 Dec — A suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives at an army checkpoint outside the city of Benghazi on Sunday, killing 13 soldiers in the first such attack in Libya's deepening turmoil.

Car bombs and assassinations of army and police officers are common in Benghazi, where troops have clashed regularly with militants from the hardline Islamist group Ansar al-Sharia.

But a suicide bombing would mark a shift in tactics to fit a pattern common in other Islamist struggles

in the Middle East, but not in Libya either during or since the uprising that brought down Muammar Gaddafi.

The attacker blew himself up at a road checkpoint near a small military base in Barsis, some 50 km (30 miles) outside Benghazi, killing 13 people and wounding three, state news agency *Lana* said.

"A Toyota truck approached the checkpoint and parked there. There was a young man driving, but when the army troops went to check it out, the vehicle exploded," said Ayman al-Abdlay, a Benghazi



*Men look at the scene near a military base in Barsis, some 50 km (30 miles) outside Benghazi, after a suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives at an army checkpoint on 22 Dec, 2013. Seven soldiers died in the first such attack since the revolution in Libya's deepening turmoil.—REUTERS*

army officer.

A *Reuters* reporter at the scene saw four destroyed cars and blood splashed on the tarmac.

The government postponed celebrations for

Libya's independence day on 24 December and declared three days of mourning for the victims of what it called a "cowardly terrorist act," *Lana* said.

*Reuters*

## Two working-class towns big winners of Spain's 'El Gordo' prize



*The Garai family, owners of a lottery shop which sold part of the first prize of Spain's Christmas Lottery "El Gordo" (The Fat One), amounting to 172 million euros, celebrate outside their shop in Mondragon, on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS*

MADRID, 23 Dec — Lottery ticket-holders in two Spanish towns — a working-class suburb outside Madrid and a town re-

cently hit by layoffs in the Basque country — were the big winners of the 640-million-euro El Gordo Christmas draw on Sunday.

People who bought their tickets in the two towns took a combined 540 million euros of El Gordo, the top prize of a 200-year-old Christmas lottery that is a treasured tradition in Spain, with families, offices and bar regulars clubbing together to buy tickets.

Some 180 million euros (\$246 million) went to the Basque town of Mondragon, the site of Spain's biggest consumer appliance company Fagor, which recently had to lay off more than 2,000 people as part of insolvency proceedings.

"I'm on cloud nine! I couldn't imagine something like this happening. We've been in the press for so many unpleasant

reasons, and for something which brings such joy to happen here is a real support for the people," Jose Maria Garai, one of the officially designated ticket sellers in Mondragon, told Spanish television.

Another 360 million euros went to ticket holders in Leganes, a town of labourers and immigrants on the outskirts of the capital.

*Reuters*

## Fears grow of civil war in South Sudan as rebels seize town

JUBA, 23 Dec — South Sudan's government said on Sunday rebels had seized the capital of a key oil-producing region and fears grew of all-out ethnic civil war in the world's newest country.

The UN announced it was trying to rush more peacekeeping forces to landlocked, impoverished South Sudan as foreign

hands of a commander who has declared support for Machar," it said.

Information Minister Michael Makuei said on Saturday an army divisional commander in Unity State, John Koang, had defected and joined rebel leader and former Vice President Riek Machar, who had named him the governor of the state.



*SPLA soldiers drive in a truck in Juba on 21 Dec, 2013.*

*REUTERS*

powers urged both sides to stop fighting, fearing for the stability of an already fragile region of Africa.

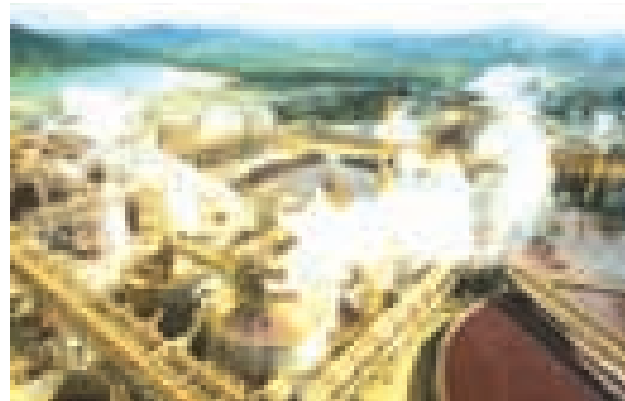
The South Sudan government said on its Twitter account it was no longer in control of Bentiu, the capital of Unity State.

"Bentiu is not currently in our hands. It is in the

But the government in Juba said it was still in control of the oilfields crucial to the economy. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told a news conference in Manila the UN planned to send resources from other peacekeeping missions in the region to South Sudan.

*Reuters*

## Dominican gold rush hits a bureaucratic slowdown



*An overview of Barrick Gold Corporation's Pueblo Viejo gold mine, one of the world's largest, is seen in Cotui on 11 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS*

COTUI, (Dominican Republic), 23 Dec — Little more than a decade ago, one of the world's largest known gold deposits sat abandoned in the foothills of the Dominican Republic's Central Cordillera mountain range. Car-sized boulders leached heavy metals into what locals called the "blood river," its waters ran so red from contaminants.

Today the mine, which

reopened as Pueblo Viejo this year, hums with activity. Trucks with tires twice the size of an SUV roll through its massive open pits on roads that cut through the 11-square-kilometre site (4.24 square miles), transporting tons of rock to a processing facility.

Some 2,000 people already work here, churning out shimmering gold bars that are exported to Canada and the United States, but

the mine has the potential to create 12,700 more direct and indirect jobs and contribute \$1.3 billion a year in exports.

This dynamic, foreign-operated enterprise is part of the country's effort to develop an industry that could help boost and diversify its tourism-dependent economy.

Yet despite robust commercial production by two of the world's largest gold mining companies, Canada's Barrick Gold Corp and Goldcorp Inc, development of the mining sector is vexed by bureaucratic delays and agitation by activists still concerned about pollution and government deals with foreign companies to exploit the nation's riches.

At stake are billions of dollars and thousands of jobs in a country of 10 million with high levels of unemployment and poverty.

*Reuters*

## At least 14 people killed in Brazilian bus plunge

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Dec — At least 14 passengers were killed early on Sunday morning when a bus fell into a ravine in Sao Lourenco da Serra municipality, the Federal Highway Police said.

The bus with 54 passengers on board was en route from Curitiba, in the southern state of Parana, to Rio de Janeiro. It fell into a ravine at some 50 km from Sao Paulo, the largest city in Brazil and South America at 2:30 am local time on Sunday.

So far, the causes of the accident have not been identified, but the authorities suspected that the driver fell asleep.

According to the police, the driver, who was injured, admitted that there was no mechanical problem or anything in the pavement that could cause the

accident. Other 12 people, including one baby, were injured in the accident. The injured people were taken to nearby hospitals.

*Xinhua*



*Security personnels check the area where a bus accident took place at the km 300 of the Penha Regis Bittencourt Highway, near Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 22 Dec, 2013.*

*XINHUA*



## REGIONAL

## Japan to extend Fukushima radiation cleanup work by up to 3 yrs

TOKYO, 23 Dec — The government will have to extend its decontamination work following the 2011 crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant by a maximum of three years, government officials said on Sunday.

The Environment Ministry will shortly release a new schedule for radiation cleanup work, which was scheduled to be completed by the 31 March end of fiscal 2013 under the initial plan, according to the officials.

The government will try to complete the work before reorganizing in fiscal 2017 areas around the crippled plant, currently divided into three zones based on radiation levels.

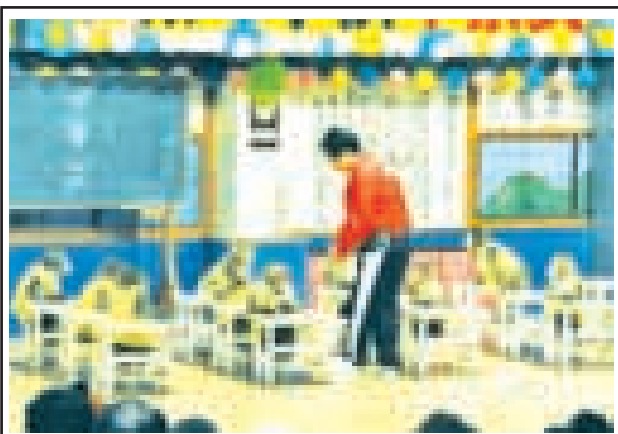
The cleanup work has been completed as scheduled only in the city of Tamura, out of 11 municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture subject to the work, with work in three other

areas heading for completion by the end of the current fiscal year.

The ministry believes that a three-year extension would be enough to complete the work for most of the municipalities, but as for Futaba, it remains uncertain when the work will be concluded as most parts of the town are classified as areas difficult to return to for a long time, the officials

said. On 14 Dec, the government announced plans to acquire around 19 square kilometres of land chiefly around the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant to build facilities for the long-term storage of radioactive and other waste piling up in the decontamination process. The government aims to start using the planned facilities in January 2015.

Kyodo News



A popular group of monkeys attend a “graduation ceremony” at the Nikko Saru Gundan theme park in Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture, on 21 Dec, 2013. The park opened in 1992 in Nikko, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Japan, and became popular because of the monkey performances. But it will close at the end of this year because foreign monkey trainers left Japan after the devastating 2011 earthquake.

KYODO NEWS

## Bangladesh police charges factory owner, 12 others over deadly fire

DHAKA, 23 Dec — Charges have finally been pressed against 13 people including the owner of a garment factory over a late 2012 devastating fire that left 112 dead as officials over a year after the horrendous tragedy wrapped up an investigation.

In one of the worst tragedies in Bangladesh’s history in November 2012, at least 112 workers of the factory at Ashulia on the outskirts of capital Dhaka were killed. Dozens of workers also sustained injuries as the 24 Nov devastating fire, claimed to be “an act of sabotage,” raged through the eight-storey Tazreen Fashion Limited, where global brands including US retail giant Walmart were manufactured.

AKM Mohsinuzzaman Khan, a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) inspector, on Sunday morning submitted the charge sheet against the accused in a case before Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Dhaka.

A CID official who preferred to be unnamed said the Tazreen Fashion Ltd owner and its officials have been accused of breaching construction rules including building staircases that were too narrow and unsafe. Of the accused, he said, many including owner Delwar are on the run. The only arrestee is security-in-charge Anisur Rahman.

After submitting the charges, the CID inspector made a plea to the court to issue arrest warrant against

the absconding accused.

He also requested the court to confiscate the properties of the absconding accused. Bangladesh has one of the largest garment industries in the world, providing cheap clothing for major Western retailers that benefit from its widespread low-cost labour. But the industry has been widely criticized for low pay and limited rights given to workers and for the often dangerous working conditions in garment factories.

In Bangladesh, factory owners are rarely charged over such tragedies. Analysts say tragic incidents continue to occur in Bangladesh as most of the time culprits go unpunished. The Tazreen fire incident was dwarfed by another worst ever industrial tragedy at an apparel hub on outskirts of the capital where five factories housed in a eight-storey building collapsed on 24 April this year, leaving at least 1,130 people dead.—Xinhua



Chinese seniors enjoy their meals at the 3rd Christmas seniors lunch event in Chinatown, Vancouver, Canada, on 21 Dec, 2013. About 500 Chinese seniors are invited to attend this event.—XINHUA

## Over 20 injured in bomb attack in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 23 Dec — At least 24 people were wounded in a bomb attack on Sunday in southern Thailand, local police said.

According to the police, the blast happened in front of a hotel in Sa-dao district of Songkhla Province, with children and a Malaysian tourist among the injured.

The explosive device was hidden in a car in the hotel’s parking lot and detonated by mobile phone, the police said.

Two bombings occurred earlier in the day near local police stations in the same district, but there were no casualties.

More than 5,500 people have been killed in the provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat since a separatist insurgency broke out in 2004.—Kyodo News



An employee of China’s Huawei Company distributes stationery to a Cambodian child in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 22 Dec, 2013. Chinese Company Huawei’s Cambodian branch on Sunday donated laptops, books, stationery and food to a Cambodian non-governmental organization Khemara, which provides education to about 300 poor children in Phnom Penh.—XINHUA

## Cambodian PM to visit Vietnam to boost bilateral ties

PHNOM PENH, 23 Dec — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen will pay a three-day official visit to Vietnam from 26 Dec in order to further enhance ties and cooperation between the two neighbours, according to a news statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday.

The visit plan came at the invitation of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

During the stay, the two

prime ministers will hold a bilateral talk and witness the signing ceremony of eight agreements, the statement said.

One of the deals is the treaty on extradition between the two neighbours, and the others will focus on the bilateral cooperation in public security, trade, education, and

information.

Besides, Hun Sen will pay separate courtesy calls on Nguyen Sinh Hung, President of Vietnamese National Assembly, Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, and Nguyen Phu Trong, Secretary General of Communist Party of Vietnam.

Xinhua

## Uncertainties linger over six-party talks despite multilateral efforts

SEOUL, 23 Dec — The Korean Peninsula, where the two Koreas are still in a state of war as an armistice agreement, not a peace treaty, ended the 1950-53 Korean War, started off the year 2013 with escalated tensions. The United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in January after Pyongyang tested-fired its long-range rocket, called Unha-3. The

DPRK conducted its third nuclear test in February, the first under Kim Jong Un’s leadership, going so far as to amend its constitution for the nuclear statehood.

“Resuming talks is the very first thing to do for nuclear-free North Korea (DPRK),” Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said in a recent telephone interview. “Strategic patience is not a right answer.”—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GOLDEN FAN-11 VOY NO ( - )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GOLDEN FAN-11 VOY NO ( - ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALS CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GENIUS STAR X VOY NO ( - )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS STAR X VOY NO ( - ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (17)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (17) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S FORTUNE SHIPPING AGENCY PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV FU WEN SHAN VOY NO (135)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU WEN SHAN VOY NO (135) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GATI PRIDE VOY NO (20814)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRIDE VOY NO (20814) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2013 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 GATI SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KULNATEE VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (022)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (030)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (030) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (356)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (356) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Israeli ministers demand US to end spying**

JERUSALEM, 23 Dec — Israeli ministers are demanding on Sunday the US to end espionage in light of the revelation that the National Security Agency has spied on Israel's top leaders.

"Now the secret is out," said Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz in a statement, "The US is systematically spying on

the defence and diplomatic leadership here in Israel. Is this how friends treat each other?"

Katz said he would urge the cabinet's Sunday meeting "to demand an American commitment to end the surveillance."

The Minister of International and Strategic Affairs Yuval Steinitz told Israel Radio that the

eavesdropping is "illegitimate. "Israel doesn't conduct surveillance on the US President, the White House or the Secretary of Defence," Steinitz said.

He added that the US and Israel "unprecedented" strategic alliance, "in a level sufficient to prevent eavesdropping or mutual espionage."

Xinhua



Rescuers work on the boats on the Dordogne River at the site of a helicopter crash in Lugon-et-l'e-du-Carnay, France, on 20 Dec, 2013. Rescue teams scoured the Dordogne river in southwestern France after a helicopter carrying three Chinese went down on Friday.—XINHUA



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 Tel: 095 2511818 G.P.O. Box 588 Yangon, 24 December 2013

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (364)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (364) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2013 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.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
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Julia Roberts is reportedly private about her personal life.—PTI

**Julia Roberts: I am a healthy eater**

LONDON, 23 Dec — Pretty Woman star Julia Roberts may have a trim figure, but insists she loves eating.

The 46-year-old actress said that she always has had a healthy appetite, reported Contactmusic.

"I am a hearty eater, which I told my husband Danny Moder 13 years ago when he asked me out. I said, 'Prepare yourself, I won't just have a salad!' But that's worked out for us," she said.

Roberts is notoriously

private about her personal life, and says she loves reality TV stars such as the Kardashian family - who have reality show Keeping Up With The Kardashians because it directs attention away from her.

"As a film actor, I'm only inviting people to pay attention to my characters. But if you're a reality star, by virtue you are asking me and inviting people to pay attention to you. It's great because they take that attention from me," she added.—PTI

**Gwyneth Paltrow: Embarrassing to strip for film roles**

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec — Actress Gwyneth Paltrow does not enjoy stripping down for film roles and finds it embarrassing too.

The 41-year-old actress, who donned a skimpy black lingerie for a bedroom scene in the movie Thanks For Sharing earlier this year, said she found the experience embarrassing because she is much more conservative in real life, reported Contactmusic.

"Doing the lingerie striptease, I'm not sure exactly how you would classify that, but it was very

embarrassing. I was not comfortable at all, but, you know, it was a good challenge for me to put myself in a situation that I would never be in in my own life.

"I'm not an exhibitionist like that. And it was a challenge. I'm this other woman and I'm really going to go for it. And it was fine," she said.

The Oscar-winning actress also praised her co-star, Mark Ruffalo, for helping her to stay calm during filming.

"Mark is so lovely. He made it very easy."

PTI



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow

**Don't Smoke**

**'Fast and Furious 7' to be released in April 2015 — Vin Diesel**

NEW YORK, 23 Dec — "Fast and Furious 7," the action film that was shut down after the sudden death in a car crash last month of actor Paul Walker will be released in April 2015, the star of the series, Vin Diesel, said on Sunday.

Diesel posted a message on his Facebook page saying "Fast and Furious 7 will be released ... April 10th 2015!", adding "P.s. He'd want you to know first ...," in an apparent reference to Walker, who was killed on November 30 in a fiery car wreck in Santa



Cast member and producer Vin Diesel poses at the premiere of the new film, "Fast & Furious 6" at Universal Citywalk in Los Angeles on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Clarita in Southern California. The film, the seventh in a series of hit films about car racing, was originally slated for release on 11 July next year, according to Universal Pictures, which is owned by Comcast Corp. Walker became a symbol of street-racing and car culture in his role as law enforcement officer Brian O'Conner in the "Fast & Furious" series. Days after the accident, which killed the car's driver as well as Walker, 40, Universal suspended production of the new movie.

Reuters

**'The Hobbit' tops 'Anchorman' sequel at weekend box office**



Cast and crew members pose for photographers at the premiere of the film "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" in Los Angeles on 2 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 23 Dec—The dwarves and hobbits of "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" proved too much for the much-publicized sequel "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," as the hit fantasy film topped movie charts in the United States and Canada

for a second straight week, earning \$31.5 million over the weekend.

Kicking off Hollywood's year-end push of high-profile movie releases, the "Anchorman" crew led by Will Ferrell was unable to dethrone last week's winner and took in \$26.8

million for the No. 2 spot, according to sales estimates from Rentrak.

Oscar-contending crime drama "American Hustle" grabbed the No 4 slot, racking up \$19.1 million, just behind Disney's animated hit, "Frozen" which took in \$19.2 million.

"Anchorman" opened on Wednesday following a months-long marketing onslaught and rang up a five-day total of \$40 million through Sunday. Ferrell appeared in character seemingly everywhere as the self-important Ron Burgundy, pitching the Dodge Durango in TV ads, interviewing Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning for ESPN The Magazine and co-anchoring a local newscast in Nebraska. The campaign re-introduced Burgundy a decade after the original

"Anchorman" in 2004. The first film took in a solid \$90 million at worldwide box offices and gained popularity on DVD to become a cult classic.

In the sequel, the former San Diego anchor joins a cable news channel startup in 1980s New York. Paul Rudd, Steve Carell and David Koechner return as members of his wacky news team.

Box office forecasters predicted "Anchorman 2" would bring in \$35 million to \$40 million from Friday through Sunday. The movie cost \$50 million to make.

"Forty million over five days is a sensational start," said Don Harris, president of domestic theatrical distribution for Paramount Pictures, the Viacom Inc (VIAB.O) unit that released the film, adding that was in line with studio expectations.—Reuters

## Pedro fires Barcelona fightback, Real strike late

BARCELONA, 23 Dec — Barcelona came from behind to beat Getafe 5-2 thanks to a quickfire hat-trick from Pedro and Real Madrid needed a late goal from substitute Jese to overcome Valencia 3-2 on Sunday.

The signs looked omi-

nous for Barcelona as they went 2-0 down within the first 15 minutes after Sergio Escudero and Lisandro Lopez found the net for Getafe.

With Lionel Messi and Neymar missing through injury and suspension, Pedro took it upon himself to

rescue Barcelona with three goals in eight blistering minutes.

The Canary Islander chipped keeper Miguel Moya and added two clinical finishes before the break.

He also crossed for Cesc Fabregas to volley in the fourth midway through the second half, and was then fouled in the box before Fabregas converted the penalty.

The battling spirit of Gerardo Martino's side, who were also missing senior players Xavi Hernandez, Victor Valdes and Carles Puyol, shone through as they refused to cave in despite trailing for much of the first half.

"We had 15 bad minutes before the team rediscovered their composure and played how we had planned," Martino told a

news conference.

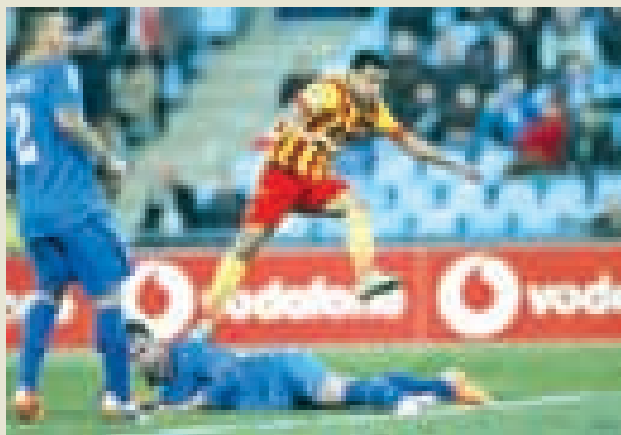
"We got the result we wanted and it was a good game. It was a fantastic performance from Pedro and the whole team played well overall."

Barcelona top the table on 46 points, level with Atletico Madrid, who beat Levante on Saturday, but with a healthier goal record. Real are third on 41 points.

"We dropped our level at times during the game but we need to concentrate on continuing to pick up points and starting the fight again in the New Year," said Real defender Sergio Ramos.

"There are areas that we need to work on which we will do. Barcelona and Atletico are making it difficult at the top but we will keep going."

Getafe took the lead after 10 minutes when a



Barcelona's Pedro Rodriguez (R) scores his third goal past Getafe's goalkeeper Miguel Angel Moya during their Spanish first division match at Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Madrid on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS



Valencia's Sofiane Feghouli and Real Madrid's Marcelo Vieira jump for the ball during their Spanish first division match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia on 22 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

flick from Angel Lafita sent Escudero scampering clear and he beat keeper Jose Manuel Pinto unchallenged.

Minutes later Lopez was left unmarked at a corner and placed his header past Pinto.

Barca remained shaky at the back but began to show signs of improvement

which led to Pedro pulling a goal back as he clipped the ball over Moya from the edge of the area.

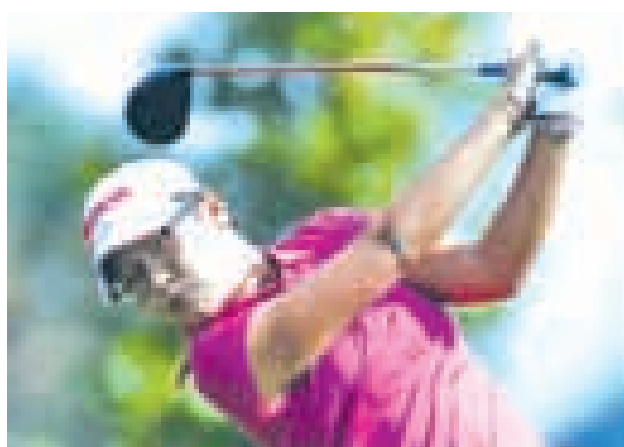
Pedro then came in from the left and cracked a right foot shot into the top corner and completed his hat-trick, latching on to a pull-back by Jordi Alba, to slot in.—Reuters

## New Zealand prodigy Ko splits with coach

WELLINGTON, 23 Dec — New Zealand's Lydia Ko has split with long-time coach Guy Wilson, who started working with the golfing prodigy as a five-year-old novice and helped take her to number four in the world 11 years later.

Ko was given the green light in October to become a full member of the LPGA Tour from the start of the 2014 season after the governing body waived the 18-year-old age limit clause. Ko, who was born in South Korea and has already won five professional titles, four as an amateur, became the youngest winner on the LPGA Tour when she captured last year's Canadian Open at the age of 15.

She signed up with management company IMG earlier this month.



Lydia Ko of New Zealand tees off on the seventh hole during the third and final round of the women's Evian Championship golf tournament in Evian on 15 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

In statement to Fairfax media, Wilson said he was "incredibly disappointed" that their partnership had come to an end.

"We've spent a lot of time together over the past decade and during that time

I've become very close to Lydia and her family. While I'm incredibly disappointed that our 11-year partnership is over, I respect Lydia and her team's decision," Wilson said in the statement.

"When I first met her

the golf clubs were taller than she was and she didn't know the first thing about a driver or a putter but now she has one of the most envied swings in the women's golf world." Media reports suggested Ko would now be coached by David Leadbetter in the United States.

Wilson began coaching Ko at six, where they were initially restricted by language difficulties as she had not yet been immersed in New Zealand schooling at that stage. Ko had up to four lessons a week with Wilson, working from about 50 metres away from the green because anything else would have been too daunting, and he was amazed at the youngster's focus, motivation and ability to keep working at her game.—Reuters

## Free-scoring Manchester City must be more boring, says Milner

LONDON, 23 Dec — The entertaining, goal-scoring feats of title-chasing Manchester City has wowed fans and impressed rivals this season, but midfielder James Milner craves a less cavalier approach. Even without injured top scorer Sergio Aguero, City delivered a glut of goals in a 4-2 away win over relegation threatened Fulham on Saturday.

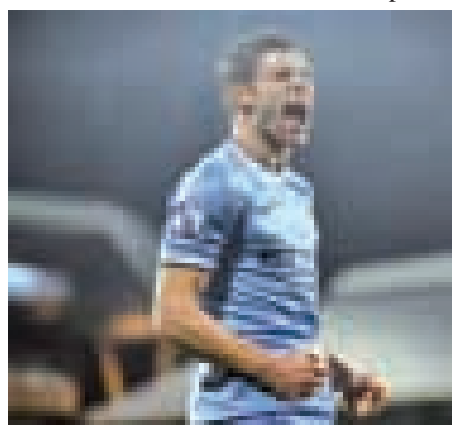
They have scored a league-best 51 goals from 17 league matches, 35 coming at home, and are on course to better the record

of 103 scored by Chelsea en route to winning the title in the 2009/10 season.

They still sit only second, however, as their cavalier approach and struggles to field a settled defence and mistake-free goalkeeper have given teams an opportunity to poach points when hosting the big-spending 2011/12 champions.

City weathered some early pressure on Saturday before taking a 2-0 lead only for Fulham to pull level with 20 minutes remaining as City's defence,

the joint fourth worst away from home in the league, were again culpable. But substitutes Jesus Navas and

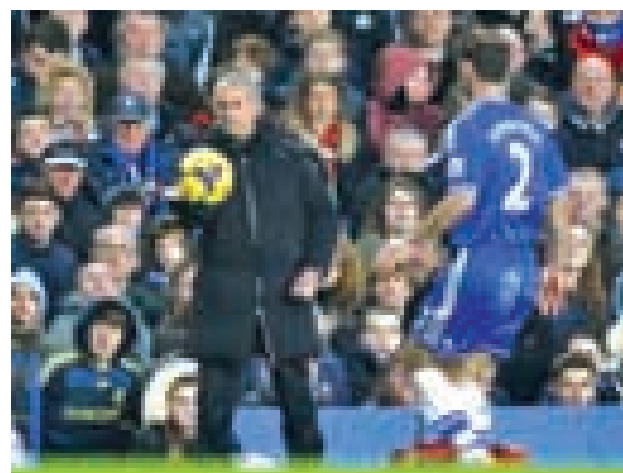


Manchester City's James Milner celebrates his goal against Fulham during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage in London on 21 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

Milner put City back on top with late goals to leave them a point behind leaders Liverpool.—Reuters

## Mourinho plans 12-year Chelsea stay despite poor contract



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

REUTERS

LONDON, 23 Dec — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho plans to stick with the English Premier League club for 12 seasons despite accepting his 'worst contract' in six years.

The Portuguese re-joined the London outfit, with whom he won league titles in 2005 and 2006, in June after trophy-laden years spent in Italy and Spain with Inter Milan and Real Madrid.

He will take his title-chasing Chelsea side across London to face Arsenal, managed for the last 17 years by Arsene Wenger, on Monday (2000 GMT) where victory could send them level on points with leaders Liverpool.

"Realistically I hope at

the end of those four years we sit, analyze the situation and that will be the point where we both — club and me — are happy to carry on or happy to separate," British media quoted Mourinho as saying of his contract on Monday.

"But I would like, say, 12 years. I'm 51 next month. I'd say 12 years, and then two to go to a World Cup with a national team. I would prefer the Portuguese national team. England second (choice)."

Mourinho has never completed four seasons with a club in his highly successful career that has brought seven league championships across Europe and two Champions League titles.—Reuters



GENERAL



Firefighters work at the site of a fire in the Industrial Park of Burzaco, southern Buenos Aires province, Argentina, on 22 Dec, 2013.

XINHUA

## UAE applies phase-out schedule for old oil tankers

ABU DHABI, 23 Dec— Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC), the master developer behind the Khalifa Port near the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi, said here on Sunday it applied a phase-out schedule for old oil tankers.

In an e-mailed statement, ADPC said its

phase-out schedule has been designed in addition to the phase-out schedule already implemented by the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, also called MARPOL 73/78.

Under the newly implemented scheme, ADPC is advising all port customers and potential port

visitors that entry will be refused to oil tankers older than 30 years of age.

While oil tankers which exceed 28 years of age will be refused entry from 1 January, 2014, and the same rule will apply to oil tankers older than 25 years of age, from 1 January 2015.

Xinhua

## Vietnam's non-performing loan rate rises sharply in 2013

HANOI, 23 Dec — The rate of non-performing loans (NPL) in Vietnam's financial institutions is expected to rise sharply by 23.73 percent in 2013, Vietnamese government reported on Monday.

The financial institutions' NPL is estimated to reach 146.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (6.94 billion US dollars) in 2013, up 23.73 percent year on year,

said a report released on the website of Vietnamese government over a latest online meeting session of Vietnamese government and localities on Monday.

The report said the total NPL of the country's financial institutions remains high, due to slow progress of weak banks' restructuring processes and weak demand of the whole economy.

The operation of Vi-

etnam Asset Management Company (VAMC), established under Resolution 53/2013/ND-CP by Vietnamese Government, has brought about first-step accomplishments.

VAMC is likely to buy at least 30-35 trillion Vietnamese dong (1.42-1.65 billion US dollars) NPL of banks in 2013, said the report.

Xinhua

## Imperious Juventus end year five points clear

ROME, 23 Dec — Juventus ended 2013 five points clear at the top of Serie A after a 4-1 victory at Atalanta stretched their winning league run to nine games on Sunday.

AS Roma remained their closest pursuers following a 4-0 crushing of bottom club Catania with two goals from defender Mehdi Benatia.

A delicate backheel from Rodrigo Palacio's earned Inter the spoils four minutes from the end of the Milan derby and moved them up to fifth on 31 points.

Milan have only won one league game in two months and are languishing in 13th place on 19 points, only five away from the relegation zone, after a poor

performance in which Sulley Muntari was sent off in stoppage following a scuffle.

Carlos Tevez's 11th

league goal of the season after six minutes and strikes from Paul Pogba, Fernando Llorente and Arturo Vidal tightened Juve's grip on top



Juventus' Paul Pogba (C) hits an aerial ball during the Italian Serie A match against Atalanta at Atleti Azzurri d'Italia stadium in Bergamo on 22 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## MYANMAR TV

(24-12-2013, Tuesday)

6:00 am	1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	1:25 pm	15. Documentary
6:25 am	2. Physical Exercises	2:20 pm	16. Traditional Boxing
6:35 am	3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies	3:00 pm	17. News
6:45 am	4. Documentary	3:15 pm	18. India Drama Series
7:00 am	5. News/Weather Report	4:00 pm	19. News
7:30 am	6. People Talks	4:30 pm	20. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Years (Economic)
8:00 am	7. News/ International News	5:00 pm	21. News
9:00 am	8. News/ International News	5:30 pm	22. India Drama Series
9:40 am	9. Business News	6:00 pm	23. News/ Weather Report
10:00 pm	10. News	6:20 pm	24. Documentary
10:20 pm	11. Documentary	6:30 pm	25. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
11:00 pm	12. Documentary (ASEAN)	7:00 pm	26. News
11:40 pm	13. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions	7:35 pm	27. Teleplay
12:00 pm	14. News/ International News/ Weather Report	8:00 pm	28. News/ International News/ Weather Report
		8:40 pm	29. Hit Songs of Stars
		9:00 pm	30. News
			31. Sing A Song
			32. India Drama Series

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

24-12-13 07:00 am ~ 25-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio: May Phyu Phyu
- \* Local News
- \* Visiting To Mawlamyaing Trip (Episode-1)
- \* World News
- \* Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- \* Local News
- \* Life In Night... Art In Life (Episode-2)
- \* World News
- \* Myanma Toddy Palm: A Source of Rural Income
- \* Local News
- \* Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bo Yatan-amingalar Palace
- \* World News
- \* Green Grocer
- \* Local News
- \* Uniqe Art of Stucco Work
- \* World News
- \* Independent Filmmaker
- \* Local News
- \* Taste Of Myanmar (Glass Noodle Soup)
- \* World News
- \* Product Of Myanmar-Pottery Business
- \* Local News
- \* Me N My Travel With Maria (Pyay-Shwe San Taw) (Episode-4)
- \* World News
- \* A Person With Faith
- \* Home Grown Treasure
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture

## Cambodian King gives audience to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party, who paid a goodwill visit to

Cambodia at the invitation of President of the National Assembly of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, met King of Cambodia

His Majesty Preah Karona Preah Bat Samdech Baromneath Norodom Sihamoni at the hall of the Royal Palace on 21 December.

(See page 8)

## Chinese coaches honoured



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presents certificate of honour and gift to Chinese coach.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—A ceremony to honour Chinese coaches who provided technical assistance to Myanmar at the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games under the G to G programme took place at Goal Camp, here, this morning.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan said that Myanmar stood second at the Medal Tally and achieve success

to a certain extent in the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, thanks to a great help of Chinese government.

Next, the Union Minister presented certificates of honour and gifts to Chinese coaches. The leader of G to G team said he was delighted to make contributions to SEA Games and it would enhance bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Then, Chairman of the Committee for SEA Games

Success Deputy Minister U Thaug Htaik gave a commemorative gift to the leader of G to G of China.

MNA

**Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe speaking at dinner to honour support groups for successfully holding 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.—MNA**

## Support groups, volunteers for events of 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Yangon Region honoured

YANGON, 23 Dec—Yangon Region Government hosted a dinner in honour of those who provided technical and financial supports and voluntary services to the events of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Yangon Region.

During the ceremony held at the Yangon Region Government Office today, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe thanked

them for their contributions to promotion the image of the region by holding the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games successfully.

Myanmar hosted the games with the aim of strengthening friendship, unity and cooperation among the regional countries, the chief minister said.

The motto of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Myanmar is

“Green, Clean and Friendship”.

The successful completion of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games is a source of victory and pride of the country and has enhanced the country’s image, the chief minister added.

Before the dinner, the video message of President U Thein Sein was shown on projector screen.

MNA



## Notice to Amyotha Hluttaw representatives

The Ninth Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw will be held at the meeting hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on Monday (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014). Invitation

letters have been sent to Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives are requested to report at Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Hall (I-19) of Nay Pyi

Taw not later than 12 January and not earlier than 11 January whether or not they received the invitation letters and bring their representative registration cards and representative scrutiny cards.

## Notice to Pyithu Hluttaw representatives

The Ninth Regular Session of First Pyithu Hluttaw will be held at the meeting hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on Monday (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014). Invitation letters

have been sent to Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives are requested to report at the Hluttaw Office of Nay Pyi Taw not later than 12 January and

not earlier than 11 January whether or not they received the invitation letters and bring their representative registration cards and representative scrutiny cards.



Anti-government protesters participate in a rally at the Dindang police station, near the Thai-Japan Youth Stadium in Bangkok on 23 December, 2013.—REUTERS

## Thai baht slumps as protesters seek to block election

BANGKOK, 23 Dec—The Thai baht plumbled its lowest in almost four years on Monday as a political crisis grew more intractable, with anti-government protesters trying to block candidates registering for a February election that is looking increasingly uncertain.

Police estimated more than 200,000 protesters rallied across the capital on Sunday to demand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra resign. She has called a snap election for

February 2 to defuse tension but the opposition Democrat Party will boycott the poll and demonstrators are determined to scuttle it.

The stalemate is all too familiar after eight years of deadlock broadly between supporters and opponents of Yingluck’s brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, a tycoon whose populist political machine has won every election since 2001 with millions of votes from the rural poor in the north and northeast.

Opposed to Thaksin is a Bangkok-based establish-

ment of top generals and old-money families threatened by his rapid rise and angered by his ability to influence politics from self-imposed exile in Dubai. They have backed protests against Thaksin’s governments since 2005 and the party they favor, the Democrats, has not won an election in 21 years.

Yingluck refuses to quit and said the Democrats’ election boycott would complicate the political reforms all sides want.—Reuters