

## Only cooperation, unity could contribute to rapid development of the country

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec — President U Thein Sein delivered an address at the ceremony of rural development and socio-economic improvement in Ayeyawady Region at Koe Thein sports ground in Patheingyi this morning.

Also present were the Union ministers, the Ayeyawady Region chief minister, the chief of the general staff (Army, Navy and Air), the speaker of the region hluttaw, the commander, the deputy ministers, the region ministers, parliamentarians, departmental heads, members of district cooperative societies and local people.

In his address, the President gave an account of the ceremony that a loan of K 8191.963 million including farm equipment, fishing equipment, trucks, engines, generators, water pumps, sewing machines, trishaws and motorbikes will be provided to members of cooperatives societies in 26 townships.

He continued that capital loans and equipment will be handed over to the members under the program of the Ministry of Cooperatives, aiming at ensuring socio-economic development of rural people and facilitating the implementation of social, education and

health sectors.

He added that only when agriculture sector development, will development of rural region be possible. So emphasis should be placed on agriculture sector development, transforming the conventional methods to modern ones. This can thereby contributing to food sufficiency and higher income. He called on formation of cooperative associations in dealing with supply chain to ensure more success. He stressed the importance of cooperative associations in supply chain management for the sake of farmers.

(See page 9)



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers an address at the ceremony of rural development and socio-economic improvement in Ayeyawady Region at Koe Thein sports ground in Patheingyi.

MNA

**The government is striving for smooth transportation, potable water and electricity supply and promotion of education, health and economic sectors in rural regions with local and foreign assistance.**



## Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day on 4 January 2014, I wish to convey to you and the people of Myanmar my congratulations and those of the Government and the people of Australia.

Your visit to Australia in March 2013 and my reciprocal visit to Myanmar in November 2013 provided valuable opportunities to discuss areas of cooperation and

collaboration.

2014 provides an important opportunity for both Myanmar and Australia to further strengthen our relations. Myanmar will host ASEAN and the East Asia Summit and Australia will host the G20 Summit. 2014 is also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australia as a dialogue partner of ASEAN. I am pleased there are plans for a commemorative summit in Myanmar to celebrate this long-standing and important partnership.

Australia remains committed to supporting democratic and economic reforms in Myanmar, particularly through our

development assistance program. We will continue to provide assistance in the areas of education, health services, governance and the peace process to help Myanmar face the many challenges that still lie ahead.

I am pleased Australian businesses are expanding their interest in trade and investment with Myanmar. I look forward to increasing links between our two nations, including through responsible and ethical business dealings.

I believe the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to grow in the coming year.

(See page 9)

LOCAL NEWS

7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TB Project of Myanmar Medical Association marked



YANGON, 24 Dec—As TB is threatening the people not only in Myanmar but also across the globe the World Health Organization issued an emergency declaration that TB is very dangerous infectious diseases across the world, said Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) Professor U Kyaw Myint Naing at the ceremony to mark the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of MMA at the office of Central Cooperative Union (Saya San Plaza) on Saya San Road in Bahan Township, on 19 December.

The TB control project has been launched since 2007 and it turns seven

years now, he added. DOTS service started in Myanmar. However, Myanmar is one of the 22 most TB infectious countries, one of the 27 TB resistance countries and one of the 41 TV/HIV infectious countries, he noted.

The chairman stressed the need for those who assist in TB combating tasks and contributors to join hands in implementing the TB control project. At present, TB control project is being implemented in 119 townships, he added.

He disclosed that a plan is underway to extend TB control project to 122 townships in 2014, and urged those included in the project to actively join hands in the

tasks. Yangon Region TB Specialist Dr Tin Mi Mi Khaing of National TB Control Project explained year-wise infection of TB disease in regions and states

tasks.

In Myanmar traditions, Myanmar Buddhists initiate their boys into novicehood and men into the monkhood. It is the noblest ceremony for novitiation and ordination.

On 20 December, the novice-to-be procession ceremony was held in Arntgyi East ward of Dala.

The boys of novice-to-be rode 15 horses. Their

Gyongyonkya Bridge on Thayet-Minhla Road completed by 75 per cent

MINHLA, 24 Dec—Gyongyonkya Bridge located on Thayet-Minhla Road in Magway Region has been completed by 75 per cent.

Bridge Construction Special Group (4) and Pakokku Township Public Works started construction of the bridge from 22 July 2003.

It is of reinforced concrete facility. It will be 60 feet long. The 24 feet wide motorway will be

flanked by 2.5 feet wide pedestrian lanes. The facility will withstand 60-ton loads.

“We are building the bridge with the strength of skilled workers from Pakokku Township day and night. As the old bridge was deteriorating gradually. In the rainy season, the water from the creek inundated the floor of the bridge. The new bridge will be 8.5 feet higher than that of old one in water clearance. No one car needs to wait for

passing the bridge. The local people can travel their trip conveniently passing the new bridge. Efforts are being made for timely completion of the construction task. Therefore, the works were completed by 75 per cent. The construction tasks will be finished in March 2014,” said Daw Kyi Kyi Than, Senior Engineer-2 of Bridge Construction Special Group No 4.

MMAL-Paing Zay (Magway)



Health

. WHO TB Unit consultant Dr U Bo Myint extended greetings.

TB Project Manager of MMA Dr Thet Naing Maung clarified progress of TB control project and difficulties in work with the use of video clips.

Next, the chairman of MMA (Central) and officials presented certificates of honour to 42 TB project in-charge doctors from 12 regions and states and 47 township project doctors who had done their it in seven years project.

In the evening, they coordinated with project in-charges from the townships for the future tasks of the projects.

MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

Social Development

Rural development, social life enhancement discussed

PATHEIN, 24 Dec—A coordination meeting on region rural development and enhancement of socio-economy was held at the hall of Ayeyawady Region Government on 17 December morning.

It was attended by Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, Deputy Minister U Than Tun, region ministers and departmental officials.

Patron of the region rural development and enhancement of socio-economy Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung made an opening address.

Next, Leading Committee Chairman of the committee Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Hla Khaing reported on purpose of meeting, Deputy Director U Lin Htut Oo of Cooperative Department progress of works, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun tasks being carried out.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan gave necessary instructions.

Next, the general round discussions followed.

Later, the Chief Minister gave concluding remarks.

MMAL-District IPRD

Novitiation ceremony processed on pony, bullock cart

DALA, 24 Dec—In Myanmar traditions, Myanmar Buddhists initiate their boys into novicehood and men into the monkhood. It is the noblest ceremony for novitiation and ordination.

On 20 December, the novice-to-be procession ceremony was held in Arntgyi East ward of Dala.

The boys of novice-to-be rode 15 horses. Their

relatives gave them with the use of golden umbrellas.

The local people

enjoyed the procession of girls of nun-to-be,

wellwishers and relatives

were on board the bullock carts.

MMAL-Than Htay (Dala)



Donation

Blankets, sweets donated to orphans

TACHILEK, 24 Dec—Thai citizens donated blankets, sweets and utensils worth Baht 100,000 to 170 orphan students of Shwetaungdan Parahita Monastic Education in Tachilek of Shan State (East) on 19 December afternoon.

Six Thai citizens on behalf of Thai Singh (Panjubies) Merituous Association of Bangkok from Maesai of Thailand through No. 1 Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge.

They went to Hweye

Village of Loidawkham Village-tract. At Shwetaungdan Parahita Monastery, they donated offertories to Abbot of the monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khamavudha

who delivered a sermon, and shared merits gained.

The donation group left for Thailand through No. 1 Friendship Bridge.

MMAL-Myint Mo (Tachilek)





WORLD

## Japanese troops in S Sudan reassigned from infrastructure building

JUBA, 24 Dec — Japanese troops participating in UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan have suspended their infrastructure building work and started instead to provide support for displaced people seeking refuge from violence at UN facilities in the capital Juba.

Col Kenichi Igawa of the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force recently told

reporters that they were watching developments closely in the country mired in a growing conflict that could spiral into a civil war. They have no plans in sight to resume their original mission, Igawa, 45, said.

At two compounds for UN peacekeeping operations in Juba, around 20,000 people have taken refuge. GSDF troops are offering support to them by

providing fresh water.

A base for the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, or UNMISS, near Juba International Airport, was lined with tents and beds brought on by asylum seekers. Some people could be seen selling goods on a sidewalk. Due to heavy traffic of displaced people, GSDF vehicles had to slow down on the road.

In Juba, fighting continued over a few days since 15 Dec, leaving hundreds of people dead. Amid a conflict between the largest ethnic group Dinka and the second-largest Nuer, looting and killing of civilians also took place. Many who fled to the PKO headquarters appear to be Nuer.

A 28-year-old Nuer man said necessities, including water and food, are in short supply but it is dangerous to go outside of the PKO compound.

Kyodo News



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



People stand on the rubble of damaged buildings after what activists said was an air raid by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, in Aleppo's al-Saliheen District on 23 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## Week-long Aleppo air raids kill more than 300

BEIRUT, 24 Dec— More than 300 people have been killed in a week of air raids on the northern Syrian city of Aleppo and nearby towns by President Bashar al-Assad's forces, a monitoring group said on Monday.

Many of the casualties, who included scores of women and children, were killed by so-called barrel bombs dropped from helicopters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Syrian authorities say they are battling rebels who have controlled parts of Aleppo, Syria's biggest

city, and most of the surrounding countryside for the past 18 months.

But human rights group have condemned the use of the improvised bombs — oil drums or cylinders which are packed with explosives and metal fragments, often rolled out of the aircraft cargo bay — as an indiscriminate form of bombardment.

Rami Abdulrahman, director of the British-based pro-opposition Observatory, said 87 children and 30 women were among the 301 people killed in the Aleppo air raids since 15 December.

The United states

condemned “the ongoing air assault by Syrian government forces on civilians, including the indiscriminate use of SCUD missiles and barrel bombs in and around Aleppo over the last week.”

In a statement, the White House also called on the Syrian government to “fulfill its November commitment to do more to facilitate the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, so that millions of Syrian men, women, and children have access to urgently needed services.”

Reuters

## Storm damage deprives 240,000 homes of power in France

PARIS, 24 Dec— Fierce winds and rain battering France's west coast have caused damage depriving 240,000 homes of electricity, the country's grid said on Tuesday.

Brittany and Normandy were among the regions worst hit by winds reaching speeds of 130 km an hour (80 mph) on Monday and

which have so far caused one death. The storms began abating on Tuesday morning.

France's ERDF electricity distribution network company said it had launched emergency efforts to address the damage to the network before the country's Christmas festivities start.—Reuters



Waves crash over the breakwater of Saint Evette harbour at Esquibien in Brittany as an Atlantic storm hits western France, on 23 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## Philippine typhoon survivors struggle to salvage Christmas

PALO, (Philippines) 24 Dec — Filipino mother Rhodora Tonningsen has no tinsel or baubles for her Christmas tree this year so she's decorated it with packets of instant noodles and empty sardine cans from relief supplies handed out to survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.

Across the centre of the mostly Catholic Philippines, people are scraping together whatever they can to celebrate Christmas, nearly seven weeks after the storm. Some are struggling to cope with their grief. Tonningsen, 43, a single mother of four, pried a battered, three-foot (one-metre) artificial Christmas

tree from the bank of mud and debris thrown up by the storm by her tiny, partly damaged home in the town

of Palo, and put it up on the front porch.

“I just washed it so we'll have some semblance

of Christmas, even if we're in dire straits,” said Tonningsen, standing outside her home, now patched with corrugated iron also salvaged from the debris.

“We may be in ground zero, but it's OK — as long as we are alive and our family is intact.” The 8 November storm was one of the strongest ever to hit land. It wiped out virtually everything in its path, killing more than 6,100 people. Another 1,800 are listed as missing.

More than four million people are homeless, celebrating Christmas in tents, evacuation centres, or in the ruins of their houses.

Reuters



Children eat their free meals during Christmas celebrations at the town of Bislig, Tanauan in Leyte province, central Philippines on 24 Dec, 2013, a month after Typhoon Haiyan battered central Philippines.

REUTERS

## Freight wagon with nuclear waste derails at depot near Paris, no leak

PARIS, 24 Dec — A rail freight wagon carrying nuclear waste derailed at a depot in Drancy, 3 km (2 miles) northeast of Paris on Monday, the mayor of the town said.

There was no leakage of nuclear waste, Jean-Christophe Lagarde said by telephone.

“Today at 1605 (1505 GMT), a freight car transporting radioactive material derailed in Drancy station,” said the mayor, who is also a member of parliament for the French centrist UDI party. About 4,000 freight wagons carrying

radioactive or chemical waste pass through the station each year, Lagarde said, calling the incident “intolerable”. France's “Europe Ecology Les Verts” (EELV) Green party called for an end to the transportation of radioactive waste through urban areas and busy stations following the incident.

“The slightest accident can have catastrophic effects,” the EELV party said in a statement. “All (nuclear waste) transport is risky and exposes populations to unnecessary danger.”—Reuters



A train convoy of CASTOR containers, which carry radioactive nuclear waste, is seen during a technical stop in Remilly, near Metz, in this file photo taken on 24 Nov, 2011.

REUTERS

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## American jailed in UAE for YouTube parody video

ABU DHABI, 24 Dec— An American citizen was sentenced to a year in prison in the United Arab Emirates on Monday for posting a parody video on YouTube which pokes fun at young Emirati men who imitate US hip-hop culture, his family said.

Shezanne Cassim, 29, has been detained in the United Arab Emirates since April after publishing the 20-minute “mockumentary” film.

In the video, which opens with a disclaimer stating it is fictional and does not intend to offend the people of the UAE, Emirati men described as

“deadly gangsters” can be seen practising throwing sandals and wielding an agal, the cord used to keep in place traditional headscarves.

Cassim, an aviation business consultant, was charged with violating the Gulf nation’s cyber crime law which makes acts deemed damaging to the country’s reputation or national security punishable by jail time and heavy fines.

He was sentenced to jail by an Abu Dhabi court, and also fined 10,000 dirhams, said his family who live in the United States.

“The family is now trying to confirm whether

the one-year imprisonment includes time served or means additional jail time,” they said in a statement.

Cassim’s lawyer and the US embassy in Abu Dhabi could not be immediately reached for comment. Court officials also could not be reached for comment.

Last month, an Abu Dhabi court jailed a man for two years for tweeting about a political trial, highlighting the sensitivity of Gulf Arab states to political dissent, criticism of senior officials and to comments they regard as blasphemous, especially on social media.

Cassim posted the parody video online last year. The film, shot in Dubai’s Al Satwa area, just a few miles away from the landmark Burj Khalifa tower, remains available on YouTube.

Two Indians on trial alongside Cassim were given the same sentence, two Emirati defendants were sentenced to eight months in prison each and one Emirati was pardoned, according to activists.

A further three defendants were each given a one-year prison sentence in absentia and fined 10,000 dirhams.—Reuters



A visitor is seen at the YouTube stand during the annual MIPCOM television programme market in Cannes, southeastern France, on 3 Oct, 2011.—REUTERS

## Astronauts ready for second spacewalk to repair station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 24 Dec—Astronauts aboard the International Space Station are planning a second and final spacewalk to fix the outpost’s cooling system early on Tuesday, a NASA official said.

NASA astronauts Rick Mastracchio and Mike Hopkins are expected to leave the station’s Quest airlock to install a new ammonia pump, space station flight director Judd Frieling said during an interview on NASA Television on Monday.

During an initial spacewalk on Saturday, Mastracchio and Hopkins removed a failed pump, accomplishing about half the work planned for the second spacewalk. That prompted the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to drop plans for a third spacewalk, provided that no problems occur on Tuesday.

“It’s apparent now that we’ll be able to get most of our critical objectives done

tomorrow (Tuesday),” Frieling said.

One of two cooling systems on the US side of the space station, a \$100 billion project of 15 nations, shut down on 11 December due to a faulty valve. Engineers tried software patches to control the flow of ammonia, which is used to dissipate heat from equipment on-board the station and radiate it into space.

With time running short

before the position of the sun causes complications, NASA managers decided to have astronauts replace the pump with one of three spares stored outside the permanently staffed research complex which flies about 250 miles above Earth.

The spacewalks were the first since July when a spacesuit problem caused the helmet worn by Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano to fill with water, a condition

that could have caused him to drown.

Suspect components in the spacesuit were replaced. As a precaution, Mastracchio and Hopkins also outfitted their helmets with absorbent pads and makeshift snorkels that would allow them to draw air from the belly of their spacesuits if the helmet leaks reoccurred.

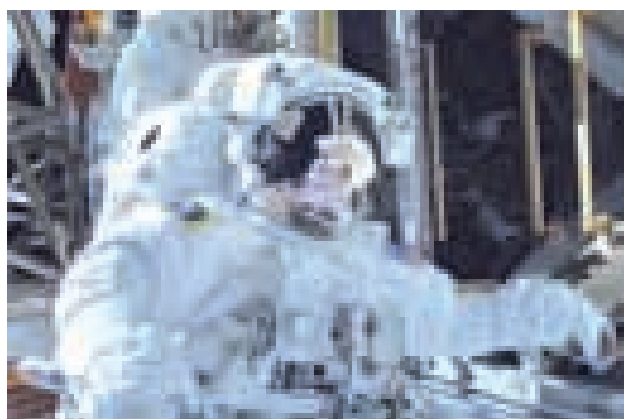
“The suits worked as expected,” Frieling said.

An unrelated suit problem, however, prompted NASA to delay the second spacewalk from Monday to Tuesday.

Mastracchio, a veteran of seven spacewalks, apparently accidentally hit a switch once he and Hopkins were back in the airlock on Saturday that allowed water to get inside his suit’s sublimator, a device that regulates the suit’s cooling system.

As a precaution, that spacesuit will be dried out for about a week, Frieling said.

Reuters



NASA astronaut Mike Hopkins is seen during the spacewalk in this photo courtesy of NASA, received on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Japan’s 7-Eleven kingpin looks to US to inspire online revolution

TOKYO, 24 Dec — The 81-year-old Japanese executive who built 7-Eleven into the world’s biggest convenience store chain has a new mission: turning more than 50,000 bricks and mortar stores in Japan into portals to a new online retail empire.

To do it, Toshifumi Suzuki, the chief executive of department store to mail order retailer Seven & I Holdings Co, is once again seeking inspiration in the United States. It’s over 40 years since he kickstarted a revolution in Japanese retail by bringing 7-Eleven stores across the Pacific, eventually buying the US owners after they sought bankruptcy protection. In Suzuki’s future vision, goods ordered online from Seven & I’s department stores and supermarkets, as well as outside partners, will be delivered to and picked up from the thousands of 7-Eleven stores spread across Japan at customers’ convenience. Most are open 24 hours a day.

“I’ve been talking for a while inside the company about integrating the real (bricks and mortar) side with the Internet, but nobody was taking it seriously,” Suzuki told Reuters. In September, the Japanese retail guru decided to change all that.

He dispatched about 50



Toshifumi Suzuki, chairman and CEO of Seven & I Holdings Co Ltd speaks during an interview with Reuters at its headquarters in Tokyo on 18 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

heads of the group’s companies — his top lieutenants — on a mission to the US. He instructed them to visit retailers like Macy’s Inc, shopping malls and Internet companies, examples of what he called “omnichannel” integration that are beginning to yield results — with orders to figure out how to apply it in Japan. “In the US they observed, they listened and they realized that this was possible, and now they’re all motivated,” Suzuki said.

Suzuki said the company is already in discussions on point-of-pickup arrangements for Japan with online retailers, including major players.

“We’ve had lots of approaches from people

wanting to be partners,” Suzuki said, although Amazon.com is not among them.

At the moment, 7-Eleven’s stores in Japan don’t offer the range of e-commerce services available at their US counterparts. On the other side of the Pacific, for example, 7-Eleven maintains dedicated lockers for picking up merchandise ordered online from Amazon.

Amazon does have point-of-pickup arrangements with 7-Eleven’s chief Japan rivals, FamilyMart Co Ltd and Lawson Inc. But 7-Eleven only offers such services for limited online product offerings, such as upscale cosmetics, purchased from other Seven and I retailers.—Reuters



The Facebook logo is pictured at the Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California on 29 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

## T-Mobile prepaid service to offer free Facebook access

NEW YORK, 24 Dec— GoSmart, the prepaid service of No 4 US operator T-Mobile US, said on Monday it would offer its customers free access to Facebook Inc whether or not they subscribe to its Internet service.

GoSmart said it hopes the offer will help the company attract customers and encourage some existing customers to spend more money on its service.

Prepaid services like GoSmart’s allow customers to pay for their service in advance rather than in a recurring monthly bill. Once a niche market segment, prepaid is becoming

more competitive with bigger rivals such as AT&T Inc looking to expand there.

Customers who opt for GoSmart’s \$25 per month talk only plan or its \$30 talk and text plan will be able to use Facebook, but at slower speeds and these customers will not be able to click on links to other sites unless they pay for data. T-Mobile executive Gavin Dillon said while some of these customers would be content with using Facebook on slower speeds, it could entice others to upgrade to service plans ranging from \$35 to \$45 per month, which include data.—Reuters



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Early start to weight gain tied to later heart risks



NEW YORK, 24 Dec — Kids who start rapidly gaining weight early in childhood are more likely to have higher blood pressure and other signs of future heart trouble as preteens, a new study suggests.

“There’s a natural tendency early in life for children to thin out as they grow taller and gain stat-

ure faster than they gain weight,” Dr Mark D DeBoer said.

But eventually, all kids hit a point when they start gaining weight at a faster pace, and their body mass index (BMI) — a measure of weight in relation to height — begins to rise. That point is called the adiposity rebound.

The adiposity rebound

typically happens around age four to six, DeBoer, who studies childhood obesity at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, told *Reuters Health*.

Some studies have suggested children who start to put on weight at a younger age are more likely to be obese later in life. The new report adds to those concerns.

“It helps I think give us a better understanding of what this might be impacting in addition to obesity,” Dr Stephen Daniels said.

Daniels studies preventive cardiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora, where he chairs the Pediatrics Department. Neither he nor DeBoer was involved in the new study.

Researchers led by Dr. Satomi Koyama of Dokkyo Medical University in Mibu, Tochigi, Japan, followed 271 children born in 1995 and 1996. Kids had their weight and height measured at least once every year through age 12 during infant health checks and then physical exams at school.

From looking at each child’s growth pattern, the researchers determined when children hit their lowest BMI, the age at adiposity rebound. After that, they

got bigger every year.

Koyama’s team found the earlier both boys and girls reached that turning point, the heavier they were at age 12.

For instance, boys who started getting bigger around age three had an average BMI of 21 as preteens. That’s the equivalent of a five-foot-tall boy weighing 108 pounds.

Boys who didn’t start getting bigger until at least age seven had an average BMI of 17 — the equivalent of the same boy weighing 87 pounds.

Boys who had their adiposity rebound at a young age also had higher triglycerides and blood pressure at age 12. Although their numbers were still in the normal range, they could hint at signs of future heart problems, the researchers wrote on Monday in *Pediatrics*.

Reuters

Spanish utility to sell stake in British nuclear venture to Toshiba

PARIS, 24 Dec — Spanish utility Iberdrola said on Monday it will sell its stake in a British nuclear plant consortium to Japan’s Toshiba Corp for 85 million pounds. Toshiba will buy a 50 percent stake in NuGen, a joint venture between Iberdrola and French utility GDF Suez.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval, Iberdrola said.

NuGen owns a site in West Cumbria, England, where it plans to build a 3.6 gigawatt nuclear power plant.

The British government plans to continue building nuclear power plants, with antinuclear sentiment not so strong in the country even after the Fukushima accident in Japan.

Hitachi Ltd acquired a British company last year, and is planning to build two nuclear plants in Britain.

Kyodo News

Nikkei rises above 16,000 for 1st time in 6 years



A display at an office of a money broker in Tokyo shows the Nikkei Stock Average trading above the 16,000 line on the morning of 24 Dec, 2013. The key Japanese stock index rose above the threshold for the first time in about six years.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 24 Dec — Tokyo stocks rose on Tuesday morning, lifting the Nikkei index above the 16,000 threshold temporarily for the first time in about six years, as continued gains on Wall Street and a weaker yen bolstered investor sentiment. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average finished the morning session 124.79 points, or 0.79 percent, higher than Friday at 15,995.21, after rising to 16,029.65, its highest intraday level since 11 Dec, 2007. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was up 1.56 points, or 0.12 percent, at 1,263.20.

Japanese financial

markets were closed on Monday for a national holiday. Marine transport, rubber, and paper and pulp sectors advanced while food, utility and textile shares faced selling.

Tokyo stocks opened higher, tracking overnight gains in US shares, which lifted the 30-issue Dow Jones Industrial Average to yet another record closing high on upbeat US spending data.

The rally came on the heels of media reports that International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the Washington-based body would raise its 2014 US growth forecast.

Kyodo News

BlackBerry deal bolsters Foxconn’s makeover gambit

TAIPEI/SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Dec — Foxconn’s BlackBerry Ltd deal marks the Taiwanese firm’s biggest step up the value chain — a chance to not just assemble smartphones, but help design them, too. The agreement to design and market phones starting in Indonesia, the world’s fourth-most populous country but an under-penetrated market, is a boon to a mega-manufacturer trying to grow its margins while making a play for a bigger slice of the global mobile devices market.

Best known for putting together iPhones, Foxconn honed its skills by meeting Apple Inc’s exacting

standards and supply chain rigour. It boasts a workforce of more than 1 million and the scale to negotiate cheaper component prices than BlackBerry could obtain on its own.

BlackBerry announced on Friday that Foxconn will help design the hardware for its future low-end devices as part of a 5-year deal, furthering the template for manufacturing specialists to scale the value chain. BlackBerry itself will remain focused on software technology. The Canadian firm wants to produce many of the new phones in Indonesia — the first new model is code-named “Jakarta” —

where Foxconn has been navigating bureaucracy for over a year to set up a manufacturing plant in Southeast Asia’s biggest economy.—Reuters



Workers walk out at the gate of a Foxconn factory in the township of Longhua in Shenzhen, Guangdong province on 18 Dec, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

Suzuki to start selling Hustler minivehicle in January



Osamu Suzuki, chairman of Suzuki Motor Corp, unveils the Hustler minivehicle in Tokyo on 24 Dec, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 24 Dec — Suzuki Motor Corp said on Tuesday its new minivehicle the Hustler — which combines the characteristics of a mini wagon passenger car and a sports utility vehicle — will go on sale on 8 January 2014.

The gasoline-powered minicar offers a fuel economy of up to 29.2 kilometres per litre, with retail prices ranging from 1.05 million yen to 1.58 million yen.

The new model shares a common platform with Suzuki’s mainstay Wagon R passenger car but has

more interior space and is equipped with safety systems to control its brakes on hills and snowy roads, the automaker said.

“We want customers to use the vehicle for having fun and adventures,” Chairman Osamu Suzuki said at a press conference in Tokyo, adding he hopes to boost sales of minicars with the new lineup at a time the industry is likely to face severe business conditions due to the sales tax hike in April. The company set a monthly sales target of 5,000 units.—Kyodo News

## 'Parallel governments' stoke polarized politics in Venezuela

CARACAS, 24 Dec — Opposition politician Ricardo Hernandez was elected mayor of Tariba, a small Venezuelan city near the border with Colombia, by a landslide.

But he didn't have long to bask in his victory.

In the days after 8 December municipal elections in which the opposition won 75 mayoralties, Hernandez discovered that the company that collects trash had stopped working — apparently on orders of his predecessor, a member

of the ruling Socialist Party (PSUV).

And, the new mayor says, the state government of Tachira, which is controlled by the PSUV, ordered the police in Tariba to hand over its firearms and vehicles to a state force.

Hernandez' case is far from unique.

Across the OPEC nation, new office holders in the 49 mayoralties that passed to the opposition from the PSUV complain about what they say are efforts by President Nicolas

Maduro's central government to strip their powers.

The moves have included taking away responsibilities — including the management of parks, theatres and other cultural centres — and removing assets from local authorities.

In some cases, they have prompted critics to accuse ruling party officials of trying to undermine and bypass opposition mayors and governors by setting up "parallel governments."

Hernandez, who won with 62 percent of the votes in Tariba, sees it as punishment for having defeated a PSUV candidate.

"It affects the population and the communities which are using those services," the 37-year-old lawyer said this week during a rare meeting between Maduro and opposition politicians, appealing for an end to interference in his work.

But Jose Vielma, the governor of Tachira state and a PSUV stalwart, denied there was any ill intent.

Reuters



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (2nd L) sings the national anthem during a meeting with the opposition's newly elected mayors and governors at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 18 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Italy PM Letta pledges reform pact in January

ROME, 24 Dec — Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta promised on Monday to present a formal coalition pact in January with reforms ranging from an overhaul of the electoral law to cuts to bureaucracy and taxes. Letta, appointed to head a grand coalition of left and right after last February's deadlocked elections, said 2014 would be the year in which a new generation of leaders could launch reforms to pull Italy out of two decades of stagnation.

"I have been part of this change and I feel the full weight of responsibility. This generation will have the opportunity of changing Italy and I am convinced it can do it," 47-year-old Letta told the traditional end-of-year news conference.

"We have the most complex part of this crisis behind us and we have to be in a position to take advantage of some important opportunities," he said.

Italy, one of the world's biggest government debtors, has narrowly escaped



Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta gestures as he holds a year end news conference in Rome on 23 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

being sucked into the euro debt crisis as investors worry about its weak economy and chaotic politics.

Letta dismissed suggestions that his authority could be undermined by the election of Matteo Renzi as head of his centre-left Democratic Party (PD), saying the 38-year-old Renzi's arrival was part of an "unprecedented" generational change in Italian politics.

"This new generation will play a team game in a different way," he said, shortly before the 2014

budget cleared its final parliamentary hurdle in a confidence vote in the Senate.

Letta was speaking shortly before the Senate completed parliamentary approval for the 2014 budget after it cleared the lower house on Friday. He said a new pact for his coalition government to be worked out in detail in January would address issues ranging from cutting taxes that deter companies from hiring to easing citizenship laws for the children of immigrants.—Reuters

## AK-47 rifle inventor Mikhail Kalashnikov dies at 94

MOSCOW, 24 Dec — Mikhail Kalashnikov, the Russian designer of the AK-47 assault rifle which has killed more people than any other firearm in the world, died on Monday aged 94, officials said.

Kalashnikov, who was in his 20s when he created the AK-47, died in his home city of Izhevsk near the Ural Mountains, where his gun is still made, a spokesman for the Udmurtia province's president said on state television. No cause of death was given. Kalashnikov was fitted with a pacemaker at a Moscow hospital in June and had been in hospital in Izhevsk since 17 November, state media reported.

Sombre music accompanied tributes that led evening news reports on state TV, and President Vladimir Putin expressed "deep sympathy" for Kalashnikov's loved ones.

A son of Siberian peasants who never finished school, Kalashnikov invented one of the Soviet Union's best-known and most imitated products.

Shortly after fighting in World War Two, he created the AK-47, whose number stands for the year 1947. The "A" is for "avtomat" — automatic rifle — and the "K" for Kalashnikov.

Later versions of the AK-47 are still a mainstay of Russia's armed forces and police more than 60

years after the original rifle went into service in the military in 1949.

At a Kremlin ceremony on Kalashnikov's 90th birthday, then-President Dmitry Medvedev

bestowed upon him the highest state honour — the Hero of Russia gold star medal — and lauded him for creating "the national brand every Russian is proud of".—Reuters



Mikhail Kalashnikov, chief designer of Izhmash Concern, a Russian firearms producer, poses with the latest model of his rifle during a news conference in Moscow in this 15 April, 2006 file photo.—REUTERS

## Flood kills 20, leaves 40,000 homeless in SE Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec — The death toll from flood caused by recent storms in Brazil's southeast states of Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais has reached 20, local media reported on Monday.

Six people died in Espirito Santo and 14 in Minas Gerais, including several minors. Most were killed in flood-caused landslides

that buried their homes, the reports said, quoting local Civil Defence authorities.

In Espirito Santo alone, 40,000 people have been left homeless due to severe flooding in the state capital Vitoria and its metropolitan area. More than 6,000 homes were either damaged or destroyed by the storms.

In both states,

entire neighbourhoods were flooded, several bridges were washed away by flood waters and several stretches of road were blocked by mudslides.

Espirito Santo state governor Renato Casagrande has declared a state of emergency in 45 of his state's 78 towns. The National Security Force, a

federal agency that often helps in cases of major disasters, was dispatched to the state to help relief and rescue efforts.

In addition, the federal government has sent a helicopter, portable bridges, army troops, mattresses and personal hygiene products for those left homeless.

Xinhua

## Gov't report drops word "deflation," stops short of declaring its end

TOKYO, 24 Dec — The government dropped the word "deflation" in its monthly economic report on Tuesday for the first time in more than four years amid signs of growth in consumer spending, but it refrained from announcing the end of deflation as it has yet to confirm that prices are unlikely to fall back.

In its December report, the Cabinet Office said consumer spending — comprising about 60 percent of Japan's gross domestic product — is "picking up," raising its assessment of the category for the first time in eight months.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left its basic economic assessment unchanged, saying the world's third-largest economy "is on the way to recovery at a moderate pace."

The government views continued price falls as on the verge of ending after Japan's consumer prices in October rose 0.9 percent on year, the fastest growth in five years on higher energy prices amid the yen's weakness.

Consumer prices excluding volatile fresh food and energy also hit the highest level since August 1998 in the same month.

An official of the Cabinet Office said such price developments are likely to continue at least for a few months, but added that uncertainty remains over whether prices will continue to rise further in light of the consumption tax hike from next April and downside risks to the global economy.

The government said exports have been "in a weak tone recently" due to a slowdown in some emerging economies, using the same expression for the second consecutive month. In November, it downgraded its view on exports, a major driver of Japanese economic growth, for the third straight month.

But it remained optimistic about the future course of exports, referring to the recent depreciation of the yen against other major currencies.

Kyodo News



## NATIONAL

## Dy Education Minister receives Vice President of The Ryukoku University

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung received Vice President Mr Noriko Tanaka of

The Ryukoku University in Tokyo of Japan and party at the Ministry of Education, here, this afternoon.

They had a cordial dis-

cussion on signing MoU between universities in Myanmar and Ryukoku University and cultural exchanges among students.—MNA



**Dy Education Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung receives Vice President Mr Noriko Tanaka of The Ryukoku University in Tokyo of Japan.**—MNA

## Japan provides school-building in Mandalay region under GGP Scheme

YANGON, 24 Dec—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance of US\$ 91, 996 for humanitarian assistance program entitled “The Project for Construction of Kangyi Village Basic Education Primary School in Mandalay Region” in 2012.

The hand-over and opening ceremony was held at the Kangyi Village Basic

Education Primary School in Mahlaing Township on 20 December. The ceremony was attended by Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan Mr. Go NAKAYA, Hluttaw representative of Mandalay Region U Shwe Nan, Mahlaing Township Education Officer Daw San Yee, Mahlaing Township Administrator U Aung Thein Hlaing, the departmental officials of Mandalay Region, School Building Construction Committee members, students and local people.

The Primary School opened at Kangyi Village in 1968 and students of four near-by villages are also attending the Kangyi Basic Education Primary School.

Although the number of students have reached around 150 last year, the school did not have appropriate school buildings and classrooms.

Under such circumstances, the Government of Japan provided funding for construction of one-storey RC school building with 5 classrooms, toilets, and school furniture for Kangyi Village Primary School through its GGP Scheme. The number of school built under the GGP scheme is 279 since 1993. It is expected that this assistance will provide the students with better learning and sanitation environment and further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.—NLM

## ADB to link government, non-governmental organizations in expanding HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention

YANGON, 24 Dec—The Asian Development Bank (ADB), spending funds from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, will provide a strategic link between Myanmar’s government and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently providing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services in order to strengthen the provision of healthcare in remote, vulnerable, and hard-to-reach populations.

“As Myanmar continues implementing social and political reforms, it must protect its people from inadvertent exposure to communicable diseases like HIV, tuberculosis, malaria,” said Gerard Servais, Health Specialist in ADB’s Southeast Asia Department. “Non-governmental groups have done an excellence job filling gaps in treatment and prevention services, but it’s time to both expand

and strengthen these services to reach more people and provide more preventative measures.”

An estimated 240,000 people in Myanmar are thought to be living with HIV, which classifies the country as “high burden”. A 2012 survey by the National AIDS Program shows infections concentrated amongst injection drug users, female sex workers, and men who have sex with men. Of those infected, only 40,000 adults and children receive anti-retroviral treatment (ART), presenting a significant treatment gap.

International NGOs, alongside local NGOs and community-based organizations, provide the bulk of HIV services in the country, including prevention services, drop-in centers, clinics, and outreach programs. NGOs also support private sector provision of sexually transmitted infection

(STI) treatment and distribute condoms and lubricants. In 2011, some 70% of ART was delivered by NGOs at clinics outside the public system.

Using a \$ 10 million grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, ADB will establish innovative partnerships between government and NGOs to deliver better services in 739 villages in five townships in Mon, Kayin, and Shan states. It is projected that by 2017, communities will see strengthened health systems that can plan for and manage responses to HIV/AIDS and STIs, with the number of trained health service providers increasing by 30%, the number of patient consultations increasing by 80% and behavior change campaigns to help reduce exposure to HIV, STIs, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Moe Thu

## WORLD

## 27 killed in attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Dec—A total of 23 people and four suicide bombers were killed and 14 wounded, in separate violent attacks across Iraq on Monday, police said.

In one attack, gunmen broke into the office of Salahudin satellite TV channel and the nearby Iraqia official television’s headquarters in Tikrit, the capital of Salahudin Province, killing five staffers and wounding three others, when four suicide bombers blew themselves up in the attack, a provincial police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attack took place in the afternoon in central Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, when the suicide bombers blew up a car bomb at the entrance of the four-story TV station building, the source added.

Fierce clashes broke out between the attackers and the guards, setting fire

to the third and fourth floors of the building, he said.

Iraqi security forces and reinforcement troops cordoned off the scene, while a police commando unit broke into the offices and retook control of the building after a clash with the suicide bombers, he added.

Tikrit, the capital of Salahudin Province which is dominated by Sunni, is the hometown of former President Saddam Hussein.

In another separate incident, four army officers and two soldiers were killed in a mortar barrage on a military base in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, a police source told *Xinhua*.

The attack came as Iraqi security forces backed by helicopters were conducting a large-scale offensive against al-Qaeda militants in the volatile Sunni area that stretches from west of

Baghdad through the province of Anbar to the border with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Qaeda militants are believed to have been responsible for blowing up a booby-trapped shelter on Saturday in the desert area of Wadi Houran near the city of Rutba, some 370 km west of Baghdad, killing up to 15 soldiers.

On Sunday, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said that a Sunni anti-government sit-in camp in Anbar Province had become “a base for the leadership of al-Qaeda.” He urged protesters “to leave the camp so that al-Qaeda will stay alone.”

The Sunnis accused the government of marginalizing them and claimed that the Shiite-dominated security forces indiscriminately arrested, tortured and killed their sons.—*Xinhua*

## Natural gas export to be suspended during pipeline construction

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Construction on a natural gas pipeline network between the Platform and Pressure Compression Platform of Yetagun Natural Gas Project of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Energy will be car-

ried out from 1 January (at 6:00 am) to 15 January (at 6:00 am). Gas transportation to abroad will be suspended during the period.

Natural gas supply to power plants and industries consumption through a 20-inch Kanpauk-Myainggalay pipeline will be tem-

porarily suspended for 24 hours and a 24-inch Yadanar-Yangon pipeline for 4 hours. During this suspension period, plans are underway to distribute natural gas to electric power stations and industries in Yangon.

MNA

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No (40/2013)

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1375 ME

(24<sup>th</sup> December, 2013)

### Registration of Federal Union Party as political party allowed

Federal Union Party headquartered at No (15), left room, the sixth floor of the building on Hline River Road (Kamayut Railway Station Street) in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region has been allowed to register as a political party in accord with Section 9 of the Political Party Registration Law as of 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

The registration number of the Federal Union Party is 71.

By Order,

Sd/ Tin Tun

Secretary

Union Election Commission

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 25 December, 2013

**Generate healthy lifestyle through walking**

The weather in Myanmar is now getting colder significantly as the cold weather has set in. Different parts of the country have been struck by an impact of cold waves one way or another. This has largely degenerated the condition of human's health. As such a time, one of the remedial measures to be taken for better health care is to do exercise regularly.

Physical activities such as jogging or walking can alleviate the risk of developing diseases that are mainly caused by cold weather. Therefore, mass walk activities are being launched in some towns and cities to make the people known the benefits of walking. Walking for minutes at regular intervals during working hours would do a lot. But most of us often fail to do so once concentrated. Prolonged sitting or desk job can increase health risk and reduce the lifestyle.

Sticking to a regular exercise with jogging or walking high on the agenda will help us prevent the risk of developing acute diseases caused by cold weather. Quitting a smoking habit, avoiding risky consumption of alcohol, reducing salt intake and getting a better night sleep are also the tips for better health in life, for prevention is better than cure.

As blood used to clot in the winter, walking that generates better blood circulation in the body is highly recommended and is every much worth to do in the cold season. Some health problems can be preventable and treatable through keeping a strict adherence to three simple tips — watch your weight, make healthy food choices and live an active life plus avoiding stress.

Walking is said to be one of the best exercises whose benefits are generating better blood circulation, reducing cholesterol and bringing about healthy and strong muscles. We can not just have a great deal of health benefits but also have many friends by going walking early in the morning. That's why, let each of us enjoy a healthy lifestyle through going walking, realizing it as one of the best health tips.

**Mangrove Rehabilitation Project to be implemented in Ayeyawady Delta**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec— In cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has planned to implement "Mangrove Rehabilitation Plan for Enhancement of Disaster Prevention in the Ayeyawady Delta" project in Kadonkani Reserve Forest, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region spending 583 million Japanese Yen through Grant Aid Program of JICA.

The project's duration is four years from 2013 November to 2017 October.

In 2012, the grant agreement was signed between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and JICA. According to

the grant agreement, the Forest Department respectively signed Consultant Agreement with Kokusai Kogyo Co Ltd for project design formulation and monitoring and evaluation services for the project on 16 March, 2013 and Contract Agreement with Hazama Ando Corporation for actual implementation of activities at project site on 7 October, 2013.

Project implementation involves establishment of 2850 acres of mangrove forest plantation, construction of a cyclone-shelter cum watch tower, provision of project support materials and formulation of a mangrove management plan as well as surveying of aquatic species so as to analyze the impact of the project on species diversity and population.—MNA

**Historic Town "Sale"***Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja  
Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt**Yout Soun Kyaung in Sale Township in Magway Region.*

A sprawling town on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River is Sale, just 29 miles to the south of ancient Bagan. Commanding an important strategic location for trade, transport and communication, Sale had its role in the past, still has it at present and will continue to have it in future. Its past speaks of its glories in its heydays as evidenced by many objects of tangible cultural heritage especially in the forms of monuments of some artistic and architectural marvels that attract pilgrims and tourists at home and abroad. Sale is, in fact, in the periphery of Bagan archaeological zones. It is a virgin field for excavation and research.

Sale is noted for four counts, namely (1) there is a big sitting Buddha Image of lacquered wicker work in a grand temple in the centre of the town, (2) closely is a world renowned ancient teak monastery "Yout Soun Kyaung" (3) Sale is the birth place of a playwright U Ponnya of great fame who emerged in the reigns of the two last kings Mindon and Thibaw and (4) Sale produces seedless sweet plums which do not grow in places other than Sale. To crown them all, is that in the long Bagan dynasty of 55 kings, there was one ruler named Sale Ngahkwe [906-915

A.D.] who was the 33rd ruler in that long dynasty. Sale is proud to have provided one king for Bagan dynasty. Because of these attractions, traders, pilgrims and tourists come to Sale by water crafts along the River or by land vehicles on good tarred roads.

When your watercraft stops at the jetty of Sale, you walk up steep stone steps with the help of local guides and check in the tour bus. The first place of interest that the bus takes you to is Yout Soun Kyaung, an old wooden monastery of teak.

Upon entering the monastic precincts, a booklet of 49 pages illustrated with photos is found on sale at the stalls of souvenirs and gifts. It was compiled and published in Myanmar language by now a retired research assistant of Archaeology Department, Bagan, U Maung Maung Latt. The book contains history and facts and figures of the monastery.

The monastery was built in 1882 A.D. in the reign of the last Myanmar king Thibaw. The donors were U Bo Kyi and Daw Shwe Thet. They dedicated to Monk U Guna, Assistant Sayadaw of Sale Myoma Thudamma Gaing.

The general design was that of a royal house, with four main brick staircases, two at the front and two at

the rear. The monastery is composed of six separate buildings. (1) Pyatthat hall housing "Buddha statues, images and all sacred objects right at the front of the entire structure. It has a seven-tire roof called Pyatthat, so it is called Pyatthat hall (2) Sanu Saung (3) Saung Hla [or Saung Pyan] (4) Saung ma gyi [main hall] or Yun Saung] (5) Bawga Saung (yelei saung and (6) Khone Saung. There are 154 teak columns supporting the entire big structure. The monastery is 150 feet long and 76 feet wide. As many of its decorative artworks have been vandalized and stolen only 45 panels survive today.

The spire on the roof of the shrine room has seven carved tiers, representing legendary Mount Meru, like the spire on the roof of Myeynan palace of Myanmar kings.

The four brick staircases are adorned with glazed hydraulic pipers moulded in the figures of elephant, lion, bull, and horse heads through which water flows out. They represent Anawdatha Lake of Tavatimsa the celestial Kingdom.

The head monk Abbot resides in the Sanu Saung. Saung Hla (or Saung pyan) is very specious. There are many gilt and glass mosaic chests storing religious literature inscribed on palm leaf or written on folding

parchments called parabike.

Next to it is the main hall, the biggest and higher than other halls. A divider call "marabin" screen makes another room called Kyet Thayey saung where all monastic holdings and dry ration are kept young monks and novices sleep in this large room. In day time it is a class room for teaching and learning Tripitakas, Dhamma literature. Religious ceremonies take place in this main hall. Two brick staircases to the east are for monks' use and two to the west for laymen.

There is a bell with an inscription telling the history of the monastery. The donor U Bo Kyi was a wealthy generous youngman who at the age of 29 years spent enormous amount of his wealth to build this monastery. In the inscription he says that he dedicated the big monastery for religious purpose—for all monks (Sangha). During the British Colonial Period, monk students increased. So a new additional monastery was built on the site between two brick staircases.

The architects, masons and carpenters were the natives of Ta Nyaung village. Wood carvers were U Shan and Ko Shwe Pyi and their apprentices from Yey Zagyo District.

(To be continued)



## Foreign Heads of State...

(from page 1)

**From Mr Mamnoon Hussain  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Excellency,**

It is a great pleasure for me to convey Your Excellency my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close friendly relations. I am sure that these relations between our two countries will strengthen and flourish in days to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Excellency,**

On behalf of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it is my great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar our sincere greetings and warm congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is important to acknowledge the friendly ties that bind us in friendship. I am confident that the existing friendly bilateral ties would be further strengthened in future.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika  
President of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria  
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the celebration of your country's National Day, I am very pleased to address to you, on behalf of the Algerian people and Government and on my own name, my sincere expressions of congratulations accompanied with my best wishes of health and happiness to Your Excellency and further progress and prosperity to your friendly people.

I would like to seize this opportunity to confirm to you my readiness to work, with you, to consolidate and promote the friendship relations between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



*President U Thein Sein greets locals at the ceremony of rural development and socio-economic improvement.—MNA*

## Only cooperation, unity could contribute to rapid...

(from page 1)

He praised respective cooperative associations and microfinance scheme that could provide capital and equipment and create the market as an effective tool for poverty reduction.

Due to the lack of capital, some of the poor including the civil servants at lower level not only in rural areas but also in urban regions have to engage

in such works like driving trishaws and motorbike on hire and sewing on commission. With mere hand-to-mouth subsistence, the poor including civil servants at lower level in rural and urban areas are unable to send their offspring to school and receive medical treatment when they are sick, as they have no extra money, being obliged to share the certain proportion of the rewards of their grease labour to the owners.

Measures are being taken by the Cooperatives Ministry to help them to own trishaws, motorbikes and sewing machines within a short period of time, providing capital loans to them. He stressed the need of shaping their lives themselves and respecting the goodwill of the government and working hard with honesty and repaying their loans in full on schedule.

The government is striving for smooth transportation, potable water and electricity supply and promotion of education, health and economic sectors in rural regions with local and foreign assistance. He stressed the importance of village administrators elected by people to be good and able ones for the development of rural villages. Only then, the rural of law and economic, education, health and social development drive will be realized

in rural villages, saying that no progress can be made without peace and stability, rule of law and unity. He called for collaboration and cooperation between authorities concerned and the committees for development of rural and urban areas.

The country has now started exercising people-centered administrative system. There are committees, organizations and MPs in every village and township across the country. Cooperation and unity among these organizations and officials would contribute to rapid development of the country. All people and organizations need to stand on their own feet in an effort for development of their regions.

People need to effectively use their loans in their businesses as well as to repay their loans at due date. He highlighted the accountability of individuals, organization and cooperative society. He also urged those involved in microfinance scheme to make cooperation for smooth running of it. In conclusion, he called for cooperation and unity among these organizations and people.

Afterwards, the Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan touched upon rural development, socio-economic development and poverty alleviation tasks.

The Minister said a loan of more than K 10843.1948 million has

been granted since October, 2012. A total of 1954 farm equipment worth K 1992.64125 million have been sold by installment. K 50 billion new loans will be disbursed to people who have not got loan in April, May and June next year. Plans are under way to increase the loan amount in 2014-2015 FY. The new interest rate is reduced to K 1.50 while the old rate amount to K 2.50.

Later, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung explained the facts about rural development and socio-economic development tasks.

At today's ceremony, a loan of K 7621.15 million has been disbursed to 879 cooperative associations in 26 townships and 314 were provided with farm equipments, motorcycles, sewing machines and fishing gears worth K 657.453 million. After that, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan and the Chief Minister disbursed the microfinance loans to cooperative societies in the region. Then, Chairman of Central Cooperative Society and the Co-operative Bank Ltd handed over agricultural equipment to the local farmers.

After the ceremony, the President cordially greeted those present and looked round the booths, farm equipments and finishing gears on display. The President and party looked round the development of Patheingyi in a motorcade.

MNA



*Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen at Peace Palace of Cambodia.*

MNA

## Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets Prime Minister...

(from page 16)

seen off by Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Coopera-

tion, Information, and Media of the National Assembly of Cambodia Mr Chheang Vun, responsible persons

from the National Assembly of Cambodia, the Governor of Siem Reap Province and Myanmar Ambassador U Cho Tun Aung and officials at Siem Reap International Airport in Phnom Penh of Cambodia.—MNA

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



ASEAN Summits and related meetings will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (1), Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Kyaw Swe Moe (IPRD)

### Odd News

## Rifle bullets, blank rounds found in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 24 Dec—Letpangon Village-tract administrator U Myint Aye, 45, son of U Thein Shwe of Yamethin Township handed over 33 decayed .303 rifle cartridges, two blank rounds and two bullets to Yamethin Myoma Police Station in Mandalay Region on 21

December.

These bullets were found in digging the pits for construction of the earthen roadlinking Nyaung-chingon and Taywindaing villages under the leadership of TheinU Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana in October 2013.

The Sayadaw kept the bullets at his monastery temporarily and now these bullets have been handed over the police station through village administrator U Myint Aye.

Arrangements are being made to hand them over to No 3 Basic Military Training Depot.—*Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

### Construction

## Air-conditioned trains to stop over at all stations along Yangon circular railroad

YANGON, 24 Dec—Air-corned trains installed with rail bus engines will stop over at all stations along the circular railroad of Yangon according to the requests of the passengers, said Myanma Railways.

The new train with six coaches assembled

by Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory.

One more train installed with six new coaches will be run along the circular railroad.

The list of stations will be announced for the public transportation.

At present, number of

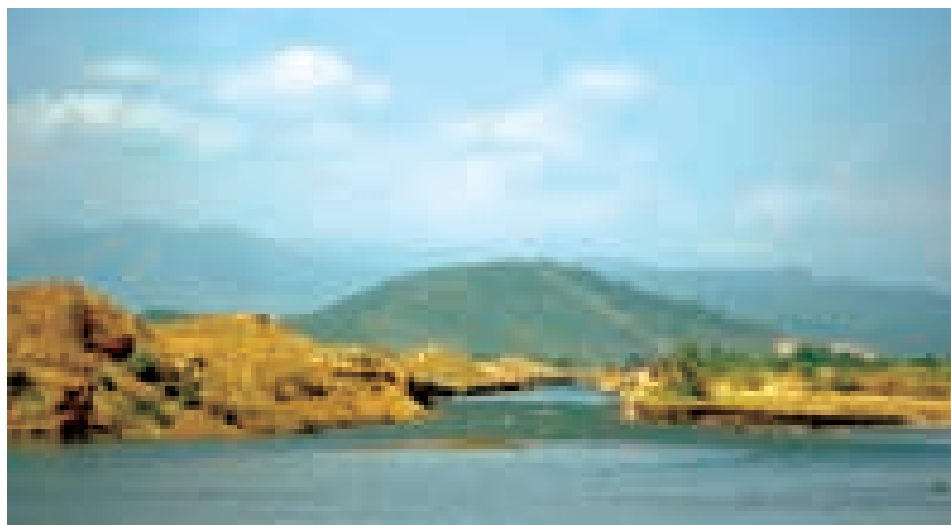
passengers is growing day by day in rail transportation.

The circular train take two hours and fifty minutes for the whole circular railroad.

Myanma Railways helps ease traffic congestions of the Yangon City.

*Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)*

## New water course dredged in Nerinzara River of Kalay Tsp



KALAY, 24 Dec—Under the instructions of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and assistance of Kalay District Management Committee Chairman U Maung Htoo, the new water

course has been dredged on 21 December in Nerinzara River that eroded West Khontha Village of Kalay Township.

Thanks to dredging the new water course, the

SAGAING, 24 Dec—Under the auspices of U Suçarita of Hanthagiri Monastery of Sagaing, the ceremony to open the new building of Basic Education Middle School Branch was held in



Talainggyun Village of Sagaing Township on 22 December morning.

It was attended by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Win Tint, Region Hluttaw representative U Sein Khe, Region Minister for

Development Affairs U Tin Hlaing Myint, Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Kyaw Win, departmental officials, village administrators and local people, students, teachers and members of the school board of trustees.

The Sayadaw, the Region Development Affairs Minister and a wellwisher formally opened the building and the Chief Minister pressed the button to open the signboard of the school building. The students sang the song of Myanmar School. The Chief Minister delivered an address.

Members of the School Board of Trustees presented commemorative pennants to the Chief Minister and officials.

The Chief Minister presented 24-inch LED TV, the Amyotha Hluttaw representative exercise books and the Region Minister for Development Affairs journals and publications to officials.

The new building is 60 feet long, 30 feet wide and 13 feet high and it cost K 15 million contributed by the Sayadaw and wellwishers.

*Kyemon-Sagaing District IPRD*

## Kanma-Magway bus line launched

KANMA, 24 Dec—With the aim of developing the central region of Myanmar on the west bank of Ayeyawady River, the government has built railroads and motor roads as of 2002.

Now, the earthen roads linking Thayet and Minbu Districts in Magway Region have been upgraded to gravel and asphalt facilities.

Therefore, the local people enjoy fruits of development and smooth slow of commodities.

As a result, the vehicles and local people can travel one place to another smoothly. On 23 December morning, Swe Daw Phu Bus Line was launched along Kanma-Thayet-Minbu-Magway Route.

*Kyemon-Township IPRD*

### Construction

## New school building handed over in Sagaing Tsp

### HRD

## Literary talks held in Patheingyi

PATHEINGYI, 24 Dec—Bookworms of Patheingyi Township organized the literary talks at Myitta Sanein Hall on MyoU Lane in Kyigon Village of Patheingyi Township on 21 December.

It was the second time of its kind and attended by about 800 people.

Writers Nyi Min Nyo gave talks on Youth and Future State, U Phone (Chemistry) Flowery Gun and Chit Oo Nyo, I have nothing to talk.

*Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



## REGIONAL

## Japan NGO vows to continue aid to typhoon-hit Philippines

TACLOBAN, (Philippines) 24 Dec — The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, a Japan-based non-governmental organization, on Monday concluded its medical assistance activities for this year in the typhoon-hit Philippines but pledged to return.

In the storm-ravaged city of Tacloban in Leyte province, AMDA presi-

dent Shigeru Suganami told *Kyodo News* that continued aid is needed given poverty and hygiene issues there, and so his organization plans to dispatch members next year to areas devastated by typhoon Haiyan.

After the typhoon struck on 8 November, AMDA on 8 November, AMDA dispatched medical personnel who worked together with the AMDA. The AMDA, based in Okayama, is a

non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides emergency medical aid to people affected by natural as well as man-made disasters. A government report released over the weekend showed that the death toll from Haiyan stands at 6,102, with 1,779 others still missing and more than 4 million people displaced.

The medical association of Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, which has sister-city ties with Tacloban, also dispatched medical personnel who worked together with the AMDA. The AMDA, based in Okayama, is a

non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides emergency medical aid to people affected by natural as well as man-made disasters. A government report released over the weekend showed that the death toll from Haiyan stands at 6,102, with 1,779 others still missing and more than 4 million people displaced.

*Kyodo News*

## India clears proposal to buy 262 Israeli missiles

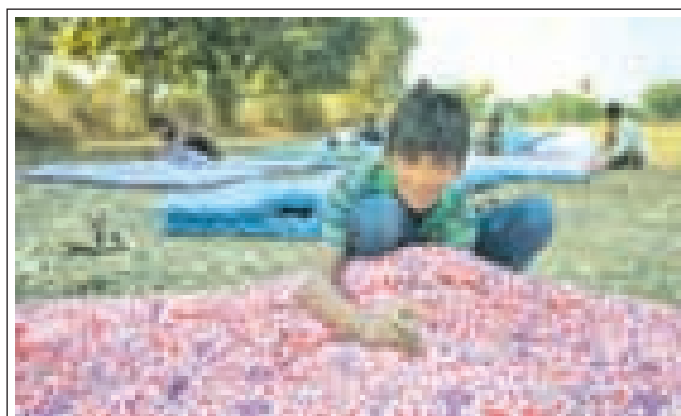
NEW DELHI, 24 Dec— Indian Defence Ministry on Monday cleared a proposal to buy 262 missiles from Israel to arm the Barak-I anti-missile defence systems for the Indian Navy, said local media reports.

The defence system would be fitted on the navy's frontline warships and the Indian Navy was running low on Barak missiles, said *Hindustan Times* online.

The proposal was shelved for several years as the country's Central Bureau of Investigation was probing a kickback case of the missiles in 2006.

The defence acquisition council (DAC) cleared the 8.8 billion rupee (140 million US dollars) deal after the case is closed for lack of evidence.

*Xinhua*



A boy makes cotton quilt on a field near Nagpur, Maharashtra of India, on 23 Dec, 2013. Cotton is one of the main economic crops in the area around central Indian city of Nagpur as well as in southeast of Madhya Pradesh.

XINHUA

## More police deployed at Philippine int'l airport after deadly attack

MANILA, 24 Dec— The Philippine government has deployed more policemen at the vicinity of the Manila international airport following the deadly ambush last week of a mayor and three others, a senior government official said on Monday.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters that the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has augmented the police personnel for the entire complex of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in

Pasay City, Metro Manila. "We will see more police presence in the subject premises," he said.

Four people, including Labangan Mayor Ukol Talumpa of southern province of Zamboanga del Sur, his wife, a relative, and an 18-month old baby, were killed while five others were injured when two men aboard a motorcycle ambushed them at the arrival area of the NAIA Terminal 3 before noon last Friday.

Lacierda said the Philippine National Police has leads as to the whereabouts

of the culprits.

While President Benigno S Aquino III did not give any deadline to resolve the case, Lacierda said that Aquino's order was to "find the culprits as expeditiously as possible, making sure that we have the evidence to pinpoint the particular culprits."

The attack took place at a time when Philippine airports are busy due to the influx of passengers who want to spend Christmas in their hometown or other tourist spots in the country.

*Xinhua*

## Vietnamese gov't defines tasks to realize 2014 socio-economic goals

HANOI, 24 Dec—The Vietnamese government on Monday defined major tasks to realize socio-economic targets set for 2014 at an online conference between the government and the country's localities.

Among the targets set for 2014, Vietnam will strive to achieve a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.8 percent in 2014, and inflation to be kept at 7 percent, reported the e-portal of the Vietnamese government on Monday. Besides, Vietnam targets an increase of 10 percent in export value with trade deficit accounting for 6 percent of the total

export revenue, total social development capital making up 30 percent of GDP, poor household reduction by 1.7-2 percent, and 1.6 million new jobs to be created. To meet the set targets, the government drafted nine major tasks and asked all the country's localities to carry out synchronous solutions.

First, priority will be given to macroeconomic stabilization and inflation control by continuing to implement flexible monetary and tight fiscal policies, developing markets, boosting exports and controlling imports. Second, the government is to ease difficulties

for businesses, accelerate production by creating favorable conditions for businesses to easily access loans, and effectively carry out preferential policies.

Third, the government should speed up the implementation of three strategic breakthroughs of finalizing the socialist-oriented market economy institution, rapidly developing human resources, and building a synchronous infrastructure system, along with restructuring the economy, renewing the growth model, and improving the quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy.—*Xinhua*



Locals enjoy the evening in one of the nearby restaurants around the Nam Phou fountain in Vientiane on 26 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

## Economic fears expose Laos' unequal boom

VIENTIANE, 24 Dec— For the Communists running Laos, the fruits of capitalism have never been so bountiful.

The Nam Phou fountain at the heart of the torpid capital, Vientiane, has transformed from a relic into a neon-lit phantasmagoria, surrounded by expensive restaurants. On the increasingly congested roads, the elite car choice is a Range Rover or, failing that, a Lexus.

This is the result of years of more than 8 percent growth, driven by commodities exports and a flood of investment from neighbouring China, Thailand and Vietnam. The Laos stock market, the world's smallest, made its coy debut in 2011.

The boom in Laos, one of Asia's poorest countries, is not over, but serious cracks are starting to show. Economists warn the country of 6.7 million is facing the downside of a development model based on easy credit, resource exploitation and

infrastructure mega projects. "The economy is overheating," Ashvin Ahuja, who led an International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation to Laos in September, told *Reuters*.

The IMF has identified a range of problems.

A shortfall in government revenues coupled with ballooning expenditure — particularly rises in pay to public servants — has seen the fiscal deficit rise to about 6.5 percent of GDP. Inflation is projected to rise to about 7.5 percent by the end of the year, and up to 9.4 percent next year.

The country's foreign exchange reserves are enough to cover just 80 percent of one month's imports.

Western banking and business sources, who insisted on anonymity, told *Reuters* that there had been a shortage of US dollars for several months.

On the streets of Vientiane, frustration is growing as prices rise and incomes become precarious.

*Reuters*



More than 400 students play music celebrating the Christmas season in Hong Kong, south China, on 23 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

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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.

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**MV SILVER LUCKY VOY NO (13133E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER LUCKY VOY NO (13133E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.12.2013 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.

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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.

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Turkish journalists gathered to demand the release of their colleague Bunyamin Aygun, who was kidnapped by al-Qaeda affiliated groups in Syria, in Ankara, Turkey, on 23 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

**S Korea, China to boost academic, youth exchange**

SEOUL, 24 Dec — South Korea is planning to kick off programmes to boost scholars and youth exchanges with China in 2014 in a latest move to strengthen bilateral ties agreed by both presidents in the summit meeting in June, South Korea's foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Under this plan, humanities scholars from the two countries will be invited to conduct one-year joint research projects on mutual

literature and history, according to the ministry.

Besides, teenagers of the two countries will have chances to attend joint forums and other activities related to issues of the North-east Asian region. Another project attempting to boost cooperation and exchanges between cities of the two sides is also underway, the ministry said, adding that details of these programmes will be decided after talking with China.—Xinhua

**Israel's revenues from gas to reach 1 billion shekel by 2015**

JERUSALEM, 24 Dec — Israeli Energy Minister Silvan Shalom said on Monday that the state's revenues from its newly discovered gas fields are expected to double by 2015 and reach a total of one billion shekel (about 280 million US dollars). In 2013, the state's incomes from payment of gas royalties and tax are expected to reach 500 million shekel (about 140 million dollars), Shalom told the Knesset's (parliament) Finance Committee.

Gas production, primarily from the offshore Tamar gas field, is already

boosting Israel's economy. "This year it contributed one percent to the growth," Shalom said.

Today Israel produces electricity and pumps water using costly and polluting diesel and fuel oil. Shalom said that by 2015, the transition to gas-based production is expected save the Israeli economy about three billion shekels (about 850 million dollars) per month. The saving will be achieved due to reduced costs of electricity and water.

Israel's two largest gas reservoirs, named Tamar and Leviathan, were

**Egypt declares Brotherhood as terrorist group**

CAIRO, 24 Dec — Egyptian Interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi on Tuesday declared Muslim Brotherhood, the country's oldest and most influential Islamist movement, as a terrorist group, official news agency MENA reported.

The announcement came after a powerful explosion ripped through a security headquarters in Egypt's Nile Delta city of Mansoura early on Tuesday, killing at least 14 people and injuring 130 others. Most of the victims were police conscripts.

"The Brotherhood has

shown its ugly face as a terrorist group and its acts will not weaken the Egyptian people's determination to move forward," Beblawi was quoted by his media adviser Sherif Shawqi as saying.

In October, the Egyptian authorities ordered to remove the Muslim Brotherhood from a government list of accredited non-governmental organizations. Earlier, a Cairo court also ordered to ban all activities of the Brotherhood group, seize its funds and form a panel to administer its assets.

Xinhua

**Brazilian president unveils 6.8-pct minimum wage hike**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Dec — President Dilma Rousseff announced on Monday that the monthly minimum wage will be lifted to 724 Brazilian reals (306 US dollars) starting next month, a 6.8-percent increase.

In a message via Twitter, Rousseff said she has signed the measure into law after it was approved by Congress last week as part of the 2014 budget, in accordance with the country's GDP growth and inflation-

adjusted. The move is expected to inject an additional 46 billion reals (20 billion dollars) into the Brazilian economy in 2014, according to Sao Paulo's Trade Federation of Goods, Services and Tourism.—Xinhua

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Yangon, 25 December 2013



A strong snowstorm sweeps most regions of the US, causing at least 10 people dead and at least 5 people injured. It is reported that over 18,800 flights were delayed and 1,598 flights were cancelled in the US This photo shows Wisconsin covered with snow.—XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT

**'Lone Survivor' depicts US Navy SEALs comradery in Afghan tragedy**

NEW YORK, 24 Dec — From shooting down a helicopter to firefights, film director Peter Berg spared no details to recreate a tragic United States Navy SEALs mission in Afghanistan in "Lone Survivor," an unflinching account of one of the worst losses of life in the history of the special operations force.

The film, which opens in limited theatres in the United States on Christmas Day and wider release on 10 January, 2014, is based on the best-selling book by Marcus Luttrell, the only

man who lived to recount what happened during the covert June 2005 Operation Red Wings in which 11 SEALs and eight soldiers died.

Two-time Oscar nominee Mark Wahlberg plays Luttrell, a medic and a sharpshooter who was one of a four-man team dropped by helicopter in the rugged mountains near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan on a mission to find a Taliban leader.

The operation was compromised when three Afghan goat herders



Former US Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell poses for a portrait with his dog Mr. Rigby while promoting the film 'Lone Survivor' in New York, in this on 5 Dec, 2013, file photo.—REUTERS

stumbled upon them, leaving the men with a moral dilemma that would lead to the deaths of their unarmed captives or their own.

"The dominant experience for me was the brotherhood that existed between these four men - the tragedy of their loss," said Berg, the director of 2012's action-adventure film "Battle-ship."

Not long after releasing their Afghan captives and scampering further up the mountain hoping to be rescued, the SEALs are outnumbered by

Taliban on three sides. They are forced into a fire-fight and to hurl themselves off steep cliffs, tumbling like rag dolls, slamming against boulders and trees, shattering limbs as bullets and rocket-propelled grenades whizzed by.

"We fought them for hours and hours until we ran out of bullets and we ran out of blood," said Luttrell, who despite wounds and a broken back, crawled for miles and was saved by the kindness of an Afghan villager.

Reuters

**John Mayer to gift Katy Perry antique watch on Christmas**

LOS ANGELES, 24 Dec — Singer John Mayer is reportedly planning to buy a rare watch as a Christmas gift for his girlfriend and pop star Katy Perry.

The 36-year-old has taken help of an antiques dealer to buy the timepiece, reports contactmusic.com.

"He has asked a friend who is a rare watch dealer to email him photos. John is a great giver, who finds unique presents," a source said.

Mayer will have to go a long way to beat last year's gift, when he got her a custom designed guitar covered in intricate designs, including her initials and the date they first met.

**Katy Perry, John Mayer do not speak much at home**

Singer Katy Perry says

there are days when she and her boyfriend John Mayer do not speak with each other at home as they need

to give some rest to their vocal chords. The 29-year-old Roar hitmaker, who reunited with Mayer after a brief split earlier this year, said the couple prefer to communicate through iPad during those silent days at home, reported People magazine. "I understood that he couldn't talk, and the only way he could communicate was through an iPad," Perry, 29, said in an interview on The Ellen DeGeneres Show. "Some days I have to go on complete vocal rest, like no anything, no whispering. Whispering is actually really bad. There's just a lot of silence in our house most of the time," she added.—PTI



John Mayer gave Katy Perry a custom designed guitar as a Christmas present last year.—PTI



Beyonce made an impromptu appearance at Walmart in Massachusetts

**Beyonce surprises shoppers with holiday gift cards**

LOS ANGELES, 24 Dec — Beyonce Knowles surprised Christmas buyers by making an appearance at a shop and treated some of them with gift cards.

The 32-year-old singer made an impromptu appearance at Walmart in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, on 20 December, where she was spotted pushing her own shopping cart and picking up a copy of her self-titled record, which topped the US charts, reported Us magazine.

Beyonce also bought a few toys, including a Barbie dolls, which were apparently for her 23-month-old daughter, Blue Ivy Carter.

"It would be good to get a little toy or something for Blue. That would be cute for her — my baby," Beyonce said, as she picked out a baby doll. The singer

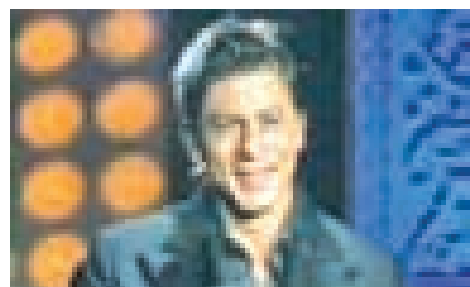
addressed the crowd by using the store's loud speaker.

"Hello Walmart shoppers, testing Walmart shoppers. It's Beyonce! And I stopped by the store today because my record has arrived. I want to give everyone a gift. For everyone in the store right now, the first USD 50 of your holiday gifts are on me. Merry, merry Christmas from Beyonce!," she said.

The Halo hitmaker presented 750 customers with USD 50 gift cards, enclosed within envelopes that read, "Happy Holidays from Beyonce."

Wearing an aqua-coloured crop top and matching skirt with a leather jacket, the singer was in great spirits while greeting a huge number of her fans in the shop.

PTI



Shah Rukh Khan.

**Shah Rukh Khan loves working on holidays**

MUMBAI, 24 Dec — Bollywood Badshah, Shah Rukh Khan says he loves to work during holidays as it gives him a "strange sense of accomplishment."

"Nothing like working during the season of holidays. Has a strange sense of accomplishment. Come on Day, Hit Me!" tweeted the King Khan of Bollywood on Monday.

On the work front, SRK is currently busy shooting for his romantic comedy Happy New Year. Directed by Farah Khan, the movie also features Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan, Boman Irani and Sonu Sood.—PTI

**Nicole Scherzinger plans fashion range**

LOS ANGELES, 24 Dec — Singer Nicole Scherzinger is reportedly planning to launch her own fashion career by designing a clothing range.

The 35-year-old is said to launch her own clothing range with British brand Missguided, and she is expected to snub a return to The X Factor.

"Missguided think she could be great for the brand and fashion is something she wants to get into. Nothing has been signed for next year's X Factor and it's likely that she won't be going back, so it's a great opportunity for Nicole to venture into new areas," contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

"She wants to continue working in the UK (Britain) as she loves it here and feels like an honorary Brit. She's obviously going to be continuing with her music and this will be another string to her bow," the source added.—PTI



Nicole Scherzinger might not return to next year's X-Factor.

## Arsenal and Chelsea serve up bleak midwinter draw

LONDON, 24 Dec—A fixture billed as a pre-Christmas cracker was more 'In the Bleak Midwinter' than 'Jingle Bell Rock' as Arsenal's hopes of regaining top spot in the Premier League fizzled out in a turgid 0-0 draw with Chelsea.

Nine days after losing 6-3 at Manchester City and having seen their title rivals steal a march on them at the weekend, Arsenal found themselves stifled by a defensive Chelsea side and hardly managed a shot on target.

The home fans chanted "Boring, Boring Chelsea" on a rain-lashed night in north London but the

visitors actually had the better of what few chances there were and will take greater satisfaction from a spirit-dampening encounter.

Both sides moved up a place in the table, Arsenal to second with 36 points, behind leaders Liverpool on goal difference, while Chelsea returned to the top four with 34 points, above Everton also on goal difference.

It could have been even better for Chelsea had Frank Lampard's first-half volley hit the back of the net rather than the underside of the crossbar.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, who has never lost to Arsene Wenger in

10 meetings after Monday's draw, appeared quite content to maintain his hold over the Frenchman.

"We controlled the game very well. There was one big chance for us and lots of half chances and for them one big chance and no half chances," Mourinho told reporters.

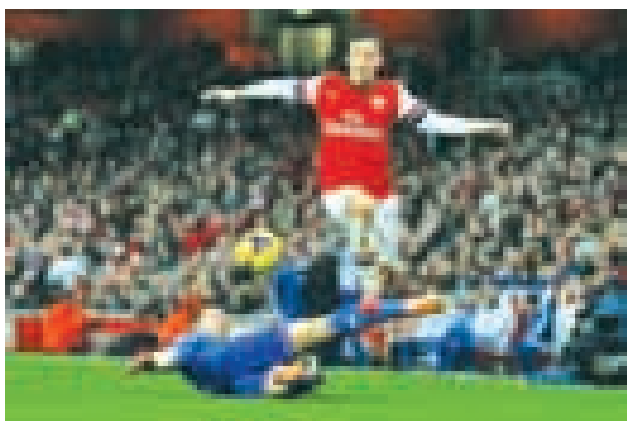
"It was a tactical match. A match that Arsenal wants to win but doesn't want to lose and Chelsea wants to win but doesn't want to lose," Mourinho told *Sky Sports*.

"The (Chelsea) goalkeeper (Petr Cech) was not in the game, we controlled the game defensively. We let (Arsenal midfielder) Mikel Arteta play the ball from side to side, we were completely under control."

Fans who braved a howling gale and driving rain might have wished they had stayed at home to wrap up the Christmas presents.

Many home fans booted at the final whistle and their frustrations were shared by Wenger, who felt his side should have been awarded a first-half penalty when Theo Walcott was caught on the ankle by Brazilian midfielder Willian.

Reuters



Arsenal's Mesut Ozil (top) is challenged by Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic during their English Premier League soccer match at The Emirates in London on 23 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Fellaini faces long Man Utd absence after wrist surgery

MANCHESTER, 24 Dec—Manchester United's big-money signing Marouane Fellaini faces several weeks on the sidelines after having an operation on his wrist, manager David Moyes said on Monday.

Moyes, who was also Fellaini's boss at Everton before both moved to Old Trafford before the start of the season, said at a news conference the 26-year-old was unlikely to play again before the end of January.

"We think probably he will be out for six weeks but

there's a chance it could be shorter than that," he told reporters.

Fellaini has also struggled with a back problem this season and Moyes said: "His back problem was just going to take time. He has a muscle injury in his back which wasn't healing."

"That is maybe going to take longer than we expected so that's when we decided to get the wrist done. He's been unlucky."

"He does not feel 100 percent fit because of his wrist so he's found it dif-

ficult."

The two injuries mean the mop-haired Belgium midfielder could miss both legs of United's Champions League last 16 clash with Olympiakos Piraeus in February and March.

Fellaini has struggled this season to replicate the form that persuaded United to pay Everton 24 million pounds for him in September. He has yet to score a goal in 11 appearances for the Premier League champions.

Moyes, though, gave

## Suarez dreams as race goes into festive overdrive

LONDON, 24 Dec—Few players have undergone the transformation from sinner to saint that Luis Suarez is experiencing this season and the prolific Uruguay striker is now dreaming of winning the Premier League with Liverpool.

Liverpool went top of the table by beating Cardiff City 3-1 on Saturday, Suarez scoring twice to take his season's tally to 19 goals from 12 league matches ahead of the busy Christmas holiday programme which offers no let-up in the title race.

The Anfield club visit fellow contenders Manchester City on Thursday before travelling to Chelsea on Sunday and Suarez, who missed the opening five matches of the season following a ban imposed last season for biting an opponent, is a man reborn.

"It is my dream, I hope to win the league and a big trophy with Liverpool," he was quoted as saying on the club website ([www.liverpoolfc.com](http://www.liverpoolfc.com)) on Monday.

Suarez signed a new four-year contract last week and according to the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper is scoring goals "to make the likes of (former Anfield



Liverpool's Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring a goal during their Premier League match against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane in London on 15 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

greats) Ian Rush, Roger Hunt and Robbie Fowler appear like they were occasional marksmen".

The race for the title reaches the halfway stage with four rounds of matches over Christmas and New Year including the weekend programme which concluded on Monday with Arsenal's 0-0 draw with Chelsea at the Emirates.

Arsenal, who led the way from mid-September until Liverpool went top on Saturday, remain second behind The Reds on goal difference.

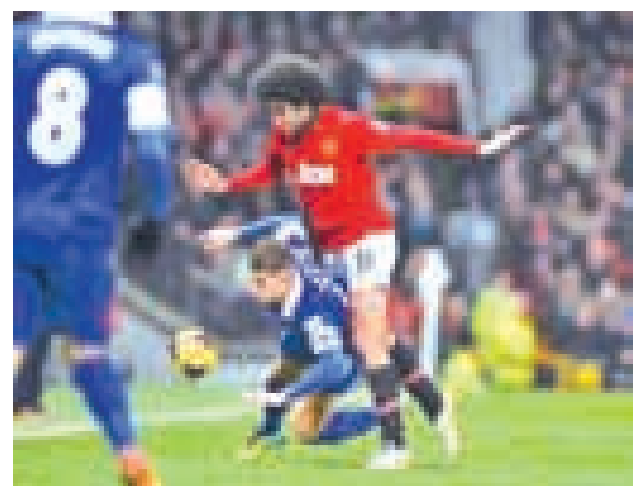
With Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho extending his unbeaten run against counterpart Arsene Wenger

to 10 matches, Liverpool head into Christmas as the top side for the first time since 2008.

Unlike Germany where there is an unofficial 'winter champion', no such accolade exists in England but historically it is no bad thing to top the table at this time of the year.

The top team at Christmas in the 21 completed Premier League seasons has won the title 10 times. Seven of the last nine champions, and all of the last four title winners, were first on 25 December.

The last team to be first at Christmas and miss out on the title were Liverpool in 2009.—Reuters



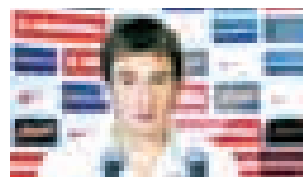
Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini (R) challenges Everton's Ross Barkley during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 4 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Reuters

## England defender Baines may return for Everton on Thursday

LONDON, 24 Dec—England left back Leighton Baines is likely to make his comeback from injury in Everton's Premier League home match against bottom of the table Sunderland on Thursday.

The defender has been out for five games since fracturing his toe in the 3-3 derby draw against Liverpool last month. "Leighton Baines is getting really close and I think it's fair to say



England soccer player Leighton Baines

that, depending how today and tomorrow go, he should be available," Everton manager Roberto Martinez told a news conference on Monday. "We have missed Leighton because you can't

underestimate his quality, experience and know-how."

Martinez praised Costa Rican left back Bryan Oviedo for his performances as stand-in. "He has been terrific," said the manager, "but you want good players in good moments of form to be available". Fourth-placed Everton, who have lost only one league game all season, were unbeaten in the five matches Baines missed.

Reuters

## Froome extends contract with Team Sky

LONDON, 24 Dec — Tour de France champion Chris Froome has strengthened his ties with Team Sky by agreeing a new deal with the British cycling outfit.

"This has been an incredible year for me and I'm delighted to finish it off by signing a new contract with Team Sky," the 28-year-old Briton said in a statement on Monday.

"I've been with this team since the start and I know this is the right place for me to continue to grow." The Kenyan-born rider won the Tour de France for the first time in July, emulating the 2012 success of fellow Briton Bradley Wiggins.

Team Sky also extended the contracts of other members of their team including Peter Kennaugh, David Lopez and Ian Stannard.—Reuters



Race leader jersey holder Team Sky rider, Christopher Froome of Britain cycles during the 204.5 km stage of the centenary Tour de France cycling race from Bourg d'Oisans to Le Grand Bornand, in the French Alps, on 19 July, 2013.—REUTERS



GENERAL

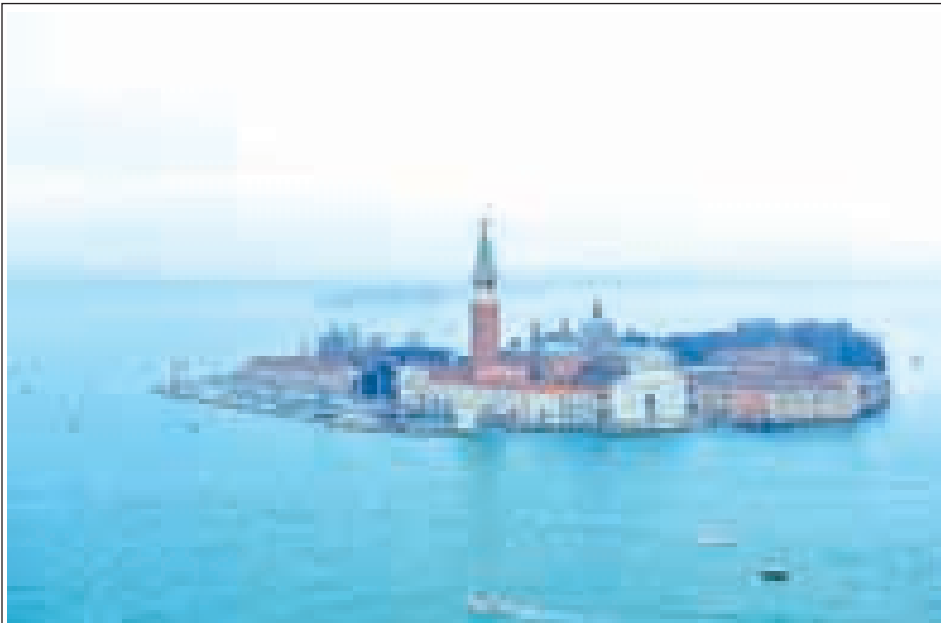


Photo taken on 21 Dec, 2013 shows the San Giorgio Maggiore island in Venice, Italy. Venice is located in northeastern Italy and it's the capital city of Veneto region. Being separated by canals and linked by bridges, Venice is famous for its beautiful view and architecture. The city with its lagoon has been listed as a World Heritage by UNESCO in 1987.—XINHUA

## Nigerian president food poisoning case adjourned to Tuesday

BANJUL, 24 Dec—The food poisoning trial involving Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, his delegation and Gambia's five-star hotel Coco Ocean has been adjourned to on Tuesday.

The Nigerian president was said to have been served with food that had been preserved for a long period, causing him food poisoning during his two-day state visit in Gambia in November.

On Monday, police prosecutor Superintendent Touray appeared at the Kanifing Municipal Council together with defence lawyer Edward Singhateh,

but Magistrate Tabally who should preside over the case was not seen for the proceeding of the case.

He was said to have travelled to the capital less than 9 km away from the Kanifing magistrate court.

The defence council for plaintiff, Edward Singhateh, was also informed at the court house that his client, Ayoub Aliris, chef of the hotel, was arrested again for the second time after released from the police custody.

The plaintiff was said to be under the custody of the National Intelligence Agency, but was later transferred to the State Central

Prison Mile Two.

On Thursday, police charged the chief of Coco Ocean with negligence and food poisoning the Nigerian president and his delegation.

Aliris denied the charges when he appeared at the Kanifing court before Principal Magistrate Sheriff Tabally.

A police charge sheet stated that he unlawfully or negligently cooked prawns served to President Jonathan and his entourage as a starter during a special lunch hosted in honour of the visiting Nigerian head of state.

Xinhua

## MYANMAR TV

(25-12-2013, Wednesday)

<b>6:00 am</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	19. News
<b>6:10 am</b>	<b>3:30 pm</b>
2. Mytta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw	20. India Drama Series
<b>6:35 am</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
3. Physical Exercises	21. News
<b>6:50 am</b>	<b>4:35 pm</b>
4. Documentary	22. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
<b>7:00 am</b>	- Second Years (Myanmar)
5. News/Weather Report	<b>4:50 pm</b>
<b>7:30 am</b>	23. Gitamahar
6. Myanmar Language	<b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	24. News
7. News/ International News	<b>5:30 pm</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	25. India Drama Series
8. India Drama Series	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	26. News/ Weather Report
9. News/ International News	<b>6:20 pm</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	27. Documentary
10. Sing A Song	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>10:00 pm</b>	28. Shwe Yin Khone Than
11. News	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>10:25 pm</b>	29. News
12. Teleplay	<b>7:20 pm</b>
<b>11:00 pm</b>	30. Kyaew Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
13. Cultural Dances	<b>7:40 pm</b>
<b>11:15 pm</b>	31. Teleplay
14. Approaching Science Discovery World	<b>8:00 pm</b>
<b>11:40 pm</b>	32. News/ International News/ Weather Report
15. Musical Programme	<b>8:35 pm</b>
<b>12:00 pm</b>	33. People Talks
16. News/ International News/ Weather Report	<b>8:45 pm</b>
<b>1:40 pm</b>	34. Hit Songs of Stars
17. Documentary	<b>9:00 pm</b>
<b>2:30 pm</b>	35. News
18. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions	36. Fine Arts- Bosom of Dramatic Performance
	37. India Drama Series

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

25-12-13 07:00 am ~ 26-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Mahar Thakya Atula Man Aung-Nga Htat Kyee
- \* World News
- \* Product of Myanmar-Velvet Slipper
- \* Local News
- \* Truly Magical Pindaya
- \* World News
- \* Adventurous Journey to Bontalar Waterfall
- \* Local News
- \* Up Against the Tide
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Movie Review "Superb"
- \* Local News
- \* Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
- \* World News
- \* Traditional Snack
- \* Local News
- \* A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Kathapha
- \* 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)
- \* Myanma Toddy Palm: A Source of Rural Income
- \* Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bo Yatan-amingalar Palace
- \* Green Grocer

## Sherwood in charge at Spurs until end of 2014/15

LONDON, 24 Dec—Tottenham Hotspur have given the inexperienced Tim Sherwood the chance to stamp his mark on the ambitious London club by naming him on Monday as head coach until the end of next season with their sights on the top four. The Premier League club have promoted their former midfielder from his role as youth development manager to replace Andre Villas-Boas, 36, exactly a week after the Portuguese coach was sacked following a humiliating 5-0 home loss to Liverpool.

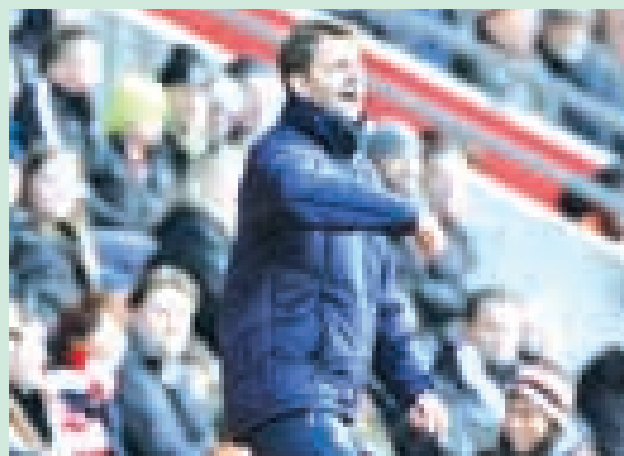
"We were extremely reluctant to make a change mid-season, but felt we had to do so in the club's best interests," chairman Daniel Levy said on the club website (www.tottenhamhot-

spur.com). "We have a great squad and we owe them a head coach who will bring out the best in them and allow them to flourish and enjoy a strong, exciting finish to the season."

"We are in the fortunate position of having within our club a talented coach in Tim Sherwood. We believe Tim has both the knowledge and the drive to take the squad forward."

A technically highly-rated coach, the 44-year-old Sherwood won the Premier League as captain of Blackburn Rovers in 1995 before joining Spurs four years later and staying until 2003 before returning five years later to join the coaching staff.

Sherwood was brought back to the club by former Tottenham manager Harry



Tim Sherwood gestures during their English Premier League soccer match against Southampton at St Mary's stadium in Southampton, southern England on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Redknapp who said this week: "...let's hope Tim can get the job, he has great knowledge of the game. They have got a boy on their books who knows the game

inside out."

Sherwood takes over a team on which Spurs spent more than the 100 million euros they got for Gareth Bale from Real Madrid in

the close season on internationals like Roberto Soldado, Paulinho, Erik Lamela and Christian Eriksen.

Chairman Levy is known to be short on patience, having sacked seven manager's during his time at the club, but Sherwood will hope his brand of attacking football can deliver a top-four finish and a place in next season's Champions League.

That was the minimum requirement that eluded Villas-Boas with the former Chelsea and Porto manager losing his job despite taking Spurs to their record Premier League points tally last term when they came fifth and missed out on Europe's top table.

The Portuguese, who took over in July 2012, had been under pressure after a

6-0 thrashing at Manchester City last month following a 3-0 home reverse by West Ham United, who again won at White Hart lane in the League Cup quarter-final last week. The disappointing 2-1 Cup exit was Sherwood's first game as interim head coach but he engineered a 3-2 win at Southampton on Sunday to leave Tottenham seventh in the standings, six points off leaders Liverpool and north London rivals Arsenal.

That result helped his claims to be given the top job on a permanent basis and Sherwood, a combative midfielder who played nearly 100 games for the club before joining Portsmouth, now has a chance to show what he can do in his first job as head coach.—Reuters

## Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets Prime Minister of Cambodia

### Thingangyun Tsp enjoy electricity supply

YANGON, 24 Dec — With an increase in the number of housing complexes in the commercial city of Yangon, Laydaunkan Ward of Thingangyun Township also saw construction of high-rise buildings in the whole ward and electricity supply has become necessary for the buildings.

So, the township electrical engineer, staff and Thingangyun Township Administrator U Hla Myint performed installation of more transformers, power lines and digital metre boxes in accord with the policies of the Ministry of Electric Power. Recently, a 315 KV transformer was set up at the top of Kandaw street in the ward so as for a housing complex between the third and fourth lanes to have access to electricity supply.

Likewise, electricity

supply works are underway in each and every ward of the township under the leadership of the township administrator.

*Hmwe Hmwe-Thingangyun*



NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—At the invitation of President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, a delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec—Second Coordination Meeting of Leading Committee for hosting 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games took place at Olympic Committee Office in Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex here this morning.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan urged officials involved to make united efforts and cooperation for successful holding of 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games like the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

Later, President of Myanmar Para Sports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and officials from respective committee explained preparations for the game. Then, Deputy Minister U Zaw Win gave a supplementary report.

The opening ceremony of 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games will be held in Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex on 14 January next year. Myanmar hosts the game for the first time in which 1531

U Shwe Mann who is on tour of Cambodia met Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen at Peace Palace of Cambodia on 21 December morning. At the call, they exchanged views on amity and mutual cooperation between the two nations.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party were welcomed by Governor of Siem Reap Province Mr Khim Bun Song and officials at Siem Reap International Airport in Phnom Penh. The governor of Siem Reap Province hosted a dinner to the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Speaker and party at Sokha Hotel.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker visited Angkor Wat temple on 22 December morning.

The Myanmar delegation left there by flight at 1:25 pm LST. They were (See page 9)

## Leading Committee for Organizing 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games meets



*Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivers address at second coordination meeting of Leading Committee for hosting 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games.—MNA*

athletes from 11 countries will participate. The sports to be contested are archery, athletics, boccia, chess, football (5-a-side and 7-a-side), goalball, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball (sitting) and

wheelchair basketball.

Afterwards, the Union minister attended 2nd coordination meeting for holding Union government Cup Golf Tournament at Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Golf Course. Responsible per-

sons from the committee submitted work progress and then Deputy Minister U Thaug Htike gave a supplementary report. The golf tournament will be held on 5-6 January.

*MNA*

## International roaming service accessible to Myanmar phone users

To provide the internet Roaming services, which would help GSM/WCDMA subscribers in Myanmar to get access mobile phone services in foreign countries and GSM/WCDMA subscribers from foreign countries to get access the services in Myanmar, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT)

and Orange Company of France signed the International Roaming Services Agreement on 20 Dec, 2013. As a first phase, GSM/WCDMA subscribers of 64 operators from 33 countries including ASEAN countries can get access the communication services in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the inter-

national roaming service for Myanmar GSM/WCDMA users are on trial run in foreign countries and date on which international roaming service would be enabled in foreign countries would be announced for GSM/CDMA phone users of Myanmar.

*Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications*

## Arrangement for media to cover AMM (Retreat)

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Dec — Journalists can register at the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information to cover the ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting Retreat, AMM (Retreat) which will be held in Bagan from 15 to 18 January. Contact persons for the registration are U Ye Naing (General Manager), Ph: 067-36137;

067-412119; 09-8306358, U Hlaing Myint (Director), Ph: 067-412126; 09-49205014. Journalists can send their registration forms to npemol@gmail.com and media can collect accreditation cards at the NPE to cover the events of the meeting. Foreign Journalists can apply visa at nearby Myanmar embassies and can

download the visa format asean2014 summit, more detail, ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meetings Retreat, AMM (Retreat) on www.asean2014.gov.mm.

For more information, anyone can contact U Hlaing Myint, Director, News and Periodicals Enterprise.—MNA

## China commits \$6.5 billion for Pakistani nuclear projects

ISLAMABAD, 24 Dec—China has committed \$6.5 billion to finance the construction of a major nuclear power project in Pakistan's port city of Karachi as it seeks to strengthen ties with its strategic partner, Pakistani officials said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif broke ground on the \$9.59 billion project last month but officials have provided few details of how they plan to finance it.

Financing documents

seen by Reuters showed China National Nuclear Cooperation (CNNC) has promised to grant a loan of at least \$6.5 billion to finance the project which will have two reactors with a capacity of 1,100 megawatts each.

Two members of the government's energy team and three sources close to the deal confirmed this. CNNC was not available for comment.

"China has complete confidence in Pakistan's capacity to run a nucle-

ar power plant with all checks in place," said Ansar Parvez, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission which runs the civilian nuclear programme.

Parvez declined to give more details of the funding but said it would be completed by 2019 and each of the two reactors would be larger than the combined power of all nuclear reactors now operating in Pakistan.

As part of the deal, China has also waived a

\$250,000 insurance premium on the loan, said two sources in the Energy Ministry with knowledge of the project. They declined to be identified as they are not authorized to speak to the media about the financing.

Pakistan and China, both nuclear-armed nations, consider each other close friends and their ties have been underpinned by common wariness of India and a desire to hedge against US influence in South Asia.

*Reuters*



*Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.—REUTERS*