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## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives ROK Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. LEE Baek Soon at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building, here, this noon.

(See page 9)

## Protection of farmers' rights discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—The first work coordination meeting of the leading committee for formulation of laws and bylaws to protect the rights and to promote the interests of farmers took place at the hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, this morning.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint and U Win Myint, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee for Development of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries U Soe Naing, Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than, U Ye Htut, U Than Tun, U Zin Yaw, U Thein Aung,

(See page 9)

## Ministries meet to hold sports events on Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—A work coordination meeting between the ministries on holding sports events to mark

the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day took place at the Ministry of Sports, here, this morning. (See page 9)



Officials of ministries concerned draw lots for competing in futsal, tug of war and sepaktakraw events on the Independence Day.

KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)



First work coordination meeting of the leading committee for formulation of laws and bylaws to protect the rights and to promote the interests of farmers in process.—MNA

## Goods meeting origin criteria to be exempted from customs duties

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—If the goods included in the product specific rules list are agreed with origin criteria of receptive items while exporting them to ASEAN member countries, the goods will be given exemption from custom duties as the products of origin countries.

According to Harmonized System-HS 2007 shown in appendix (3) of Agreement on Trade in Goods being implemented by ASEAN member countries, a list of items that follows the Product Specific Rules-PSR was made. According to the Harmonized System with a five-year

review drawn up by World Customs Organization, HS 2007 will be replaced with HS 2012 in international. So, ASEAN member countries had already approved to replace the Product Specific Rules-PSR List that follows the HS-2007 with HS-2012.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, origin criteria of the list of 2652 items are available at Commerce.gov.mm with the aim of enabling Myanmar import-export entrepreneurs to boost trading with ASEAN countries in accord with the prescribed origin criteria.

LAPYAEWUN

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## Men's sitting volleyball team sets sight on gold medal in Para Games

Sitting volleyball athletes with disabilities of Myanmar has a gold medal target at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games to be held from 14 to 20 January in Nay Pyi Taw.

"We have got a wealth of experiences from the previous games held in Thailand in 1999, in Busan in 2002, in Malaysia in 2006 and 2009, in China in 2010 and in Indonesia in 2011. I took home two gold and two silver in the five games—Pacific and Para games. Myanmar athletes who are going to compete in

the coming 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games aims to bag gold medals", said Ko Zaw Moe Aung, one of sitting volleyball players.

Assistant Coach U Nyan Soe gave an account of the sitting volleyball, saying that disabled players play the sitting volleyball exactly the same as regular volleyball. For the disabled volleyball athletes, he continued that they have to play the volleyball, sitting on the floor.

"There are 12 players with below-or above- knee amputation in the team. Scoring rules in sitting volleyball are similar to that

### Byline: Kyemon

of regular volleyball. Cambodia and Thailand teams are included in the list of participants to the sitting volleyball competition of the games. The coach team of men's sitting volleyball team of Myanmar includes one manager/coach, one manager, one coach and two assistant coaches, totaling five", he added.

"Myanmar women sitting volleyball team is consisted of 12 players. They are from the Schools for Disabled Persons. They have no competition expe-



Sitting volleyball athletes under training to participate in 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games.

riences and it will be first experience for them. We learnt Indonesia and Timor-Leste will take part in the women's sitting volleyball competition. A total of 10

Myanmar referees will take care of the competition. The coach team of the women's sitting volleyball team is comprised of one coach, one assistant coach

and one manager", said Daw Myint Myint Aye, coach of women's sitting volleyball team.

Kyemon: 26-12-2013

Trs: YM



LOCAL NEWS

Participants to 7th ASEAN Para Games to undergo training in Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec— According to the Myanmar Para Sports Federation, the para sports athletes will undergo training at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw as of 27 December so as to take part in the 7th ASEAN Paralympic Games.

Staff Officer Daw Khin Swe Aye of the federation said, “The building was constructed in July.

The opening ceremony of the building has not yet been held. In the past, the athletes were organized at the camp for the training at Mingaladon General

Hospital (1000-bed), Kyimyindine School for the Blinds, and Khewegyan School for the Blind due to shortage of sports venues. Now, they are under training at the new building.”

She continued, “The 24th Myanmar National Para Sports Competitions were held. The outstanding athletes were picked out from the competitions and then they are undergoing training.”

At present, about 200 athletes are under training as part of preparations for

taking part in the 7th ASEAN Para Games 2014. They are under management of 70 managers and coaches including one foreign swimming coach and one from JICA.

The games will comprise 12 sports events namely archery, track and field, Bocia, seven in one football event, five in one football event, goal ball event, table tennis, swimming, chess, volleyball, wheelchair, basketball and weightlifting events.

MMAL-Soe Win (SP)

Development

Regional development tasks inspected

KANBALU, 26 Dec— Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye together with Region Minister for Development Affairs U Tin Hlaing Myint and departmental officials, on 21 December inspected renovation of Shwemuhtaw Pagoda and Shwedaung U Pagoda in Male Village

of Kanbalu Township that the earthquake hit on 11 November 2012 and attended to the needs.

The Chief Minister and party viewed progress of 16-bed hospital built by Myanmar Khit Co.

After inspecting progress of the new school building at Village Basic

Education High School, the Chief Minister and party met members of construction committee and fulfilled the requirements for timely completion of the tasks.

Later, they presented sports gear, exercise books and publications to the school.

MMAL-Aung Nyein Win



Agriculture

Palethwe paddy sowing in Kyaiklat

KYAIKLAT, 26 Dec— The demonstration on soil preparations and Palethwe strain paddy seed sowing was held through good

agriculture pattern in Hleseik Village of Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Region, recently.

It was organized by Kyaiklat Township Agriculture Department.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Aung Naing explained culti-

vation of Palethwe paddy strains through GAP, Head of District Agriculture Department U Naing Lin and Head of Township

Agriculture Department U Tin Maung Oo, five points reform of agricultural development and 14 points GAP system.—MMAL-Ko Gyi Tin



Environmental Conservation

5000 crabs released into mangroove forests

BOKPYIN, 26 Dec—As part of efforts to conserve the environment, Bokpyin Township Fisheries Department organized the ceremony to release 5000 crabs into the mangroove forests at Kalon Creek field area of Ohndawkan Village-tract on 20 December.

The ceremony was attended by Head of Taninthayi Region Fisheries Department U Tun Win, the Township Administrator, departmental officials, members of non-governmental organizations, heads of Kawthoung District and Township

Fisheries Departments, staff and local fishermen.

They released the crabs less than 100 grams into the mangroove forests with the aim of preventing the crab depletion at the mangroove forests in the region.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Overheated wire fire reduces houses into ashes in Toungoo

TOUNGOO, 26 Dec—A fire broke out at Win Thiri tea and fried pea, U Arngu house, Win Gabar mobile phone shop and Soe Yadan

Goldsmith on Merchant Street in Ward 17 of Toungoo at 1 pm on 24 December.

There were no casualties in the fire but the people lost

their property.

A total of 33 members of Fire Services Department and 50 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people



put out the fire with the use of six fire trucks from Toungoo Township Fire Station and one supportive vehicle, one fire engine from Pyu Township, two from Ottwin Township, one from Yedashe Township and one from Htantabin Township, totalling 11 and three water bowsers of Daw Khin Htay of Toungoo under the management of the Toungoo District Deputy Commissioner and the commander of Toungoo District Police Force. The fire fighters could place the fire under control at 4.30 am.

Investigation is underway over outbreak of fire.

MMAL-Thura (Toungoo)

New school building handed over

MAHLAING, 26 Dec—A ceremony to hand over Gangawnewschool building, toilet and furniture donated by Japanese Government and people to Education Department was held at Basic Education Primary School in Kangyi Village of Mahlaing Township on 20 December.

At first, Township Administrator U Aung Thein Hlaing, Secretary of Japanese Embassy in Myanmar Mr Go Nakaya and Township Education Officer Daw San Yi formally opened the new school building.

On behalf of the Japanese Ambassador,

the Japanese Secretary explained the purpose of donation and handed over documents related to the building to the township education officer.

The township administrator and the Region Hluttaw representative presented certificate of honour and commemorative pennant to the wellwisher.

The new building is 100 feet by 30 feet. The building, the toilet and furniture cost US\$ 91,996 under the 2012 small scale project assistance programme of the Japanese Government and the people.

MMAL-Aung Htay (Mahlaing)



## WORLD

## Japan, Russia to hold territorial talks in Tokyo on 31 January

TOKYO, 26 Dec — Japan and Russia will hold territorial negotiations in Tokyo on 31 January, following similar talks last August aimed at resolving the long-standing dispute between the two countries, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Thursday.

The dispute over the ownership of Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia, has prevented the two

countries from signing a post-World War II peace treaty.

“I hope that through the discussions, Japan-Russia relations will be shored up as a whole, and that, in turn, will produce outcomes in the discussions about the Northern Territories issue and the issue of concluding a peace treaty,” Kishida told a news conference. Along with the territorial issue, the planned meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama and his

Russian counterpart Igor Morgulov is expected to address economic cooperation between the two countries.

The deputy foreign ministers held talks in Moscow in mid-August, effectively resuming the territorial negotiations between the two countries. Four islands off Hokkaido — Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in World War II on 15 August, 1945.—*Kyodo News*



Photo taken on 20 Nov, 2013 shows some participants standing to exchange views over the issue of women's human rights during the ninth assembly of the World Conference of Religions for Peace in Vienna.

KYODO NEWS

## Egypt declares Muslim Brotherhood terrorist group after blast

CAIRO, 26 Dec — The Egyptian government on Wednesday blamed the Muslim Brotherhood for the bombing of the police headquarter in Mansoura city and officially declared the Muslim Brotherhood a “terrorist group,” from which the ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi hails.

“All Egyptians were horrified by the heinous crime committed by Muslim Brotherhood on Tuesday when it blew up the Daqahleya Governorate police headquarter that killed at least 16 persons and injured more than 130 others,” a government statement said on Wednesday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education, Hossam Eissa, declared that the Brotherhood organization inside and outside Egypt a terrorist organization. He accused them of

seeking to disturb Egypt's transition to democracy.

Eissa said that terrorism law will be enforced on everyone who participates, finances or propagates the activities of the group.

Eissa added that the government has tasked the police and army forces to protect public facilities and universities against the terrorist acts of the group.

Mansoura bombing is still under investigation. However, it was claimed by Sinai-based Jihadist group Ansar Beit al-Maqdis. Brotherhood condemned the bomb attack on Tuesday.

Since the ouster of Morsi, Brotherhood supporters have staged many protests that in many cases turned into violent, while students, affiliated to the group, tried to disturb studying in different Egyptian universities.—*Xinhua*



Security forces are deployed near the Prime Minister Hun Sen's house in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 25 Dec, 2013. Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy vowed to mobilize 1 million supporters into capital Phnom Penh on Sunday as the opposition party's daily protests against Prime Minister Hun Sen's government entered the 11th day on Wednesday.

XINHUA

## Bangladesh troops sent out to try to stem election violence

DHAKA, 26 Dec — Tens of thousands of troops fanned out across Bangladesh on Thursday in a bid to stem political violence ahead of next month's elections, which the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist

Party (BNP) has boycotted.

Violence has gripped the country as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her ruling Awami League press ahead with the 5 January vote.

BNP leader Begum

Khaleda Zia has called on Bangladeshis to march to the capital on Sunday to protest against the elections, declaring “democracy is dead”.

The opposition says it will not take part unless an interim government is installed and Hasina steps down. Hasina wants to do away with the practice of installing a caretaker government.

With the BNP's boycott, more than half the 300 parliament seats will go uncontested, making it unlikely the vote will do anything to restore stability in one of the world's poorest countries.

The army will be deployed until 9 January, an Election Commission official said.—*Reuters*



Delegates listen to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (pictured on screens) while she addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, on 27 Sept, 2013.—*REUTERS*

## Thai Election Commission asks for poll delay after clashes

BANGKOK, 26 Dec — Thailand's Election Commission (EC) called for a February poll to be postponed on Thursday after bloody clashes between riot police and anti-government protesters seeking to topple Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and scuttle the ballot.

One policeman was killed and three were wounded by gunshots fired from an elevated position during the chaos, which erupted as riot police fired teargas and rubber bullets at rock-throwing protesters seeking to break into the venue of an election ballot numbers draw.

About 40 demonstrators were hospitalised, most from teargas, while several were hit by rubber bullets, the Public Health Ministry

said.

Hours after the unrest started, the EC issued a statement recommending the government postpone the vote until all sides supported it, an unlikely scenario given that Yingluck's Puea Thai Party is almost certain to win.

The EC's request is a setback for Yingluck as she seeks to renew her mandate in the face of demonstrations by a group calling for a suspension of Thailand's fragile democracy, which they say has been subverted by her influential, self-exiled brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The clashes are also a big blow to Yingluck, who had ordered police to act with restraint, fearing opponents would stir chaos intentionally to weaken the

government and trigger an intervention, either by the military or judiciary.

“The 2 February election may not happen if there's no mutual consent between all the related parties,” the EC said.

“The election com-

mission would like to ask the government to consider postponing the election until the mutual consent could be reached,” it said, adding that it could take that decision itself in a 2 January crisis meeting.

*Reuters*



An anti-government protester (top, L) waves his knife as they attack the Thai-Japan youth stadium during clashes with policemen in central Bangkok on 26 Dec, 2013.—*REUTERS*

## Bomb blast hits bus in Cairo, four injured

CAIRO, 26 Dec — A bomb blast hit a bus in Cairo's Nasr City district on Thursday, injuring four people, a spokesman for Egypt's interior ministry told Reuters, two days after a car bomb killed 16 in the Nile Delta.

The homemade device had been put on a traffic island and a second one, found nearby, was being dismantled, Hani Abdel Latif said. State television showed footage of a bus with its windows blown out.

Attacks across Egypt over the last few days have raised fears of intensifying violence in the run-up to a constitutional referendum in January as the interim government pushes ahead with an army-backed plan for political transition.

The government has vowed to fight “black terrorism” after Tuesday's deadly attack on a police compound in the city of Mansoura which also injured about 140 people.

Bomb attacks and shootings have become an almost daily occurrence in the Sinai peninsula since the army toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July following mass protests against his rule.

*Reuters*



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



The HULU Plus app is played on a Samsung Galaxy phone in this photo-illustration in New York, on 23 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

## Hulu must face privacy lawsuit, US judge rules

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Dec — Hulu has failed to persuade a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit accusing the video streaming service of illegally sharing users' viewing history with Facebook Inc and business metrics company comScore Inc.

In San Francisco on Friday, US Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler rejected Hulu's argument that viewers needed to show actual injury to recover damages, even if they qualified as "aggrieved" persons under a 1988 federal law protecting the privacy of video renters.

That law, the Video Privacy Protection Act (VPPA), was adopted after

a newspaper published an article in 1987 about movies that Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork had rented.

Hulu had argued that the law "was not adopted to impose multi-billion dollar liability on the transmission of anonymous data where no one suffers any actual injury."

Beeler, however, concluded that "the statute requires only injury in the form of a wrongful disclosure" before damages might be available. She did not rule on the merits of the case. Hulu is a joint venture owned by Comcast Corp's NBCUniversal, 21st Century Fox Inc's Fox Broadcasting, and

Walt Disney Co's ABC. Chief Executive Mike Hopkins said on 18 December Hulu will post \$1 billion of revenue in 2013, up from \$695 million in 2012.

Hulu spokeswoman Meredith Kendall declined to comment on the decision, saying Hulu does not comment publicly on ongoing legal matters.

The lawsuit seeks class-action status on behalf of Hulu users nationwide. It was brought by several people in California, Illinois and New York seeking damages of at least \$2,500 per violation, plus punitive damages and other sums.

Reuters

## Alibaba rival JD.com to top sales target as Chinese shoppers flock to Internet

BEIJING, 26 Dec — JD.com, China's second-largest e-commerce site, is set to exceed 100 billion yuan (\$16.47 billion) in annual sales for the first time in a market that has drawn investment from global retailing names such as Amazon and Wal-Mart.

Sales volumes will likely eclipse the company's target of 100 billion yuan compared with 60 billion yuan in 2012, JD.com said in a Press release on Monday. The smaller rival of China's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd said it has broken even for the first three quarters of the year and may turn profitable at any time, declining to be more specific.

China's business-to-consumer e-commerce sales may surpass \$180 billion this year due to a rising Internet penetration rate, expanding middle class incomes and a steadily improving distribution network, according to New York-based market

research firm eMarketer.

The country's e-commerce prospects have attracted investment from Wal-Mart, which now owns roughly 51 percent of Chinese e-tailer Yihaodian. Amazon bought e-tailer Jjoy.com in 2004, which eventually became Amazon China.

"The market itself is growing, we're also growing our market share," JD.com's Chief Operating Officer Shen Haoyu told Reuters in a telephone interview on Monday. "People are getting more comfortable with buying online."

As a private company, JD.com does not release revenue figures, and would not say if it broke even in previous years.

"We're not making crazy money, but we're not

losing crazy money," Shen said. JD.com, previously known as 360Buy, has done well enough to attract foreign investors.

Over the past six years, it has secured \$2.23 billion from investors including the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Kingdom Holding Co, using these funds to expand its logistics network and employ aggressive pricing tactics. But despite its fast growth, JD.com still stands in the shadow of its main B2C competitor, Alibaba's Tmall, which dominates 51.1 percent of the market, according to Chinese Internet market research firm iResearch. JD.com has 17.5 percent and Amazon China controls just 2.6 percent.

Reuters



Two Jingdong, also known as JD.com, couriers chat at the entrance to the company's Haidian District delivery station in Beijing, on 20 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

## Co-founder Lazaridis cuts stake in BlackBerry

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Dec — BlackBerry Ltd co-founder Mike Lazaridis cut his stake in the company to 4.99 percent from 8 percent, and said that a group, which included Lazaridis, walked away from exploring a bid for the troubled smartphone maker.

Co-founders Lazaridis and Douglas Fregin in October disclosed in a

regulatory filing they were considering a bid to buy the company.

BlackBerry abandoned its plan to sell itself last month after a two-month review of strategic options and talks with potential buyers that included Facebook, Lenovo and private equity firms such as Cerberus Capital.

Reuters



Mike Lazaridis, President and Co-CEO of Research In Motion, speaks during BlackBerry's DevCon at the Moscone West Centre in San Francisco, California, on 18 Oct, 2011.—REUTERS

## Seagate to buy Xyratex to add test equipment business

NEW YORK, 26 Dec — Seagate Technology Plc said it would buy network and storage equipment maker Xyratex Ltd for about \$374 million to strengthen its supply and manufacturing chain for disk drives.

Xyratex shares were up 27 percent at \$13.25 per share in morning trading, matching Seagate's offer price.

The deal will help Seagate acquire testing equipment for its hard disk drives (HDD) along with storage systems to analyze and manage network data.

The acquisition could help Seagate maintain its gross margins at the 27-33 percent level as it begins to



own more of the equipment that it uses, FBN Securities analyst Shebly Seyrafi told Reuters.

Seagate and rival Western Digital Corp,

which dominate the HDD market, have been trying to expand their presence in the faster and more energy efficient solid-state drives market as demand slows in

a declining PC market.

Seagate's deal with Xyratex could be a "complementary asset, but not a real game-changer", Argus Research analyst Jim Kelleher said. Seagate shares were little changed at \$55.92 on the Nasdaq on Monday. The company said it expects the deal to close in mid-2014, and add about \$500-\$600 million in revenue in its fiscal year 2015.

Allen & Co LLC was the financial adviser for Seagate, while Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati acted as primary legal adviser.

Credit Suisse was the financial adviser and Latham & Watkins LLP the legal adviser to Xyratex.

Reuters

## China's moon rover "sleeps" through lunar night

BEIJING, 26 Dec — The moon rover and lander of China's Chang'e 3 lunar probe mission will "sleep" during the lunar night, enduring extreme low temperatures on the lunar surface.

According to Wu Fenglei of the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre, the lander will "go to sleep" at about 7 am on

Christmas Day and the moon rover, Jade Rabbit, will fall asleep at about 1 am on Boxing Day.

The forthcoming lunar night, expected to begin on 26 December, will last for about two weeks, experts with the centre estimated. During their "sleep", both lander and rover will have to tolerate minus 180 degrees Celsius. Scientists

tested the lander early on Tuesday to ensure it can stand the temperature drop.

Both lander and rover are stable, said Wu, adding they have completed a series of scientific tasks in the past two days.

Chang'e-3 soft-landed on the moon's Sinus Iridum, or the Bay of Rainbows, on 14 December, establishing China as the

third country to carry out such a mission after the United States and Soviet Union.

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



## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## 8 tips to keep you warm and healthy in winter



**1. Eat more foods that can nourish blood**

Red dates have good blood enriching

benefit. Eat five to eight red dates between meals.

**2. Eat more foods that are rich in iron and calcium**

Sufficient supply of iron and calcium can improve the body's ability to keep out the cold. Calcium-rich foods include milk, bean products, kelp, seaweed, shellfish, oysters, sardines, and shrimp. Iron-rich foods include animal blood, egg yolks, pork liver, soybeans, sesame seeds, black fungus, and red dates.

**3. Have hot spring bath**

Most hot springs contain sulfur. TCM believes that sulfur is one of the best minerals nourishing Yang Qi in human body.

**4. Do exercise half an hour every day**

In winter, people can choose outdoor exercises like jogging, riding bicycle, and playing Taichiquan; or indoor exercises like setting-up exercise, table tennis, and bowling.

**5. Drink more boiled water**

The air is dry in winter. Drink more boiled water can ensure a sufficient water

supply for the human body, and eliminate the waste from the body.

**6. Regulate the spleen and stomach functions**

In winter, you can choose a few spleen and stomach enriching foods that are warm in character, such as pumpkin, yam, Chinese wolfberry fruits, and glossy ganoderma.

**7. Have hot foot bath**

The hot foot bath is a very soothing and relaxing form of water therapy. Bathe feet in hot water can promote the body's meridian and blood circulation; thus improve the symptoms of cold hands and feet in winter.

**8. Put an orange or a small bottle of peppermint oil near your bed**

Orange is warm in character, its strong smell helps get rid of viruses. Eating an orange before bed can relieve cough and reduce sputum. The smell of peppermint oil has effects that cure headache and nasal congestion.

Xinhua



## Still in talks on NuGen stake, wants part of GDF holding

TOKYO, 26 Dec — Toshiba Corp (6502.T) CEO Hisao Tanaka said on Thursday that his company was still in talks on buying a stake in Britain's NuGen nuclear consortium and no deal had been reached yet, despite Iberdrola SA's (IBE.MC) announcement this week of an agreement on a 50 percent stake sale.

Tanaka said a deal was expected as early as January and reiterated that his

company wanted a majority stake in the nuclear project, due to be built at a site in Sellafield on England's northwest coast. That would require purchasing part of the stake held by GDF Suez (GSZ.PA), Iberdrola's joint venture partner.

Toshiba also said it wanted GDF Suez to remain a partial owner of the project and its eventual operator.

Reuters



The logo of Toshiba Corp is seen at an electronics store in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 25 June, 2013.

REUTERS

## Surge of holiday packages delays UPS shipments

NEW YORK, 26 Dec — A high volume of holiday packages overwhelmed shipping and logistics company UPS (UPS.N), the company said on Wednesday, delaying the arrival of Christmas presents around the globe and sending angry consumers to social media to vent. Amazon.com (AMZN.O) responded with an email to affected customers offering shipping refunds and \$20 gift cards to compensate.

A convergence of factors, including higher volume than expected and recent patches of bad weather, caused the delays, UPS spokeswoman Natalie Black said. The company projected 132 million deliveries last week "and obviously we exceeded that," Black said, without disclosing how many packages had been sent.

"For now, UPS is really focused on delivering the remaining packages," Black said. "You might not see trucks, but people are

working." Customers awaiting deliveries should expect packages on Thursday or Friday and those with delivery guarantees will get appropriate refunds, she said. Amazon.com's email said credits were applied directly to user accounts.

Packages shipped via UPS for Amazon.com by Prime customers, who pay \$79 a year for two-day shipping, may be eligible for additional refunds. Amazon's stated policy for missed deliveries is to offer a free one-month extension of Prime.

UPS has not yet coordinated with Amazon, nor has it determined what percentage of the undelivered packages were from Amazon, Black said. Amazon also did not disclose how many of its shipments were affected or how many users got the email about delayed orders.

"If customers from Amazon were impacted, we'll work with Amazon to resolve that," Black said.

Amazon processed customer orders on time for holiday delivery, company spokeswoman Mary Osako

said. "We are reviewing the performance of the delivery carriers," she said.

Frustrated consumers took to social media, with some complaining that gifts purchased for their children would not arrive in time to make it under the tree by Christmas morning. "Really @UPS would have been better had you delivered our package yesterday like it was scheduled," tweeted a user named Heather Bender, who added the hashtags #UPSFail and #NoSantaGiftForMySon.—Reuters



UPS delivery man Vinny Ambrosino prepares to deliver packages on Christmas Eve while wearing a Rudolf nose and antlers in New York, on 24 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Doctors predict spike in requests for maternity care

BEIJING, 26 Dec — The government's relaxation of its birth rule to allow more couples to have a second

preparations for changes that will come with the new policy — which authorities expect to be implemented early next year — are now under way.

Late last month, the Obstetrics & Gynecology Hospital affiliated with the Zhejiang University took the national lead by opening a special consultation unit designed to help newly eligible couples have a healthy second child. Hospital authorities said the unit would be open once a week and that it would be staffed by veteran doctors aiming to help women have smooth pregnancies.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, veteran gynecology and obstetrics specialists expressed concerns about what they see as a possible gap between the rising demand for maternity services

and the current capacity to deliver them. The system is already strained, they say.

Wang Aiming, director of gynecology and obstetrics at the Navy General Hospital in Beijing, said the policy will put more pressure on her department if more women choose to give birth. The number of problem cases will also rise, she said. "Right now we are running at our full capacity," she said.

Last year about 2,500 children were born in the hospital, and her department is already considering shortening the time a woman can stay in the delivery ward. Since the government announced the new policy allowing only-child couples to have two children, many couples with a new baby in mind have come to Wang's department for assistance. Wang said she believes they will keep coming. "They include women who have had miscarriages as a result of previous abortions, and those who cannot get pregnant easily because of their age," she said.—Xinhua

## Mazda finds no problem with CX-5 SUV after test drive accident

SAITAMA, (Japan), 26 Dec — Mazda Motor Corp said on Thursday it has found no problem with its CX-5 sport utility vehicle through its joint investigation with police into an accident involving the vehicle during a test drive last month.

During the drive on

10 November to test the vehicle's automatic brake system in Saitama, north of Tokyo, the vehicle failed to stop in front of a mat and collided with a chain-link fence, injuring its driver and a Mazda salesperson in the front passenger seat.

Local police sources said the vehicle's automatic

brake system is designed to work at a speed of 30 kilometres per hour or less when the accelerator is not pressed and that the accident may be attributable to some human error.

Mazda said it will continue its voluntary suspension of test drive campaigns.—Kyodo News



## WORLD



In this handout photograph released by Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on 24 Dec, 2013, Pakistani Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Major General Aamer Riaz (R) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia upon his arrival on the Pakistan-India Wagah Border Post. Pakistan and Indian military officials Tuesday agreed to implement a bilateral ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in the disputed Kashmir region, the military said.

XINHUA

## 97 Chinese workers evacuated from South Sudan to Khartoum

KHARTOUM, 25 Dec—A total of 97 Chinese oil workers on Wednesday arrived in the Sudanese capital Khartoum after being evacuated from South Sudan due to the widespread clashes there.

The workers of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) were operating at the Fuluj oil field in South Sudan's Upper Nile state, where the South Sudanese army have confirmed clashes are raging between them and some defectors. Two more batches of Chinese workers, 97 and 110 in headcount, are expected to arrive in Khartoum later.

The first batch of the Chinese workers were received at Khartoum Airport by Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Luo Xiaoguang and an official from CNPC.

Luo commended the Sudanese government for its role in facilitating the evacuation of the Chinese workers

to Khartoum.

CNPC Chief Representative in Sudan Zhao Dong, meanwhile, told *Xinhua*: "According to the arrangements by South Sudan's Petroleum Ministry, oil wells in remote areas have been shut down, and the operations at those fields have been halted and the workers have been evacuated on a contingency plan."



Chinese evacuated from South Sudan leave the terminal at the airport in Khartoum, Sudan, on 25 Dec, 2013.

XINHUA

## Jewelry store robbed in Albania on Christmas Eve

TIRANA, 26 Dec—Four armed robbers disguised as "Santa Claus" robbed jewelries worth of 410,000 US dollars from a store in the suburbs of Tirana, capital of Albania, on Christmas Eve, local media reported on Wednesday.

The incident occurred on 24 December at the "Tirana East Gate" shopping center where the robbers, who took the holiday atmosphere by dressing

"Santa Clauses" costumes, passed security with two Kalashnikov rifles, according to media reports.

Surveillance video showed that they entered a jewelry store, keeping the store employee on gunpoint, then grasped a large amount of golden necklaces, bracelets and rings and put them into two big bags.

Two minutes later, the four robbers fled the scene to meet with their fellow driver

who was waiting in a car at the shopping mall and they escape immediately.

Fortunately, no one got injured during the robbery, but the incident caused widespread panics while the robbers carrying guns rushing out.

The Albanian police came to the scene to investigate into the case. They checked the surveillance video and inquired 14 witnesses.—*Xinhua*

## South Sudan President Kiir urges end to tribal atrocities

JUBA, 26 Dec — South Sudan President Salva Kiir called for an end to wanton killings and tribal-based atrocities on Wednesday, as government troops clashed with rebels loyal to his former deputy in an oil-producing region of the country.

Western powers fear the violence could spiral out of control and lead to a civil war split along ethnic lines in the world's newest state, and the UN Security Council on Tuesday agreed to almost double the number of peacekeepers there.

"Innocent people have been wantonly killed. People are targeting others because of their tribal affiliation. This is unacceptable," Kiir said, according to an official Twitter account of South Sudan's government. "These atrocities

recurring by now have to cease immediately," Kiir added.

The violence erupted in the capital Juba on 15 December and has quickly spread, dividing the landlocked country of 10.8 million along ethnic lines of

Nuer and Dinka. Western powers and east African states, keen to prevent more chaos in a fragile region, have tried to mediate between Kiir, a Dinka, and rebel leader Riek Machar, a Nuer, who was vice president until Kiir sacked him

in July. European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton is sending an envoy to the country, the European Commission said on Wednesday. A South Sudan government official said Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta would arrive in Juba on Thursday morning to help mediate as well.

Despite African Union calls for a Christmas Day ceasefire, rebels and government troops on Wednesday clashed in Malakal, capital of the major oil state of Upper Nile.

"In Malakal, rebel forces are on one side, and government troops on another. Fighting is still taking place," Army spokesman Philip Aguer told *Reuters* on Wednesday.

Reuters



A South Sudan army soldier holds his weapon in Bor, 180 km (108 miles) northwest from capital Juba on 25 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## Japan gov't panel proposes review of controls on working hours

TOKYO, 26 Dec — A Japanese government panel called on Thursday for reviewing regulations on working hours as part of efforts to boost Japan's industrial competitiveness.

In an interim report, a subpanel of the government's industrial competitiveness council urged the introduction of a new system which requires business corporations to increase flexibility in the way employees work and pay only a certain amount of salary regardless of

working hours.

Members of the council are studying Japan's growth strategy in the fields of employment and human resources.

In the 15-page report, the panel proposed establishing a flexible working hour system mainly for high-level specialists to help them increase creativity.

The panel also proposed studying fresh measures to maintain workers' health by providing them with breaks during their

working hours.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to reflect these proposals in the government's growth strategy to be revised in mid-2014 after consulting with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, government sources said.

The report also proposed popularizing job cards that contain a person's professional record, including job training, in an effort to support job seekers.—*Kyodo News*

## Benazir Bhutto's murder still remains mystery 6 years after

ISLAMABAD, 26 Dec—The tragic assassination of Pakistan's first woman Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto still remains a mystery as her party is set to observe the 6th anniversary of her death on Friday.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the murder and the trial of some suspects is still underway. Benazir Bhutto, a charismatic leader who served Pakistan twice as prime minister, was killed in a suicide attack shortly after she addressed a huge election rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on 27 December, 2007. The then government of Pervez Musharraf was quick to blame Pakistani Taliban founder Baitullah Mehsud and al-Qaeda for masterminding the attack.

Bhutto had been strongly critical of the Taliban which until now has continued its suicide attacks in some parts of Pakistan.

Security officials had released audio tape of two persons, whom they described as Taliban operatives, who greeted each other on the Benazir's assassination. The Taliban had, however, denied involvement and blamed the security establishment for the assassination. The leadership of the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), including former President Asif Ali Zardari, the spouse of Benazir Bhutto, had also pointed fingers at the Taliban on some occasions. But the mystery has not yet been resolved as to who had masterminded the plot to eliminate the world-

recognized woman leader.

In view of demands for investigation from foreign teams, the Musharraf government had sought help from the British Scotland Yard, whose team had just probed the circumstances that led to the attack and causes of Benazir Bhutto's death.

Later a United Nations' team carried out a thorough investigation at the request of the then government of Pakistan. The UN inquiry reported in April 2010 that the security arrangements by the federal and the local authorities to protect Benazir Bhutto were "fatally insufficient and ineffective" and subsequent investigations into her death were prejudiced and were more of a whitewash.—*Xinhua*



## WORLD



Local villagers walk down the Avenue of Baobabs, 15km north of Morondava, west Madagascar, on 22 Dec, 2013. Along the Avenue De Baobabs, one of the most visited site in Madagascar, remains some 20 to 25 baobabs trees about 30 metres in height.

XINHUA

## Electricity restored to all Irish homes after power cuts

DUBLIN, 26 Dec — All Irish homes affected by power cuts in the last few days had their electricity supply restored on Wednesday afternoon.

State broadcaster RTE quoted ESB, the country's premier electricity utility, as saying that residents of Achill Island in west Ireland's County Mayo were among the last to be reconnected to the supply.

All homes were now fully supplied on

Wednesday afternoon, it said.

Repair crews restored electricity to around 30,000 customers across the country on Tuesday, following high winds and lightning strikes.

But Met Eireann, the Irish national meteorological service, issued a status orange warning for Thursday evening with strong winds expected.

The Irish weather is becoming "very windy or

stormy again during the evening of St Stephen's Day, continuing overnight and for much of Friday," it read in the warning.

In neighbouring Britain, up to 50,000 homes are without power and more than 100 flood warnings remain in place following high winds and heavy rains. Most of those without electricity are in the south of England and are unlikely to have it restored before St Stephen's Day.—Xinhua

## Morocco condemns bomb attack in Egypt

RABAT, 26 Dec — Morocco on Wednesday condemned the car bomb explosion against a security headquarters in the Egyptian Nile Delta city of Mansoura early on Tuesday.

"The Kingdom of Morocco condemns this vile criminal act," the official news agency MAP quoted a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as saying.

The statement also

reiterates Morocco's refusal of all forms of violence and terrorism, as well as any attempts to jeopardize Egypt's security and stability as the country is committed to the implementation of its transition roadmap.

Morocco underscored that Egypt currently needs the commitment of all parties to further engage in a serious and open dialogue while "taking into account

the interests of the Egyptian brother people."

The country also offered condolences and sympathy to the Egyptian government, the people and the relatives of victims.

On Tuesday, a thunderous blast hit security headquarters of the Nile Delta governorate of Daqahliya in Egypt, killing at least 15 and injuring over one hundred.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 25 Dec, 2013 shows the scene of an awarding ceremony in Beijing, capital of China. Qiqihar City is awarded "Chinese love city" during an awarding ceremony in Beijing on Wednesday.—XINHUA

## Toyota likely to be 1st automaker to make 10 m vehicles in a year

NAGOYA, 26 Dec — Toyota Motor Corp is likely to become the first automaker in the world to build 10 million vehicles in a single year as its global output data for the first 11 months of 2013, released on Wednesday, showed the company is on pace to reach the plateau.

Toyota's global production increased 0.9 percent from the same 11-month period last year to 9,337,668 vehicles, including output by affiliated automakers Daihatsu Motor

Co and Hino Motors Ltd, buoyed by brisk demand in China, Europe and the United States.

In November alone, Toyota's global production increased 13.3 percent to 889,242 vehicles, marking the third straight month of double-digit growth.

As automobile demand is expected to be high in December ahead of Japan's sales tax hike to 8 percent next April from 5 percent, Toyota's full-year production is

expected to hit the 10 million mark.

If its production in December turns out to be close to the year-earlier level, the full-year figure is estimated at around 9,993,000 vehicles.

Meanwhile, Toyota's 11-month worldwide sales grew 1.8 percent to 9,093,000 vehicles.

In August, the company announced plans to make 10.12 million vehicles and sell 9.96 million in 2013.

Toyota has decided not

to raise its production and sales targets sharply since it incurred massive losses following the global financial crisis triggered by the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc in September 2008.

Volkswagen AG, meanwhile, intends to attain the world No 1 status in the auto industry. In 2012, the German automaker saw its global sales grow 11.2 percent from the previous year to 9.07 million vehicles.

Kyodo News

## Afghan army recovers 35 bombs

KABUL, 26 Dec — Afghan army bomb disposal teams recovered and defused 35 bombs across the country over the past 24 hours, said the country's Defence Ministry on Wednesday night.

"Up to 35 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and roadside mines were found and defused by the Afghan National Army specialist in several parts of the country over the past 24

hours," the ministry said in a statement.

Several Taliban militants were killed and injured and 12 armed anti-government elements were detained in military operations during the same period of time, the statement added.

The Taliban insurgent members use home-made IEDs to target security forces.

Xinhua

## Uruguay issues heatwave warning

MONTEVIDEO, 26 Dec — Uruguayan authorities on Tuesday issued an "orange" moderate-to-high risk heatwave warning as high temperatures of around 40 degrees Celsius would affect most provinces of the country.

The National Meteorological Bureau predicted an extended period of high temperatures from midday Wednesday to Thursday in the country's northern, western and southern regions, including the capital

of Montevideo.

"We forecast maximum temperatures of between 37 and 39 degrees Celsius and minimum temperatures of 22 degrees Celsius or higher" in 15 of the country's 19 departments, the agency said.

The National Emergency System released a warning that sweltering days can harm people's health, and urged them to take precautionary measures to avoid heat stroke.

Xinhua

## Roadside bomb kills one Afghan civilian, wounds three

KABUL, 26 Dec — One civilian was killed and three others sustained injuries as a roadside bomb struck a car in the eastern Nangarhar Province on Wednesday, a statement of provincial government sent to media said.

"A roadside bomb planted by militants struck

a civilian car in Achin district today morning killing one innocent commuter and injuring three others," the statement added.

However, the Taliban militants who are largely relying on suicide and roadside bombings have yet to make comment.

Xinhua



A shopkeeper sits among oranges at a fruit market in Nagpur, which is famous for orange production and trade, in Maharashtra, India, on 22 Dec, 2013.

XINHUA



## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 27 December, 2013

**Golden opportunity**

As the saying goes, “opportunity never knocks twice at any man’s door.” So, we need to seize any opportunity so as to live a better life. Opportunity is like a ladder. Taking a look at the people in our locality, those who could use the opportunities effectively become the rich. Nowadays, the State is carrying out the disbursement of micro-credit loan to the rural people, the needy and low-income staff.

The people on their part need to effectively use these loans. In rural areas, agricultural equipment, tractors and motorcycles are being sold by installment. The Ministry of Cooperatives, on behalf of the government, disburses the soft loan after getting the foreign loans. Farmers no need to be worry about the cows as they can purchase the tractors in installment.

Thanks to it, vendors and trishaw men in urban areas also will be OK. There are about 64,000 villages in Myanmar. New loans will be granted to those who have no access to the loan scheme in April, May and June the next year. It is a golden opportunity for the needy.

The people should strive for their business success by using the loans they got in an effective way. Only when their businesses generate the profits, could they repay their loans at due date. Business success has a lot to do with higher living standards. All are urged to grasp this golden opportunity for enjoying better life.

**Christmas day celebrated in Yangon**

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec— Christmas is an annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians of every township in Yangon Region celebrated the Christmas Day.

Emmanuel Baptist Church at the corner of Mahabandoola Road and Mahabandoola Garden Street in Kyauktada Township, St. Mary Cathedral Church on Bo Aung Kyaw Road in

Botahtaung Township and U Hnaw Baptist Church on Phongyi Street in Lanmadaw Township held praying ceremonies, scripture reading, singing X’mas songs, talks about the biography of Jesus Christ, entertaining drama, reading messages sent by all Christian associations and presenting X’mas gifts to those present.

MNA



Photo shows a wooden bridge linking between Ilayku and Lwaepaw Villages near Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin Township, which would be reconstructed at the cost of K 0.5 million, with the contribution of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Fund.

NLM (001)

The 27<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games came to an end with success. The event led the country to a certain status on the world stage. The roars of the SEA Games songs that feature “Myanmar..., Myanmar..., Myanmar...” have been heard across the sky. It can be said that the strenuous efforts of the entire people brought the SEA Games success to the country. Especially, it is a cooperative outcome of the government and the people as both sides did their bit to achieve the success. Let me recount the biggest regional sporting event.

About five years ago, it was planned to build the two football stadiums — Wunna Theikdi and Zeyathiri — of international standards in Nay Pyi Taw, but construction works were not taken shape. Athletes’ Village like a staff quarter was under construction. No one started talking about acquisition of necessary equipment and materials through foreign aid. There was no exact calculation of the amount to be spent through the State budget at that time. But, infrastructural development of Nay Pyi Taw has taken good shape. The third meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Federation Council held in Laos in 2009 discussed a proposal to host the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Myanmar and the first meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Federation Council held in Indonesia in 2011 approved Myanmar’s bid to host the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, announcing that Myanmar was the host of the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games. Myanmar received the SEA Games federation flag. Myanmar made a vow to host the Games in order to show its excellent management again to the world after 44 years. Since that time, all-out efforts were made for the success of SEA Games on the motherland. As a result, the government in cooperation with the entire people successfully hosted the Games.

There arose, before the Games, concerns about timely completion of construction works, arrival of necessary equipment and materials, conditions related to the Games whether or not it can be met within the specific timeframe, and foreign assistance to the

Games. Myanmar delegation paid a study tour of the 25<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Laos and 26<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Indonesia after two years. Indonesia hosted the event in Palembang, not in Jakarta, in order to promote the region, south of Sumatra. It is common to see some difficulties as the place chosen to host the Games was not a big city. But, Indonesia presented the world with

**Htay Aung (Tourism)**

excellent performances.

Before the Games, the government formed a leading committee and working committees and implemented the works to be done in accord with the timeframe. As soon as the Indonesia SEA Games concluded, the countdown has started, making preparations for the next SEA Games. Out of 14 working committees, duties and functions of the committee of the Ministry of Sports played an important role, dealing with many matters through coordination. When construction of all sporting facilities was done, inspection of sports facilities by special committees including Olympic Committee took place. It gave those concerned a big thrill. If they decided sporting facilities were substandard, all our efforts would be in vain. In order to avoid the unwanted situation, we tried our best day in, day out. When we passed the test, more efforts were put into the task to stimulate SEA Games spirit. Overall preparations called for participation of all.

In this way, Myanmar was ready to host the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in October, 2013. The Head of State inspected preparations for the sporting extravaganza and left necessary instructions.

When the sports festival was drawing nearer and nearer, respective committees of the Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, and Ministry of Health were saddled with their respective duties.

As I was responsible for accommodation, I had to take care of everything related to accommodation for the convenience of participants to the Games.

As you all know, sporting events were held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung and I had to deal with accommodation matters at the four venues. Accommodation services were provided to

referee/jury and Olympic Committee members, coaches, media and spectators apart from athletes.

More efforts were made for athletes’ village and hotels in Nay Pyi Taw where most of the competitions took place to be ready before the Games. Our duty is to take care of accommodation of sports contingents at the athletes’ village where they were accommodated at ten buildings with eight rooms each.

Task was heavy for the accommodation team as it is responsible to take care of the menus of 3000 athletes. Room services and cleaning were extra duty for the team. Tenders were invited to get local and foreign teams with a wealth experience of accommodation. The interested foreign teams were unable to deal with the task under the allotted budget. Possible teams at home were invited to discuss. At last, Myanmar Restaurant Owners’ Association was chosen to take care of the task.

Besides, coordination were made with in-charges of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung for the convenience of distinguished guests, diplomats, some sports contingents, teams of referee/jury, coaches, media and sports fans. As the sporting event was timed to coincide with travel season, it was required to share hotel rooms. Room prices and food prices were also set in accord with the budget of the Olympic Committee. As it is an international sporting event, bookings were made for them in advance. Moreover, we have to conduct training courses and monitor hospitality of hotels.

Although the sporting event was officially opened on 11 December, most of

the participating countries arrived here one week or 10 days in advance in order to familiarize with the host country. Supervisory teams like teams of referee/jury came to hold preliminary meetings. Some competitions like Chinlone kicked off before the opening ceremony.

So, we saw the hustle and bustle of four sporting arenas before the opening date. At that time, a story of a Vietnamese media person reported that athletes faced mosquitoes at the sports village. So, more attentions were given to insecticide-spraying measure. It is required to launch insecticide campaigns at hotels and restaurants around the country. Emphasis is being placed on this measure at state-level ceremonies. Flies and mosquitoes are hidden behind the curtains or in the flower vases. When the food are put on the table, they come out. It is necessary to control mosquitoes and flies inside and outside the building by clearing their habitats.

When the sporting event was drawing near, especially Nay Pyi Taw was being packed with sportspeople. They were absolutely amazed by grand preparation in Nay Pyi Taw. The situation is totally different from their thoughts. They were very pleased with the 24/7 service delivery and prompt actions.

It is natural that any event has to face unexpected things. One athlete left training room without turning off his electric kettle. Unexpected event would occur unless cleaning staff did not arrive there in time. Florescent lamps in the ward were broken by some footballers as they kicked football there. Some mistakenly put their personal goods into water closets. And some asked for more blankets so as to protect cold weather of Nay Pyi Taw. Some asked for water closet materials. Maintenance Group stationed in Sports Village had been offering services since 24 November. Food catering services is crucial one. It is also important for hygienic foods. Food catering services did not face any problem before and during the SEA Games.

(See page 9)



NATIONAL

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker ...**

(from page 1)

Also present at the call together with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Pyithu Hluttaw Commission member Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials from the Hluttaw Office.—MNA



**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. LEE Baek Soon.**

MNA

**Protection of farmers' rights ...**

(from page 1)

Dr Maung Maung Thein and U Chan Maung, region/state ministers, officials and media persons.

In his address, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing highlighted raising the interests of farmers as a much-needed task as Farmer Rights Protection and Promotion of Interests Law

was enacted on 8 October, 2013. He called for a focus on formation of cooperative associations in order to generate incomes and interest of farmers from the stage of cultivation to the stage of having access to the market. He stressed the importance of forming a working committee to formulate bylaws at the today's meeting.

Union Minister U Ohn Myint concluded that the leading committee needs to follow the concrete policies, concrete guidelines and concrete objectives laid down by the President for the development of socio-economic status of farmers to put in place bylaws necessary for effective implementation of the tasks.

MNA

**Union Rail Transportation Minister attends respect paying ceremony in Myanaung**

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay met with travelers at Hsethwar station on Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan Railroad section on 24 December. The Union minister then went to Concrete Sleeper

Plant (Ottshipin) where he looked into production of concrete sleepers. He called for making preparations to produce concrete sleepers on a commercial scale to meet requirements of Myanma Railways in next four years according to produc-

tion of the station hospital and respect paying ceremony of Basic Education High School in Kanaung Sub-Township in Myanaung Township yesterday. And he inspected Myanaung People's Hospital before attending the

**Interview with NPE GM on ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, AMM-Retreat**

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—The following text is the direct translation of the interview with General Manager U Ye Naing of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information on ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, AMM-Retreat.

**Q:** Please, explain the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, AMM-Retreat?

**A:** President U Thein Sein on 11 October took over the 2014 ASEAN chairmanship (from 1 January to 31 December) from the Brunei King at the 23rd ASEAN Summit and its related meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei from 7 to 11 October this year. AMM-Retreat is the first-ever meeting while Myanmar is taking the ASEAN Chair.

**Q:** The AMM-Retreat will be held in Myanmar's

ancient city, Bagan. Let me know about it?

**A:** It will be held in Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region from 15 to 18 January, 2014. ASEAN Ministers' meetings are usually held in resorts and beaches in addition to such ancient cities. Bagan with a rich history of Myanmar's religion, literature, culture, fine arts, architecture, trade and military affairs is a glory of Myanmar people. That's to say, Bagan is heart and soul of Myanmar.

**Q:** May I know Information Ministry's role in the AMM-Retreat?

**A:** The Ministry of Information has to take responsibility of information. And the daily newspapers cover the phone numbers of officials from the NPE who will carry out media management for the AMM-Retreat such

as media relations, registration of media persons and the issuance of accreditation cards. A press meet on it will be held at 2 pm on 17 January, 2014. Application forms can be downloaded at ASEAN 2014 summit, more detail, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings Retreat, AMM-Retreat under the heading of www.asean2014.gov.mm upcoming events which is ASEAN Webportal. And Media Advisory also will be hosted on Myanmar-ASEAN Website.

**Q:** How can the application forms be available in case of clicking wrong website?

**A:** For that case, please invite email address of Director U Hlaing Myint of NPE npemol@gmail.com and then he will send back the fastest download link.

**Q:** May I know a little

about the topics of AMM-Retreat?

**A:** ASEAN Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosts the AMM-Retreat. To sum up, the meeting aims to implement the resolutions of previous meetings and to carry out the strategic tasks for the 2014 ASEAN Chair. The real-time news about the meeting will be released. Thank you.

Trs: MT

**Interviewer: Khin Yadanar**

**General Manager U Ye Naing from News and Periodicals Enterprise.**—NLM



**Union Minister U Than Htay looks into production of sleepers at Concrete Sleeper Plant (Ottshipin).**

MNA

tion capacity of eight concrete sleeper plants. He attended a stake driven ceremony for con-

11<sup>th</sup> respect paying ceremony of Myanaung BEHS alumni.

MNA

**Ministries meet to hold sports ...**

(from page 1)

Secretary of the sub-committee for holding the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thet Lwin gave an opening speech at the meeting.

Officials concerned from Myanmar Football

Federation, Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation presented their respective reports.

The ministries were drawn lots for competing in futsal, tug of war and sepak Takraw events on the Independence Day.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

**Let me recount ...**

(from page 8)

Sometimes, we had to prepare cakes and food for birthday parties of athletes.

Taking the example of diarrhea case in Palembang of Indonesia, Myanmar had to take care of athletes. Before the event, one athlete fell ill. The next day, two Malaysians were hospitalized after having local foods in a shop in Thabyaygone. They could compete in the next day's event as they recovered from their sufferings.

In addition, we went to Pathein where Yachting event

took place via Nay Pyi Taw. From there, we proceeded to Ngwesaung by car. The opening ceremony could successfully be held even though there were rains and strong winds caused by the storm in India.

From there, I went back to Nay Pyi Taw as I had a duty of food catering. During the SEA Games period, I had to inspect the accommodation of Women's football teams in Mandalay and athletes from seven kinds of sports in Yangon. Especially, we had to pay more attention to food hygiene to avoid the similar case in

Thabyaygone. We had to urge them not to eat local foods.

Two experts from Thailand-based Unilever Company supervised the enrichment of daily food calorie fed to the athletes. Heads of respective teams also had breakfast and dinner together with their sportspersons while visiting their athletes. Among them, those from Brunei, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the food quality and taste.

In addition to the Sports Village, Social Zone opened food shops and restaurants. These shops and restaurants

were being packed with the consumers. Two days before the SEA Games, judges and sportspersons were served with Myanmar traditional foods to the accompaniment of traditional dances and songs. On the final day, they were served with traditional "Mohinga" and Myanmar cuisine. Thanks to the SEA Games, Myanmar could build better friendships with foreign guests. Liaison officers and volunteers became more familiar with each other day by day. And they invited each other to visit their regions. This big sporting event could enable the regional and interna-

tional countries to know more about Myanmar.

Myanmar could hold this event successfully even though there were a lot of hindrances and difficulties. Even after the necessary preparations have been made, there is anxiety about the event. It can be said that the support of all people leads to the success of SEA Games. It is not a perfect one. But it is an undeniable fact that Myanmar people could do more than expected. Myanmar could stand second in the medal tally. This experience would become a good foundation for the fu-

ture events.

We should not be complacent with the success of this event alone. There is a long way to go. We are at the beginning of the long journey. Soon, Myanmar is going to host the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 and take the ASEAN Chair in coming year. Here, I strongly believed that Myanmar people would overcome any difficulties through united efforts. Vibrant performance of children on the closing day of SEA Games is an eye-pleasing view. Closing song and melody still persist in my mind.

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## 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)

### HRD

#### Heinda BEHS holds AGM

MYITTA, 26 Dec—Basic Education High School (Yadana) of Heinda Village in Myitta Sub-Township of Taninthayi Region held the annual meeting of parent-teacher association and prize presentation ceremony

recently. Headmistress Daw Hla Hla Aye made a speech. Treasurer U Soe Lwin of the association submitted a financial report. Departmental officials, parents and teachers

presented prizes to outstanding students.

It was attended by departmental officials, staff, members of School Board of Trustees totalling 150.

*Kyemon-Sub-Township IPRD*

#### Respects paid to old teachers at Monywa BEHS-1

MONYWA, 26 Dec—The 27th respect paying ceremony was held at Monywa Basic Education High School No 1 on 25 December.

The old students donated K 135,000 each to 200 old teachers.

“We rose the fund for the ceremony by selling vermicelli soup at the Pagoda

Pujaniya. Next, we took the contract to keep the bicycles at the Pagoda Pujaniya. We could fetch K 3.8 million. So, we can donate cash assistance to the old teachers at today’s ceremony,” said Chairman of the respect paying ceremony organizing committee U Kyaw Naing.

For the ceremony, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region

U Tha Aye, wife Daw Wai Wai Khaing and family (Aye Yeik Wai) donated K 100,000, K 1 million for 200 teachers, and K 100,000 for 89 years old Saya U Tin Maung Myint.

The organizing committee saved the surplus K 187,800 at Myanma Economic Bank.—*Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

#### Crumb rubber plant breaks out fire

DAWEI, 26 Dec—A fire broke out at the crumb rubber plant of U Lwin Oo (a) U Tayoke Pan between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> streets in Myothit Ward of Dawei at 3.15 pm on 23 December.

A total of 17 members of Fire Services Department, 40 of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people led by the head of Taninthayi Region Fire Services Department put out the fire with the use of three fire engines, one water tanker

and five gallons of foam.

They could control the fire at 3.40 pm and totally put it out at 3.45 pm.

The fire destroyed one rubber warehouse worth K 150,000 and 50 sheets of rubber worth K 150,000.

Dawei Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against U Lwin Oo (a) U Tayoke Pan under the law.

*Kyemon-Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

### Anti-Narcotic Drives

#### Narcotic drugs worth K 8.1 million seized

MYITKYINA, 26 Dec—A police squad led by SIP Myo Win Naing of Waingmaw Township Police Station and a team led by Captain Ye Khin Nyunt of No 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, together with witnesses, acting on tip-off, seized 1800 grams of substances believed to be opium oil solid at 19<sup>th</sup> mile station on Myitkyina-Kanpate Road at 5 pm on 21 December.

They searched the

#### Wool caps donated to the aged

PAKOKKU, 26 Dec—Wellwishers daily donate meals and offertories to Home for the Aged (Pakokku) established by Grandma Daw Oo Zun in 1937 in Ward 3 of Pakokku.

Senior Auditor Daw Myint Myint Htay of



WUNDWIN, 26 Dec—Under the supervision of Head of Mandalay Region Agriculture Department U Hla Myint Aung, the Marga Agricultural Mechanization Service gives harvesting and threshing of paddy for the

local farmers in Nabegan and Kyutkan Villages in Wundwin Township of Meiktila District with the use of two Kubota combine harvesters.

Heads of Township Agriculture Department and

Agricultural Mechanization Department cooperate with the Marga Agricultural Mechanization Service in works.

The service harvests the paddy at K 45000 per acre. Therefore, the local farmers get quality paddy seeds and strains in a short time. At present, the farming workers are shortage in the works, so the local farmers are pleased for assistance of the agricultural service.

*Kyemon-Htay Hlaing (Wundwin)*

#### Staff proficiency course opened for staff of Kayin State Court

HPA-AN, 26 Dec—The office work skill and proficiency enhancement course No 2/2013 was opened for staff of Kayin State court at its hall in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 23 December morning.

Kayin State Judge U Thein Ko Ko delivered an address.

Kayin State Judicial Officer U Ohn Thaug explained the purpose of conducting the training course and disciplines of

the course.

It was attended by judges of the Kayin State High Court, judicial officers, district judges and township judges.

The Chief Justice of the State High Court and judges, he State Judicial Officer and district judges gave lectures to the trainees.

A total of 35 trainees are attending the four-week course.

*Kyemon-Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)*

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

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

#### Two paddy combine harvesters used in Wundwin Tsp





## REGIONAL

## China keen to boost strategic ties with Gulf states



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) meets with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) General Secretary Abdullateef Al Zayani in Riyadh, on 25 Dec, 2013. Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined Wednesday China's keenness to promote strategic cooperation and ties in all fields with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.—XINHUA

RIYADH, 26 Dec — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined Wednesday China's keenness to promote strategic cooperation and ties in all fields with the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

During his meeting with GCC General Secretary Abdullateef Al Zayani here, the top Chinese diplomat also affirmed the necessity of

exerting efforts to reinforce ties with Saudi Arabia for the two peoples' interests, according to a statement released Wednesday by the GCC General Secretariat.

The two officials

discussed the latest developments regarding the security situation in the region as well as regional and international topics of common interests.

The visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Saudi Arabia comes as part of a tour of the region that also covers Palestine, Israel, Algeria and Morocco.

Ties between Saudi Arabia and China have been witnessing sound development, especially in trade. According to a report in London-based *Al Sharq Al Awsat* newspaper published last month, China has become the largest commercial partner to Saudi Arabia with a total of 73 US billion dollars worth of trade in 2012. There are 140 Chinese companies working in Saudi Arabia with projects of more than 18 billion dollars in various sectors, including construction, communication, infrastructure and petrochemical.—Xinhua

## Vietnam among Russia's key partners in Asia

HANOI, 26 Dec — Russia is willing to boost cooperation with Vietnam as it is one of priorities in its Asia policy, said Russian Ambassador to Vietnam Andrey G Kovtun on Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi to brief the development of bilateral relationship between Russia and Vietnam, the Russian diplomat said the year 2013 witnessed the dynamic development of the bilateral ties as the two countries maintained high-level contacts and visits, including Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's tour to Russia in May and Russian President Vladimir Putin's official visit to Vietnam in November.

The regular exchange of delegations reflected

the depth of the bilateral ties and the two sides' determination to accelerate cooperation, the e-portal of the Vietnamese government on Wednesday quoted the Russian diplomat as saying.

The two-way trade turnover reached 3.15 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of 2013, an increase of 2 percent year-on-year. The figure is expected to reach 7 billion US dollars in 2015 and 10 billion US dollars in 2020, said the ambassador.

Kovtun said that the two sides have made progress in cooperation in energy, national defence and security, culture, education, tourism, science and technology, contributing to deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.—Xinhua

## China guarantees subsistence to the poor

BEIJING, 26 Dec—Chinese government on Wednesday vowed to improve its subsistence allowance policies so that they reach the disadvantaged.

Improving the social security system will not only boost social justice, but encourage more people to make changes and start their own careers, said a statement issued after an executive meeting of the State Council, the country's Cabinet, presided over by Premier Li Keqiang.

Inspections to check the implementation of the policy this year found that although the allowances have benefited as many as 74 million people, there are problems, including insufficient funds, sluggish management and lack of follow-up.

Reforms should ensure that the disadvantaged can live with dignity and their living is safeguarded, the statement said. To achieve this, the first step is to ensure implementation. Applicant information should be more transparent to avoid fraud.

The whole system could be improved by a temporary relief mechanism to help families who find themselves in sudden difficulties, it said.

Xinhua

## Top nuclear regulator holds rare talks with ruling party politician

TOKYO, 26 Dec—The head of the Nuclear Regulation Authority held on Wednesday a rare meeting with a ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker to discuss ways to improve regulations, a move perceived as yielding to calls from politicians who want the NRA to listen more to pro-nuclear opinions.

NRA Chairman Shunichi Tanaka has refused to hold individual meetings with politicians in principle as part of efforts to ensure the organization's independence, based on the lessons learned from the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear

power plant disaster.

But the NRA decided that Tanaka should meet with Yasuhisa Shiozaki, a former chief Cabinet secretary, to receive explanations on a proposal submitted to the government from the LDP's project team discussing nuclear regulatory issues. Shiozaki is the chair of the team.

To make sure the talks will not raise doubts over the regulatory body's independence, the meeting was made open to the media.

Shiozaki told Tanaka that the project team thinks the NRA should make its own judgments after

“having dialogues tenaciously with all kinds of concerned parties.”

Tanaka agreed with the need to listen to broad opinions, but noted that “time is not indefinite.”

“Communication with the interested parties is a challenge,” he added.

The NRA was launched in September last year, endowed with greater independence than the former nuclear safety agency to prevent close relations developing between regulators and promoters of atomic power, something said to have caused safety to be neglected.—Kyodo News



File photo taken on 12 Dec, 2013, shows Mt Fuji, seen from Miho no Matsubara in Shizuoka Prefecture. Local prefectures agreed on 25 Dec, 2013, to collect a 1,000 yen admission fee from climbers on Mt Fuji from the summer of 2014 on a voluntary basis.

KYODO NEWS

## Sri Lankan Tamil party maintains boycott of political talks

COLOMBO, 26 Dec — Sri Lanka's main minority Tamil political party has decided to continue boycotting a Parliament process aimed at reaching a political solution following the end of a three decade old conflict, a Tamil legislator said on Wednesday.

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) decided it will continue to boycott the Parliament Select Committee (PSC) on the national issue as it feels that process will not bear fruit.

TNA Parliamentarian Suresh Premachandran made the remark at a meeting in Northern town of Vavuniya including TNA Parliament

and provincial members, during which they discussed among other things an open call made by President Mahinda Rajapaksa for dialogue with the TNA.

The president had extended the invitation while speaking in Parliament last week on the final day of the national budget debate.

Premachandran said that the TNA is still not sure if the president is proposing bilateral talks or expects them to join the PSC.

However Premachandran said that at the TNA meeting it was felt that the PSC will not be something which will bring results on the national issue.—Xinhua



People greet each other after offering prayers on Christmas at St Joseph's Cathedral in Hyderabad, India, on 25 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**Wedding Announcement**

**SANJEEV KUMAR BASAVATIA (MSEE)**  
 (Southern Illinois University, (Edwardsville), IL, USA)  
 17543, Cloverview Drive, Tinely Park, IL 60477, USA  
 Son of HARI PRASAD BASAVATIA and GAYATRI  
 DEVI BASAVATIA  
 of No. (113), Tamapin St, Magway  
 and  
**RAKHEE KUMARI @ ZIN MAR OO B.A(Eng:),**  
 Dip in Accounting  
 daughter of Late ASHOK BAJAJ and  
 SUDHA DEVI BAJAJ  
 of No. (D/163), Bo Min Yaung St, Mogok  
 Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
 at "SHRIAMBIKA TEMPLE," 22C Road, Bet 82<sup>nd</sup> &  
 83<sup>rd</sup>, Mandalay according to Hindu Customs & Rights  
 BASAVATIA FAMILY  
 BAJAJ FAMILY

**Marriage**

**SANJEEV KUMAR BASAVATIA (MSEE)**  
 (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL, USA)  
 17543, Cloverview Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477, USA  
 Son of HARI PRASAD BASAVATIA and GAYATRI  
 DEVI BASAVATIA  
 of No. (113), Tamapin St, Magway  
 and  
**RAKHEE KUMARI @ ZIN MAR OO B.A(Eng:),**  
 Dip in Accounting  
 daughter of Late ASHOK BAJAJ and  
 SUDHA DEVI BAJAJ  
 of No. (D/163), Bo Min Yaung St, Mogok  
 were married in the presence of  
 Daw Htay Htay Kyi, Staff officer, Magway Division  
 Law Office  
 on Thursday, December 19th 2013.  
 SANJEEV KUMAR  
 ZIN MAR OO (a) RAKHEE KUMARI

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

Glaxo Group Limited of 98C Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9GS, England is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:



(Reg. No. IV/7718/2013)

intended to use in respect of - Int'l Class 5: "Pharmaceutical preparations and substances; vitamins, minerals and food supplements; dietetic foods and drinks adapted for medical use"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L.D.B.L Advocate  
**MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM**

E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm  
 Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666  
 Yangon. 27 December 2013

People fly lanterns into the night sky during the ARTO-MAT art festival in downtown Zagreb, Croatia, on 23 Dec, 2013. People released lanterns carrying their hopes and best wishes during a traditional Christmas event organized by Croatian conceptual artist Kresimir Tadija Kapulica. —XINHUA

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

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**AVODART**

(Reg. No. IV/8091/2010)  
 (Reg. No. IV/11559/2013)

used in respect of - Int'l Class 5: "Pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances for human use"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate  
**MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM**

E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm  
 Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666  
 Yangon. 27 December 2013



**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
 MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
 MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
 (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
 (17/2013)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-147(2013-2014)	Down Hole Mud Motor Ex Horizontal Directional Drilling Rig	(1) Set	US\$
(2)	IFB-148(2013-2014)	Caterpillar C-9 Truck Engine for 30 Ton Mark Oil Field Truck	(1) No	US\$
(3)	IFB-149(2013-2014)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor With Complete Package	(1) Lot	US\$
(4)	IFB-150(2013-2014)	Spares for IMW (Mother) Dispenser	(7) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-151(2013-2014)	Arc Transformer Welding Machine with Complete Accessories AC, 400 AMP, Dry Type	(8) Nos	US\$
(6)	IFB-152(2013-2014)	Mobile Welding Machine with Complete Accessories 600 AMP, Diesel Engine Driven	(10) Nos	US\$
(7)	IFB-153(2013-2014)	Spares for GM 6V 53 Engine	(15) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-154(2013-2014)	Spares for GM 6V 71 Engine	(17) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-155(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D-3408PC Rig Engine	(26) Items	US\$
(10)	DMP/L-047(2013-2014)	Multi Grade Diesel Engine Oil SAE 15 W 40 (API- CF 4)	(700) Drums	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time -

22-1-2014, 16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
 Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (017)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ALL CARGO LAXMI VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALL CARGO LAXMI VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
 AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING  
 PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**Taleban key commander killed in S Afghanistan**

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 26 Dec — Security forces have killed a Taleban key commander named Zaid in the southern province of Helmand, a former Taleban stronghold, a local official named Juma Gul said on Wednesday.

"Acting upon intelligence report, the security forces raided Zaid's hideout in Mashan area of Panjwai District and killed him," Juma Gul told Xinhua. However, he didn't say when the operation took place, adding his body had

been sent to his villagers for burial.

He also said Zaid, whose real name was Noor Mohammad, commanded more than 100 local and foreign fighters over the past five years against government and NATO-led troops

in Kandahar province and his death is a major setback to the Taleban militants fighting in Kandahar and adjoining provinces.

Taleban militants fighting the government have yet to make comment. Xinhua

**Russia drops cases against Greenpeace activists**

Moscow, 26 Dec — Russian authorities had dropped criminal cases against 30 Greenpeace activists from the ship Arctic Sunrise, the environmental group's local lawyer said on Wednesday.

"All activists have arrived at the Investigative Committee of St. Petersburg to be familiarized

with the decision," Interfax news agency quoted Andrei Suchkov as saying. By Wednesday afternoon, 16 environmentalists had received formal resolutions closing their cases.

The committee was expected to issue resolutions to the rest by the end of Wednesday.

All non-Russian

activists would then be free to leave the country, their lawyer said.

The activists, who crewed the Arctic Sunrise vessel, were detained on 19 September by Russian authorities after attempting to stage a protest on an Arctic oil drilling platform. Xinhua



ENTERTAINMENT

# Justin Bieber flirts with retirement in Christmas Eve tweet

NEW YORK, 26 Dec — Teenage pop star Justin Bieber sent out a series of mixed messages over his Twitter feed on Tuesday night, one of which said he was retiring, on the eve of the Christmas Day release of the latest film chronicling the life of the Canadian singer.

The tweet to the 19-year-old's nearly 48 million followers — "My beloved beliebers I'm officially retiring" — was quickly followed by another message: "I'm never leaving you, being a believer is a lifestyle."

And then: "IM HERE FOREVER."

Representatives for Bieber did not immediately respond to a request for clarification.

The Canadian singer has been involved in a series of headline-grabbing incidents over the past year.

In March, the singer scuffled with a photographer outside a London hotel during a European tour. Later that month, police were called to his Los Angeles area home after a neighbor claimed he had been threatened and struck by Bieber.

In June, Bieber struck a photographer with his Ferrari sports car while driving away from a comedy club in Los Angeles, though police said the accident was not considered a hit-and-run.

The movie, "Justin Bieber's Believe," which takes the name of Bieber's third studio album, could help repair his image after the difficult year.

"I think people forget that it's a 19-year-old kid, trying to figure it out," Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun, told ABC News, adding the film shows Bieber as "a human."

At one point in the film, director Jon Chu suggests Bieber's life could become a "train wreck."

The "retirement" message went out on the night of Christmas Eve and by the following morning had nearly a quarter million retweets and over 185,000 favourites.

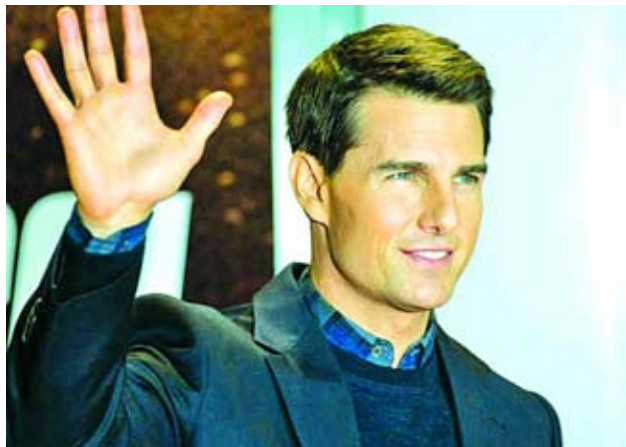
Twitter user @they-callmejerry tweeted: "A life without Justin Bieber. A life without my idol, hero, inspiration, my everything. Not the best thing to think about on Christmas Eve."

Reuters



Singer Justin Bieber performs at Staples Centre during his Believe Tour in Los Angeles, California on 24 June, 2013.

REUTERS



Tom Cruise is currently preparing for Mission Impossible: V.

## Tom Cruise of Magnificent Seven

LOS ANGELES, 26 Dec — Actor Tom Cruise is no longer involved in The Magnificent Seven, a remake of John Sturges' classic western movie.

The Oblivion star was first attached to the project in 2012 and was supposed to play one of the cowboys. He has just completed Edge of Tomorrow and is now preparing for Mission Impossible: V and Go Like Hell, reported Ace Showbiz. Despite Tom Cruise's departure, Magnificent Seven is still on track.

Saving Mr Banks director John Lee Hancock has been tapped to rewrite the script originally drafted by Nic Pizzolatto, who wrote HBO's upcoming miniseries True Detective starring Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson.

Based on Akira Kurosawa's 1954 classic Seven Samurai, The Magnificent

## Hugh Jackman exits Harry Houdini Broadway musical

LOS ANGELES, 26 Dec — Actor Hugh Jackman will not be a part of the Harry Houdini musical on Broadway due to some scheduling conflicts.

The Les Miserables star was to play Harry Houdini, a Hungarian-American illusionist and stunt performer, in the film.

The actor was already working on the project,



Hugh was attached from the start of the musical about five years ago.

but he had to step away.

"I have greatly enjoyed the collaborative process on Houdini. Ultimately, though, I wasn't able to commit to the time this role will require," read a statement issued by the actor.

"I have tremendous respect and admiration for the creative team and I wish everyone the best. I know they're well on their way to making something extraordinary." He added.—PTI



## Britney Spears to ring in 2014 in style

LOS ANGELES, 26 Dec — Pop star Britney Spears can't wait for the new year to set in, even though she will be working on New Year's Eve.

The Perfume singer is set to start her two-year Las Vegas residency, Britney: Piece of Me, in the Planet Hollywood Resort hotel on Friday. But even though she is scheduled to perform on 31 December, she intends to ring in 2014 in style as soon as she comes off stage.

"For New Year's Eve, we'll probably go to a party at Koi (a restaurant in Las Vegas)," eonline.com quoted her.—PTI

Britney would be performing on 31 December.

## Ashley Benson patches up with Ryan Good

LOS ANGELES, 26 Dec — Actress-model Ashley Benson has reportedly rekindled her romance with boyfriend Ryan Good.

The 24-year-old ended her one-year relationship with Good at the end of 2012, but the duo sparked speculation of their reunion when they were spotted cuddling at Ashley's 24th birthday party.

"Ryan and Ashley were kissing each other all night." The usmagazine.com quoted a source.

Post her separation from Ryan Good, Ashley Benson was rumored to be dating actor James Franco, with whom she was said to be getting close to on the sets of Spring Breakers last year. But she had denied the reports in October.—PTI



Ashley and Ryan broke up at the end of 2012.



## SPORTS

## Male players deserve more recognition than women, says Ibrahimovic



Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) and Lucas react during their French Ligue 1 soccer match against Lille at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on 22 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

STOCKHOLM, 26 Dec—Players in the men's soccer team deserve to get more recognition than their female counterparts in Sweden and people should stop whipping up a gender storm about it, striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic said.

The Sweden captain spoke out after his country's FA was slammed for presenting midfielder Anders Svensson with a new

Volvo for breaking Thomas Ravelli's record of 143 international caps.

However, when women's midfielder Therese Sjogran failed to get similar recognition at the same soccer gala despite earning a record 187 caps, the move was widely criticised.

"With all respect for what the ladies have done, and they've done it fantastically well, you can't

compare men's and women's football. Give it up, it's not even funny," the Paris Saint Germain striker said in an interview with the *Expressen* newspaper published on Wednesday.

"When I come out in Europe they compare me to (Lionel) Messi and (Cristiano) Ronaldo. When I come home they compare me to a female player.

"With all respect for the ladies, they should be rewarded in relation to what they generate (financially).

"I was asked (by Swedish media) in the summer who was the better player, me or (Sweden striker) Lotta Schelin.

"You're joking with me, right? When I've broken all these records, this goal record, the goals in the national team, who shall I compare it to? Shall I compare it to whoever has the record, or the ladies?"

Reuters

## South Africa's Kallis to quit tests after Durban match

DURBAN, (South Africa), 26 Dec — South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis will retire from test and first-class cricket after the Boxing Day test against India in Durban, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday.

Kallis, cricket's fourth highest test run-getter, would be available, however, for selection in the limited-over formats, Cricket South Africa said in a statement.

"It's been an honour and a privilege to have been part of the South African test team since making my debut 18 years ago," said the 38-year-old, who has

amassed 13174 runs and taken 292 wickets from 165 tests.

"I have enjoyed every moment out in the middle but I just feel that the time is right to hang up my test whites," said the all-rounder who has also accumulated 11574 runs from 325 one-day internationals.

"It wasn't an easy decision to come to, especially with Australia around the corner and the success this team is enjoying, but I feel that I have made my contribution in this format."

After the first test ended in a draw, world number one Proteas take on India in the second and final test

on Thursday. They will host Australia for three tests and as many Twenty20 internationals in a series starting in February.

Reuters

**South Africa's Jacques Kallis hits a shot off Australia's Nathan Lyon during the fifth day's play of the second test cricket match at the Adelaide cricket ground on 26 Nov, 2012.**

REUTERS



## Cardiff's owner Tan takes control over Sarajevo

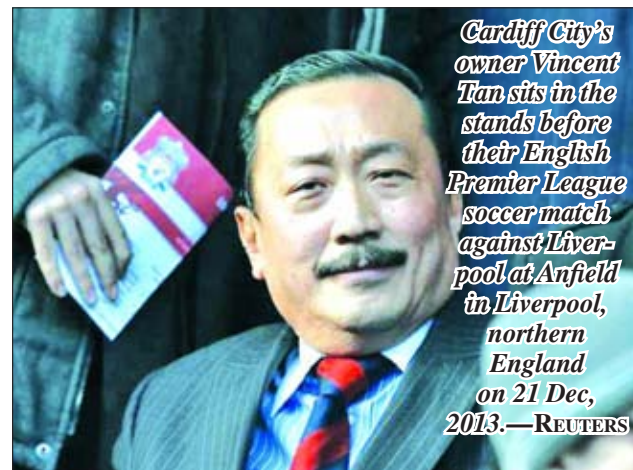
SARAJEVO, 26 Dec—Cardiff City owner Vincent Tan has sealed an agreement to take over the control and management of Bosnia's Premiere League football club Sarajevo, officials said on Wednesday.

"We have signed an agreement which defines the investment and management rights in accordance to the club's statute and legislation that is in force in Bosnia," Sarajevo general director Dino Selimovic told Reuters.

Selimovic declined to provide details on investment but local media reported on Wednesday that the Malaysian billionaire has pledged to invest 3 million Bosnian marka.

Sarajevo, established in 1946, has faced bankruptcy over millions of marka in accumulated debt.

Tan, who has been in talks with the club's managers since last summer, wanted them to draft a plan



Cardiff City's owner Vincent Tan sits in the stands before their English Premier League soccer match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 21 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

of the debt restructuring and a three-year investment plan, Sarajevo vice president Edis Kusturica told the *Nezavisne Novine* daily.

Under the deal, Cardiff will cooperate with Sarajevo, exchanging players and taking part in a football academy, yet to be established, which Tan has said would lure new talents.

"We plan to play friendly games, exchange players, organise joint training camps and

marketing campaigns," Tan told the Sarajevo daily *Dnevni Avaz* in an interview in September.

"I am very optimistic and hope that this cooperation will be very useful for both clubs and for Bosnian football generally," he added.

Local media reported that Tan would not change the Bosnian club's badge and colours, as he did at Cardiff, angering fans.

Reuters

## Curbishley agrees to technical director role at Fulham

LONDON, 26 Dec — Alan Curbishley has been named first-team technical director at struggling Premier League side Fulham after the former Charlton Athletic and West Ham manager agreed to take up a full-time role at a club for the first time in five years.

The 56-year-old Curbishley has been a television pundit since leaving West Ham in September 2008 and will work alongside manager Rene Meulenstein, who replaced Martin Jol when his fellow Dutchman was sacked following a run of five defeats.

"I'm very happy that Alan has joined us as I know his expertise will be invaluable as we enter the

remaining months of the season," Meulenstein said in a statement posted on the club's website ([www.fulhamfc.com](http://www.fulhamfc.com)) late on Tuesday.

"Following Martin's departure I discussed with both (CEO) Alistair Mackintosh and the chairman the challenges we face, and I was delighted that they supported the idea of additional support within the coaching team.—Reuters



Alan Curbishley

## Russia's Plushenko says will not skate in men's event in Sochi



Former Olympic champion figure skater Yevgeny Plushenko of Russia.—REUTERS

MOSCOW, 26 Dec—Russian figure skating superstar Yevgeny Plushenko said on Wednesday he will not compete for the gold medal in the men's competition at the Sochi Olympic Games after he came in second in the national championships.

Plushenko, 31, who prolonged his career in the hope of reclaiming the gold medal he won in 2006 in Turin on home soil in February, had been the favorite going into the

national championship. After taking the lead in the short programme, he was beaten in the free skate contest by 18-year-old Maxim Kovtun — who likely earned himself Russia's sole slot in the men's event with a commanding performance.

"I'll choose the team event and give the individual competition to a young and promising athlete," Plushenko, who also won Olympic silver medals in 2002 and 2010, told Russian state television. "I am

glad that I landed the quad (jump), but there were a lot of mistakes today ... my legs gave way," said Plushenko, sweat beaded on his brow and still short of breath from his performance.

Plushenko, who has competed in just two other events this year, said he would not participate in the European championships in January in Budapest.

Scaling down Olympic dreams that pushed him to undergo back surgery last summer in an attempt to

make a comeback, Plushenko said he would seek only to represent Russia in the team competition — a new Olympic sporting event debuting in Sochi.

"I am sensible ... It will be enough for me to compete in the team event," he said. "Unfortunately, I didn't do my job today."

The team event in Sochi will feature six skaters from each of the sport's disciplines whose points will be added up for an overall team score.—Reuters



GENERAL



US President Barack Obama (R) and first lady Michelle Obama greet military personnel during a Christmas day visit to Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe, Hawaii on 25 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

## Obama thanks troops for service on Christmas visit to base

KANOEHE BAY (Hawaii), 26 Dec — US President Barack Obama and wife Michelle thanked US troops for their service on Wednesday during a Christmas Day visit to Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay.

The president addressed about 580 active duty service men and women for about three minutes, wishing them a “Mele Kalikimaka,” and then spent time talking to troops individually and posing for photographs.

Obama told the troops assembled in the Anderson Hall dining facility that he had spent part of Christmas Eve speaking with 10 members of the military, stationed in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

“It was just a sampling of the incredible sacrifice that all of you and your families make every day,” Obama said.

The White House said earlier the service members wounded on Saturday during an aborted rescue mission in South Sudan had been among those Obama had called.

Four military personnel were injured when their aircraft were fired upon during a mission to evacuate American citizens from chaotic South Sudan.

In an audio and internet message earlier on Wednesday Obama lauded the troops returning from service overseas.

As 2013 draws to a close “fewer of our men and women in uniform are deployed in harm’s way than at any time in the last decade,” Obama said, citing the end of the war in Iraq and a winding down of action in Afghanistan.

“For many of our troops and newest veterans, this

might be the first time in years that they’ve been with their families on Christmas,” he said.

Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, who have been spending Christmas at home in Delaware, visited injured military members at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre near Washington, DC, on Wednesday.

Obama used the Christmas Day broadcast as a chance to call Americans to volunteer in their communities.

“For families like ours, that service is a chance to celebrate the birth of Christ and live out what He taught us - to love our neighbors as we would ourselves; to feed the hungry and look after the sick; to be our brother’s keeper and our sister’s keeper.”

Reuters

## MYANMAR TV

(27-12-2013, Friday)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>6:00 am</b>                               | <b>3:30 pm</b>   |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw       | 19. India Drama Series   |
| <b>6:20 am</b>                               | <b>4:00 pm</b>   |
| 2. Physical Exercises                        | 20. News   |
| <b>6:30 am</b>                               | <b>4:15 pm</b>   |
| 3. Dance & Song Of National Races            | 21. India Drama Series   |
| <b>6:45 am</b>                               | <b>4:45 pm</b>   |
| 4. Documentary                               | 22. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Fourth Year (Law) |
| <b>7:00 am</b>                               | <b>5:00 pm</b>   |
| 5. News/Weather Report                       | 23. News   |
| <b>7:20 am</b>                               | <b>5:15 pm</b>   |
| 6. Hyper Sports                              | 24. India Drama Series   |
| <b>7:35 am</b>                               | <b>6:00 pm</b>   |
| 7. Pyi Thu Ni Ti                             | 25. News/ Weather Report   |
| <b>8:00 am</b>                               | <b>6:20 pm</b>   |
| 8. News/ International News                  | 26. Amazing World  |
| <b>8:30 am</b>                               | <b>6:40 pm</b>   |
| 9. India Drama Series                        | 27. Documentary  |
| <b>9:00 am</b>                               | <b>7:00 pm</b>   |
| 10. News/ International News                 | 28. News   |
| <b>9:30 am</b>                               | <b>7:15 pm</b>   |
| 11. Documentary                              | 29. Documentary  |
| <b>10:00 am</b>                              | <b>8:00 pm</b>   |
| 12. News                                     | 30. News/ International News/ Weather Report                           |
| <b>10:15 am</b>                              | <b>8:35 pm</b>   |
| 13. Teleplay                                 | 31. People Talks   |
| <b>11:20 am</b>                              | <b>8:50 pm</b>   |
| 14. Clever                                   | 32. Hit Songs of Stars   |
| <b>12:00 pm</b>                              | <b>9:00 pm</b>   |
| 15. News/ International News/ Weather Report | 33. News   |
| <b>12:30 pm</b>                              | <b>9:30 pm</b>   |
| 16. Myanmar Movies                           | 34. Hyper Sports   |
| <b>3:00 pm</b>                               | 35. Mono Classical Songs   |
| 17. News                                     | 36. Traditional Boxing   |
| <b>3:15 pm</b>                               | 37. India Drama Series   |
| 18. Hyper Sports                             |  |

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

27-12-13 07:00 am ~ 28-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Inlay Lake and Its Challenges
- \* World News
- \* Trishaw Man
- \* Local News
- \* Journey To Unimaginable Sports
- \* World News
- \* The Storytellers
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Wedding Dresses
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Movie Review “Kayan Beauties”
- \* Sweet & Dreamy Taste
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- \* Local News
- \* Sagaing Hills & Nostalgic Panorama
- \* World News
- \* Kyaikkalawt Pagoda
- \* Local News
- \* Hiker’s Journey (Taunggyi City) (Episode-1)
- \* World News
- \* National Kandawgyi Garden (Pyin Oo Lwin)
- \* Local News
- \* Mosaic painting (Precious stones & gems)
- \* World News
- \* Moving Meditation: Aikido
- \* Local News
- \* Yathe Taung Township In a Nut-Shell
- \* World News
- \* A Pretty Custom of Kandalawady Asia Vut A @ Rice Pounding Competition

## Australia capture two wickets but Watson hurt

MELBOURNE, 26 Dec — A miserly Australian attack captured two wickets to leave England 135 for three at tea on the opening day of the fourth test in Melbourne on Thursday but suffered a blow when all-rounder Shane Watson limped off the ground with a groin injury.

Watson bowled opener Michael Carberry for 38 but pulled up from his run-up in his seventh over and after a short exchange with captain Michael Clarke, trudged off the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of a bulging Boxing Day crowd of more than 90,000.

Kevin Pietersen, under fire for repeatedly throwing away his wicket

this series, was caught for six at deep backward square by Nathan Coulter-Nile but the substitute fielder overbalanced and jogged over the boundary rope to grant the South Africa-born batsman a life shortly before tea.

Pietersen survived to reach the break on 20, with Ian Bell adding 11 after number three batsman Joe Root was caught behind for 24 off seamer Ryan Harris.

England resumed on 71-1, having grafted their way through a nervous first session after Clarke sprung a surprise by putting his unchanged team into the field after winning his fourth successive toss of the series.

With morning clouds



Australia’s Ryan Harris puts the ball in his pocket as rain falls during the first day of the fourth Ashes cricket test against England at the Melbourne cricket ground on 26 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

giving away to brilliant sunshine, Carberry smacked a pair of boundaries to try to break the shackles of a disciplined pace attack but was left ashen-faced when he

shouldered arms to a Watson delivery that swung in viciously to clatter into his stumps.

Having faced 103 balls and gritted out nearly two-

and-half hours at the crease, the 33-year-old Carberry swung his bat in disgust as he trudged off after another promising start cut short in the series.

Buoyed, Australia’s seamers tightened the screws further, with Pietersen needing 13 balls to get off the mark before pulling Siddle for four.

Having never appeared comfortable, a flat-footed Joe Root was caught behind by Haddin, the revitalised wicketkeeper notching his 50th catch in a year in which he has also amassed more than 500 runs with the bat.

Root’s laborious innings lasted 82 deliveries and nearly two hours.

Clarke’s decision to

attack appeared foolhardy early as the MCG’s drop-in pitch offered little help for his seamers, but the pace battery compensated with impressive spells of line and length that saw England’s run-rate dip to one run per over in a 10-over period before tea.

The paucity of scoring prompted jeers from the sections of the crowd and Pietersen raised ironic cheers on the few occasions he executed scoring shots.

Siddle had earlier continued Alastair Cook’s forgettable series by dismissing the England captain for 27 in the morning, breaking a promising 48-run opening partnership with Carberry.—Reuters



## Mon State to see caustic soda plant



Union Minister U Maung Myint views site chosen for construction of caustic soda plant in Mayantaung rubber farm in Thaton.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec— Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint inspected land plot of Naung Yo sugarcane plantation in Bilin in Mon State yesterday. Then, he viewed the chosen site to build a caustic

soda plant in Mayantaung rubber farm in Thaton. In meeting with Thaton District deputy commissioner and township/village administrators and departmental officials, he said that the site is enough to construct a caustic soda

plant in the farm. Salt and limestone would be mainly used as raw materials of the plant. Therefore, locals will earn more money from selling salt. The plant would be run through Ion exchange membrane process.

At the Mon State Government's Office in Mawla-myne, the Union minister held discussions with the Mon State Chief Minister on implementation of caustic soda and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) project in Thaton.—MNA

## Education promotion scheme discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—A meeting on effective implementation of education promotion scheme, was held at the Ministry of Education

here this afternoon.

Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint said that the Ministry is making practical educational reform after reviewing the recommendations and advice of Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR). It needs to formulate a quality education system and to create a good climate that can turn out qualified human resources. Primary teachers could be appointed under the arrangement of region/state govern-

ments. He urged officials to make collaborative efforts towards this ends.

After that, the director-general from Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau and Social Affairs Ministers from region/state discussed the appointment of primary teachers.

Later, Deputy Minister Dr San Lwin urged the region/state ministers to assist in construction of new school buildings in 2015-2016 Academic Year.—MNA



## Free clinic opened in Pysinmana

PYINMANA, 26 Dec—“Sharing and Caring Hands” Association opened a free clinic to mark its 1st Anniversary at Dagunnaing Monastery in Pysinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 24 December.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner of Dekkhina District U Zaw Lwin Oo, Pysinmana Township Amyotha Hlut-

taw Representative U Hmat Gyi and Medical Superintendent of the 200-bed hospital Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi formally opened the free clinic. It was attended by the township level officials, organizations and townselders.

Then, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumingala delivered a sermon at ordination hall of the monastery.

Ko Myo(Shwe Paukkan)



## Abe visit to Yasukuni Shrine draws international criticism

TOKYO, 26 Dec—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Thursday for the first time since assuming the premiership a year ago, triggering criticism not only from Japan's closest neighbors—China and South Korea—but also from Tokyo's key ally, the United States, which expressed strong concern that it could raise tensions in Asia.

“I expressed my sincere condolences, paid my respects and prayed for the souls of all those who made ultimate sacrifices,” Abe told reporters after visiting

the Shinto shrine, which honours Class-A World War II criminals along with those killed in wars involving Japan.

Stressing that his shrine visit reflected his determination that Japan will never wage war again, Abe said, “It is not my intention at all to hurt the feelings of the Chinese and Korean people.”

Abe became the first Japanese prime minister to visit the shrine since Junichiro Koizumi in 2006. The latest visit came as Abe marked the first anniversary of his government's launch.

Kyodo News

### Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Director-General Dr Tun Naing Oo of Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health to Traditional Medicine Department as Director-General from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myo Nyunt	Director-General Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations Ministry of Education
(b) Professor Dr Daw Nwe Nwe Oo	Rector University of Nursing (Yangon) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Thurein Win General Manager Myanma Railways Ministry of Rail Transportation	Managing Director Myanma Railways Ministry of Rail Transportation
(b) Professor Dr Daw Mar Mar Win Pro-Rector (Academic) University of Veterinary Science Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development	Rector University of Veterinary Science Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development

### Significant night temperature

(26-12-2013)

Pinlaung	2°C
PyinOoLwin	2°C
Mogok	2°C
Loilem	2°C



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2<sup>nd</sup> from L) is seen after paying homage at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on 26 Dec 2013.—KYODO NEWS