

Sustainable development of Myanmar traditional medicine needs cooperation, unity of those concerned within the framework of laws related to traditional medicine

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—The following is the translation of the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein to the 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.

Since the year 2000, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference has been held annually without fail and this year marks the 14th anniversary of the conference while more than a decade has passed. I would like to extend my greetings to all delegates to the

conference on the auspicious occasion of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference. I wish all Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners sharing their knowledge and experiences and leaving a fine legacy of Myanmar traditional medicine at this annual conference in

order to bring health and fitness to all Myanmar people.

Looking back the past two decades to review the development of Myanmar traditional medicine, the Traditional Medicine Law was promulgated in 1996 and the
(See page 9)

Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses 14th MTMPC Revitalization of Myanmar traditional medicine stressed

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at an opening ceremony of the 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) in Zabuthiri Township, here, this morning.

Today's conference was held with five objectives: (a) Uplifting the standard of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' world; (b) Raising the potency of Myanmar traditional medicine more; (c) Improving ethical standards of the practitioners; (d) Further promoting public health care services through traditional medicine; (e) Producing high-potency traditional medicines.

Also present at the opening ceremony were the Union ministers, the deputy ministers, members

of National Health Committee, parliamentarians, representatives from NGOs, Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, guests and officials of the Ministry of Health.

In his address, the Vice-President said not only the government but also the traditional medicine practitioners and all stakeholders have to carry out the task for sustainable development of Myanmar traditional medicine as a national duty. He highlighted the traditional medicine that plays a critical role in offering public health care service as the majority of people in ASEAN countries including Myanmar are living in rural areas. He stressed the need to make more efforts for uplifting the standard of traditional medicine.

He continued that five proposals—to work together and to be in unity for pub-

lic health care services, to step up efforts for disseminating health knowledge on Myanmar traditional medicine to grassroots level in rural areas, to find ancient treatises, palm leaves and parabike about traditional medicines and to use them in promoting Myanmar traditional medicine, to carry out assessment on teaching methods of traditional medicine that have been used for successive eras as part of efforts for the development of Myanmar traditional medicine, and to strive for producing Myanmar traditional medicines meeting ASEAN standards—would be submitted, discussed and seconded at the conference.

He called for more efforts to hold the conference in accord with international standards like submitting, discussing and seconding the proposals at the conference.

(See page 9)



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at opening ceremony of 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference at MICC.

MNA



Dignitaries seen at opening ceremony of 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.—MNA

Live broadcast of Academy Award-Presenting Ceremony on 29 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award-Giving Ceremony for year 2012 will be held at Thunna National Indoor Stadium-1 in Yangon at 3 pm on 29 December.

It will be telecast live through MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Radio, Farmer Channel and National Races Channel as of 2:45 pm on that day.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Knowledge about nation-wide census-taking shared in Pa-O region



HOPONG, 27 Dec—Talks on census taking process in 2014, population and raising reading habit were

given at the monastery in Kyauktan Village of Hopong Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of

Shan State on 24 December.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Nan Oo Kham explained raising the reading habit.

Staff Officer U Sai Oo Than Hlaing of Township Immigration and National Registration Department disseminated knowledge about census taking process in 2014 and population matters.

They then replied to queries raised by local people.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Bronze Bust of Sayagyi U Ko Lay unveiled

MANDALAY, 27 Dec—With the aim of enabling the new generations to understand gratitude of U Ko Lay, Vice-Chancellor of Mandalay University who initiated higher education in Upper Myanmar, the bronze bust of the Sayagyi with the size of four feet high weighing 110 viss of bronze, was unveiled on 25 December.

This year coincides with the centennial anniversary birthday of the Sayagyi.

The Bronze bust was donated to the Ministry of Education.

The ceremony to unveil the bust took place on the lawns in front of the main building of Mandalay University.



Officials pose for a documentary photo in front of bronze bust of Vice Chencellor of Mandalay University Sayagyi U Ko Lay.

The ceremony was attended by Rector-in-charge of Mandalay University Dr Saw Pyone Naing and officials,

Chairman of the Centennial Old Students Committee (1913-2013) U Nyunt Maung and responsible persons, wellwishers



Stipends granted to university students

KANBALU, 27 Dec—A ceremony to provide stipends to final part-II students of University of Medicine was held at the golden jubilee hall of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Kanbalu

of Sagaing Region on 20 December.

Secretary of Aye Mya Soe Foundation U Saw Aung explained formation of the foundation to provide cash assistance to the outstanding students.

Retired Township Education Officer U Kyaw Tin made clarification on financial report.

Next, Joint Secretary

of the foundation U Kyaw Than and Sayagyi U Kyaw Tin presented stipends to students of University of Medicine.

The foundation gave K 300,000 each to students, totally amounting to K 2.1 million to four students from Kanbalu Township and three from Kyunhla Township.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Stimulant tablets, heroin worth K 14.5 million seized

TACHILEK, 27 Dec—IP Myint Naing Oo and party of Anti-Drug Squad of Tachilek searched the house of Law Paw in Ahkhe Village in Wamkaung Ward of Tachilek on 23 December.

They seized 5570 stimulant tablets weighing 557 grams worth K 13.925 million, one gram of heroin worth K 15000, 270 grams of opium worth K 270,000 and 12 grams of Ice worth K 276,000. Tachilek Myoma

Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Law Paw, 55 under the law. IP Ye Win Tun of the same squad, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Khin Hmwe Kyu at No. 391 on Aungpinle Road in Tawkaw Inner Ward in Tachilek in the afternoon.

The police seized 295 stimulant tablets weighing 29.5 grams worth K 737,500.

Tachilek Police Station opened filed a lawsuit against Khin Hmwe Kyu under the law.

MMAL-L/015

Construction

Konphauk RC bridge under construction in Myeik

MYEIK, 27 Dec—South Myeik Road Development Group is taking responsibility for construction of Konphauk reinforced concrete bridge on Thukha Road in Inlaymyaing Ward of South Myeik Village-tract in Myeik Township of

Taninthayi Region.

K 95 million from Border Affairs Fund will be spent on construction of the bridge in 2013-14 fiscal year.

So far, the construction task has been completed by 60 per cent.

The bridge will be 100

feet long and 14 feet wide flanked by three feet wide pedestrian way on either side. The construction is expected to complete within four months as of October.

At present, the floor of the bridge is being placed on the facility.

MMAL-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Gravel road contributes to rural development in Tiddim Tsp

TIDDIM, 27 Dec—Zaungkong-Laydawl-Hmwabin earthen road is being upgraded to the gravel facility for smooth transportation of local people in villages of Tiddim Township in Chin State.

The 12 miles long earthen road was constructed in the region.

In 2012-13 fiscal year, allotted fund of K 3.6 million was spent on upgrading the road to gravel one. Now, the road is serviceable all the

year round, said Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Thein Hlaing of Constituency No. 8 of Sagaing Region who is discharging duty of member of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

Chin State is teeming with plenty of mountains and forests. The local people are residing in places of difficult access one village to another.

Thanks to Zaungkong-Laydawl-Hmwabin gravel road, the local people can enjoy the fruits of better transport that can contribute much to poverty alleviation and rural development.

MMAL-Shin Nay Min



A section of upgraded gravel road in Tiddim Township.



WORLD

Thai government seeks military help to protect poll

BANGKOK, 27 Dec — The Thai government said on Friday it will ask the military to help protect candidates and voters in a February election after clashes between police and anti-government protesters in which two people were killed and scores wounded.

The call for help from the powerful but heavily politicized military demonstrates Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's determination to ensure the election goes ahead. The vote is almost certain to return her Puea Thai Party to power.

Any delay to the polls could leave her embattled government and party exposed to an escalation of street protests and legal

challenges that could leave the country in limbo.

Her government on Thursday rebuffed a request by the Election Commission to delay the February 2 vote until there was "mutual consent" from all sides — an increasingly unlikely outcome after Thursday's deadly clashes at an election registration venue.

Ranged against each other are Yingluck and her supporters among the rural poor in the populous north and northeast and protesters from Bangkok's middle class and elite who see her as a puppet of her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin, a former telecoms billionaire who lives in self-imposed exile, is a

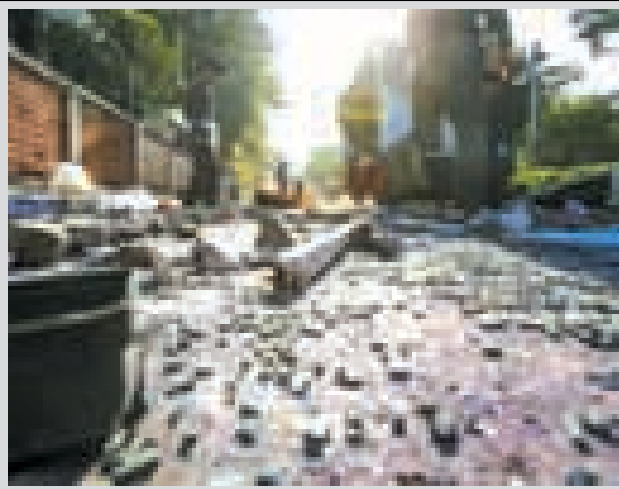
hero for millions of poor voters who have handed his parties victory in every election since 2001.

His opponents accuse him of manipulating a fragile democracy by effectively buying the support of voters with populist policies such as cheap health-care, easy credit and subsidies for rice farmers.

Deputy Prime Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul on Friday said he would ask military chiefs for help securing candidate registrations on Saturday.

"We will also discuss together how to take care of safety for the people who will come to vote on 2 February," Surapong said in a televised announcement.

The military has



Thai policemen inspect the site of clashes between anti-government protesters and riot police at the Thai-Japan youth stadium in central Bangkok on 27 Dec 2013.—REUTERS

remained neutral in the latest turmoil, apart from offering to act as a mediator, even though protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, a fiery former deputy premier, has sought to drag the military into the conflict, onto the anti-government side.

The military has staged or attempted 18 coups over the past 80 years — including the ousting of Thaksin in 2006 — and it is again likely to play a crucial role in the latest round of a crisis that has dragged on for eight years.—Reuters

American held by al-Qaeda in Pakistan urges Obama for help

ISLAMABAD, 27 Dec — A US development worker kidnapped in Pakistan by al-Qaeda two years ago appealed to President Barack Obama to intervene and help negotiate his release, in a video released on Thursday. In a 13-minute clip issued by al-Qaeda's media wing and posted on several news websites, Warren Weinstein, 72, looked gaunt and tired.

"I am not in good health. I have a heart condition. I suffer from acute asthma... Needless to say I've been suffering deep anxiety every part of every day," he said. "Mr President, for the majority of my adult life, for over 30 years I've served my country ... Now when I need my government it seems that I have been totally abandoned and forgotten."

The video could not be independently verified.

Weinstein was abducted in 2011 in the eastern city of Lahore where he worked for a US consulting company. Pakistan's tribal areas on its border with Afghanistan serve as safe havens for al-Qaeda, the Taliban and other militant groups, and the Islamabad government has been under pressure from the United States to do more to eliminate the insurgency.—Reuters



Photo taken from an airplane on 26 Dec, 2013, shows Nishinoshima Island (back), an uninhabited island in the Ogasawara chain around 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo, and a new islet that grew and merged with it. The Japan Coast Guard confirmed the formation of the new islet on 20 Nov, 2013, following an undersea volcanic eruption.—KYODO NEWS

Okinawa governor OKs landfill to relocate US Futenma air base

NAHA, (Japan), 27 Dec — Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakaima on Friday approved landfill work to relocate the US military's Futenma air base within his prefecture, going back on his previous policy of seeking to have the base moved out of Okinawa, senior prefectural officials said.

The decision marks a major breakthrough in the stalled relocation of the base after years of political maneuvering due to stiff local opposition to a 1996 agreement between Japan and the United States.

Since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe returned to power a year ago, the central government has increasingly called on Okinawa to accept the construction of a replacement facility in an offshore area in Nago, a plan mapped out in 2006, to move the US Marine Corps' Futenma

Air Station from a densely populated area in Ginowan.

The central government had been seeking the governor's approval before the mayoral election in Nago in January.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Friday that the existing relocation plan is the best compromise "to maintain deterrence and alleviate Okinawa's burden."

Nakaima, who supported the Nago relocation plan in 2006, changed course when he sought a second-term as governor in 2010, saying it would be "quicker" to move the operations of the Futenma base out of Okinawa than to build a new facility in a coastal area of Nago.

Despite Nakaima's de facto abandonment of his campaign pledge, senior prefectural government officials said he is expected to maintain that he still wants

the Futenma base outside of Okinawa.

Nakaima is scheduled to hold a press conference in the prefectural capital of Naha later in the day to explain his decision to approve the landfill work.

In the run-up to Friday's approval, Nakaima tested the government's seriousness by presenting a list of requests that call for the Futenma base to stop operating within five years. He also demanded the status-of-forces agreement on US military operations in Japan be revised.

Abe promised to set up a working group within the Defence Ministry to study the feasibility of the governor's requests, part of a broader package to reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa and provide financial support, worth around 300 billion yen every year until fiscal 2021.

Kyodo News

Five missing after ship sinks off E China

SHANGHAI, 27 Dec — Eleven people were rescued and five remain missing after a container vessel sank off the coast of east China's Jiangsu Province, rescuers said on Friday.

The cargo vessel, "Xingtai5", sank early on Friday morning in the waters off Lyusi, Jiangsu, according to the Shanghai maritime search and rescue center, which received an SOS at 7:28 am on Friday.

Two maritime rescue

ships and three other vessels rescued 11 crew members from the sea. The search for the remaining five continues, said the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration.

More than 20 containers from the vessel fell into the sea and some were floating.

Maritime authorities have alerted passing vessels to avoid the area.

The cause of the sinking is unclear.

Xinhua

Anti-Assad Lebanese ex-minister killed in Beirut bomb



Fires burn and smoke rises from the site of an explosion in Beirut downtown area on 27 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 27 Dec—Former Lebanese Minister Mohamad Chatah, who opposed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and four other people were killed in a massive bomb blast that

targeted his car in Beirut on Friday, security sources said.

Chatah, 62, a Sunni Muslim, was also a critic of Lebanon's Shi'ite Hezbollah movement and an advis-

er to former Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri.

His killing occurred three weeks before the long-delayed opening of a trial of five Hezbollah suspects indicted for the February 2005 bombing which killed former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, Saad's father, and 21 other people.

Hezbollah has denied involvement in the 2005 attack. Preliminary UN investigations implicated Syrian officials.

A tweet posted on his Twitter account less than an hour before the blast accused the Shi'ite movement of trying to take control of the country.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russia bets on sweeping reform to revive ailing space industry

BAIKONUR, 27 Dec—From rocket-shaped playground equipment to faded murals of cosmonauts, mementos of the heyday of Soviet space exploration are scattered around this sand-swept town that launched Yuri Gagarin into orbit in 1961.

When President Vladimir Putin described the space port on the remote Kazakh steppe as “physically aged” in April, he could have been speaking about Russia’s space industry itself.

In Baikonur as elsewhere, the once-pioneering sector is struggling to live

up to its legacy, end an embarrassing series of botched launches, modernize decaying infrastructure and bring in new blood and new ideas.

Putin hopes a sweeping reform he signed off on this month will not come too late to turn the industry around — part of a push to make Russia a high-technology superpower by salvaging leading Cold War-era industries and research centres.

Built far from prying eyes in a desert-like flatland in central Asia, the once-secret launch site of Sputnik and the first man in space lives on in a strange limbo,

marooned in western Kazakhstan by the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Today it is the only gateway for manned flights to the *International Space Station*, hosting astronauts from the world, and the site of about one-third of all satellite launches.

But Baikonur has no movie theatre — let alone many of the trappings of the 21st century. Camels graze the barren steppes near rocket launch sites, and what little seems to have changed since Soviet times often looks the worse for it.

“Visitors expect a city of steel and glass like in



Specialists move the Soyuz TMA-16 spacecraft in the assembling hangar at the Baikonur cosmodrome, on 27 Sept, 2009.—REUTERS

science fiction films, but for a long time no one even knew this place existed,” said Evelina Shchur, direc-

tor of the space museum in a city she describes as “provincial”.

Reuters

Delta website glitch offers up tickets at rock-bottom rates

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—A website glitch on Thursday morning caused some Delta Airlines fares to be offered at deep discounts to normal prices, including a reported roundtrip between New York and Los Angeles for \$40.

Delta on Thursday afternoon said the problem had been fixed, while saying it would honour tickets bought at the low fares.

“For a portion of the morning today, some prices on delta.com and other booking channels were incorrectly displayed, resulting in lower-than-usual fares for customers. The situation has been resolved and the correct prices are being displayed,” said Delta spokesperson Trebor Banstetter.

The company did not specify the cause of the glitch.

Airfarewatchdogs.com, a travel and fare lookout website, said fares went as low as \$40 for a round trip between New York and Los Angeles, and \$200 for a first-class roundtrip ticket between Los Angeles and Hawaii.

Economy rates for roundtrip travel between New York and Los Angeles on Delta typically cost around \$400 or more. A first-class roundtrip ticket from Los Angeles to Hawaii for the second week of January currently costs more than \$3,500 on the Delta website.

Reuters



A mobile phone tower is seen behind a man carrying a pick over his shoulder as he walks past an area that will soon be a construction site on the outskirts of Beijing on 25 April, 2011.—REUTERS

China approves pilot to open mobile telecoms market, boost competition

SHANGHAI, 27 Dec—China has approved a pilot scheme allowing private companies to piggy back on the country’s three dominant telecommunications providers to offer own-brand mobile services, opening the world’s largest mobile phone market to increased competition.

Authorities have approved 11 private “virtual carriers” to resell mobile telecommunications services, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said in a statement on its website on Thursday.

The pilot opens up the market for privately run companies to offer discounts or more attractive deals, raising competition in a market dominated by state-owned enterprises China Mobile Ltd, China Telecom Corp Ltd and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd.

“It’s a milestone. It will draw private investment, and stimulate competition and innovation in the telecoms

sector... giving a wide range of consumers greater choice and better service,” the ministry said in the statement.

Under the pilot, private companies will be able to buy mobile communication services in bulk from providers which have their own mobile networks, repackage them and sell them to end users, the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

China Mobile, which recently reached an agreement to sell Apple Inc’s iPhone, dominates the domestic market with over 760 million subscribers. China Unicom and China Telecom trail with 280 million and 185 million users respectively. The 11 companies include Net.cn, a subsidiary of online retail giant Alibaba, rival e-commerce firm Jingdong and major Chinese mobile phone retailer D Phone. Shenzhen-listed Telling Telecommunication Holding Co and Beijing Bewinner Communications Co also got the green light.—Reuters

Taipei’s Fair Trade Commission fines Apple for price restrictions

TAIPEI, 27 Dec—Taipei’s Fair Trade Commission (FTC) fined Apple Inc (AAPL.O) \$666,700 for restricting the prices charged by local telecom carriers for their iPhone contracts, the first time Apple has been fined for such practices.

The regulator said that Apple Asia, a unit of the Cupertino-based company, required carriers to obtain its permission before setting contract prices on iPhones

in violation of Taipei’s free-trade laws.

Apple Asia also told carriers to alter service contract prices and subsidy prices, according to an FTC statement on Wednesday, leading to the fine of T\$20 million.

Officials with Apple Asia could not be reached for comment on Thursday.

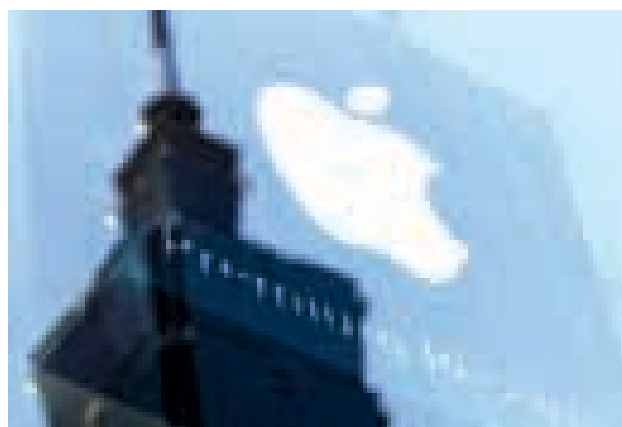
The three carriers, Chunghwa Telecom Co Ltd (2412.TW), Taiwan Mobile Co Ltd (3045.TW) and Far

EasTone Telecommunications Co Ltd (4904.TW), had all obtained reseller rights under their contracts with Apple, which gave them the right to set prices, FTC spokesman Sun Lih-chyun said.

Apple has been facing challenges in the rapidly-evolving marketplace for the smartphones in which it once held a commanding lead.

The company recently reported that it signed a long-awaited deal with China Mobile Ltd (0941.HK) (CHL.N), China’s largest telecom carrier, to sell its iPhones, raising hopes that it may make significant inroads in the world’s largest smartphone market.

Reuters



The Apple logo is seen against the reflection of Taipei’s landmark building Taipei 101, on 25 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

Fortress backs new LightSquared bankruptcy exit plan

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—LightSquared is proposing a new bankruptcy exit plan with financing from Fortress Investment Group and other backers, as the US wireless communications company seeks to avoid a sale to highest bidder Dish Network Corp.

LightSquared would receive \$2.75 billion in fresh loans and at least \$1.25 billion in equity investment from private equity firms Fortress and Melody Capital Advisors LLC, as well as JPMorgan Chase & Co and Harbinger Capital Partners, court documents filed late on

Tuesday show.

Harbinger, billionaire Philip Falcone’s hedge fund, is LightSquared’s controlling shareholder.

The investment firms’ participation highlights the fierce competition for wireless spectrum, or broadband frequencies, in the United States. Many US mobile operators are buying spectrum to boost their networks as customers use more and more bandwidth-hungry data services on phones and tablets.

The plan, filed in Manhattan’s US Bankruptcy Court, replaces one based on

an auction of the company’s assets earlier this year. LightSquared scrapped that sale after Dish emerged as the only qualified bidder, with a \$2.2 billion offer and terms that LightSquared found unappealing.

It is unclear whether Dish would try to outbid the new group of investors. A Dish spokesman declined to comment on the company’s plans on Thursday.

Dish Chairman Charlie Ergen has been acquiring billions of dollars worth in wireless airwaves to diversify his satellite television business, and has been battling

Falcone for control of the company. Falcone had sued Ergen for illegally trying to take control of LightSquared, alleging that Ergen had made improper trades and violated a key credit agreement by buying up about \$1 billion of LightSquared’s debt in secret.

That case was thrown out in October but LightSquared has sued Ergen in an effort to revive the case.

Wunderlich Securities analyst Matt Harrigan said Dish is likely to bow out, but Ergen’s wireless plans are far from over.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

US jobless claims fall, holiday retail sales rise

WASHINGTON, 27 Dec—The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell last week to the lowest level in nearly a month, a hopeful sign for the labour market, while holiday retail sales rose in November and December.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits decreased 42,000 to a seasonally adjusted 338,000, the Labour Department said on Thursday.

While the holiday season has made recent claims data so volatile it has been difficult to interpret, Thursday's report showed claims continue in a range that supports expectations for faster economic growth next year.

"With labour markets on the mend and consumer

confidence on the rise, we look for broader economic improvement to continue pushing claims (lower)," said Gennadiy Goldberg, an analyst at TD Securities in New York.

New claims have

trended higher since September. Economists, however, say the level of claims is still consistent with job growth, and other labour market indicators have pointed to a strengthening labour market.



A man picks up a leaflet at a job fair in Los Angeles, California, on 18 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Benefit of knee supplements still unclear

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—The dietary supplements glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate might slow joint damage for people with mild arthritis in their knees, according to a new study.

Previous research on the effectiveness of the supplements has been mixed, so experts remain divided on what the findings of this latest study mean for people with knee osteoarthritis, in which wear and tear over time damages the

cartilage that lines the joints.

Among more than 30 parts of the knee joint measured in the new study, a handful differed between people who took the supplements and those who didn't over the course of two years.

The results could also be seen as an indication the supplements do not make a significant difference in arthritis symptoms or severity, one researcher said.

"This is yet another set

of data arguing against any disease-modifying benefit of glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate," said Daniel Solomon, a rheumatologist and pharmacoepidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston who was not involved in the study.

But another researcher thought the study might indicate a possible role for glucosamine and chondroitin, if only for people with milder arthritis. "(The results) may reflect that drugs

The four-week moving average for new claims, which irons out week-to-week volatility, increased 4,250 to 348,000.

"The underlying trend remains favourable," said Ryan Sweet, an economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "We will be able to muster stronger job growth in 2014."

The claims figures appeared to have little impact on US stock prices and government bond yields, which both rose in thin trading.

Stronger consumer spending appeared to push the US economy to accelerate in the second half of the year and most economists expect the momentum will carry over into 2014.

Reuters

Mid-life job stress linked to later health problems

NEW YORK, 27 Dec—More strain at work might mean more illness in old age, according to a new study from Finland. The study found both physical and mental job strain were tied to hospital stays later in life.

Mental job strain can come from tight deadlines, high demands and having little control over one's work. Physical strain includes sweating, breathlessness and muscle strain.

"Job strain is something that is individually perceived, so persons working in similar jobs can report different amounts of job strain," lead researcher Mikaela von Bonsdorff said. "When talking about job strain it is important to remember that occasional feelings of job strain are not necessarily a bad thing, but persistent high job strain has been identified as a health hazard."

Recent studies have linked long-term job strain to lower functioning that lasts into old age, added von Bonsdorff. She is a gerontology researcher at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland.

The new findings come

from a study of more than 5,000 middle-aged Finnish public sector employees who were initially surveyed about stress at work in 1981.

The researchers combined that information with data from national hospital records spanning the next 28 years.

With higher strain in midlife, days in the hospital tended to increase, especially for physical strain.

For instance, for every 1,000 men with low physical job strain, about eight days were spent in inpatient hospital care every year, on average. That compared to almost 13 days for every 1,000 men with high physical job strain, according to findings published in *Age and Ageing*.

"What was interesting was that these associations were clear also when we looked at hospital care that took place after the individuals had turned 65, indicating that these associations were also robust in older age and not that the association was due to hospital care that took place immediately after the baseline assessment of job strain," von Bonsdorff said.—Reuters

Asia struggles to match Wall St's record-breaking streak

SYDNEY, 27 Dec — Asian markets were struggling to match the performance of Wall Street on Friday even as Japanese economic data impressed and the dollar tested the 105 yen barrier for the first time in five years.

Tokyo's Nikkei .N225 started well enough but the early six-year peak attracted profit-takers and nudged it

0.4 percent lower.

Australian shares had made the running with a rise of 0.3 percent .AXJO, heading for a fifth session of gains. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ-0000PUS managed to add only 0.1 percent.

Dealers blamed thin year-end conditions for a failure to match Wall Street,

where the Dow .DJI had added 0.75 percent to make another all-time top. The S&P 500 .SPX rose 0.47 percent bringing its gains for the year so far to 29 percent.

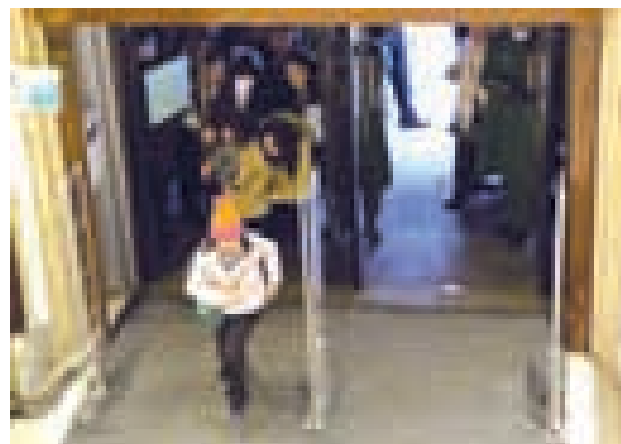
Still, the benchmark Nikkei remains 55 percent higher for the year, its best annual performance since 1972, driven by Japan's aggressive fiscal and monetary stimulus.

The effort seems to be working with figures out Friday showing Japanese manufacturing activity expanding at the fastest clip in more than seven years while firms added workers at the quickest pace in over six years.

Other data showed Japan's core consumer price inflation running at a five-year high, marking steady progress towards ending a decade-and-a-half of grinding deflation.

Reuters

After early Boxing Day rush, UK shopper numbers flat on last year



Shoppers rush in as the doors open for the Boxing Day sale at Harrods department store in London on 26 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 27 Dec — After an initial rush to British retail stores for the Boxing Day sales on Thursday, only 0.5 percent more shoppers showed up than last year, final figures from retail data company Springboard showed.

Overall, 9 percent fewer bargain-hunters visited traditional town centre

shops, offset by a 10 percent increase at both shopping centres and retail parks as of 4 pm (1600 GMT).

Early data had shown a rise of 8 percent across the country after many queued early in the morning for bargains but numbers dropped off later for high street shops, Springboard said.

Some stores opened at

6 am in London's main shopping district in the West End and Oxford Street, where over a million people were expected to turn out according to retailers.

Many shops started Britain's traditional "January sales" online on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to meet increasing demand for earlier and deeper discounting.

Britain's economy has been growing robustly and unemployment has fallen steadily but stagnating wages and rising utility bills are still squeezing living standards.

Department store John Lewis JLP.UL reported record sales for the week before Christmas on Thursday and said that for the first time it expected most British shoppers to use smartphones rather than desktop computers to make online purchases.

Reuters



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly after the market opening on 19 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Australian military aircraft to assist UN effort in S Sudan

SYDNEY, 27 Dec — Australia said on Thursday it is preparing to send two heavy-lift military aircraft to strife-torn South Sudan in the coming days to help the United Nations respond to a mounting humanitarian crisis caused by the outbreak of hostilities there.

Acting Prime Minister Warren Truss told reporters that a C-17A Globemaster and a C-130 Hercules, which are already in the Middle East area, will be deployed to South Sudan “for just a couple of weeks” to help transport UN personnel and equipment, and to assist with evacuations of civilians now under UN

protection.

Recalling how four US military personnel were wounded when three US Osprey aircraft were fired upon during an evacuation mission in South Sudan last Saturday, Truss said the two aircraft “will not be positioned to Africa until we’re satisfied about the scope and nature of the mission, and the risks have been properly assessed.”

Australia’s move came a day after the UN Security Council authorized almost doubling the UN peacekeeping force in South Sudan to nearly 14,000 in the face of a rapidly deteriorating security and humanitarian

crisis that has left hundreds, if not thousands, of civilians dead and tens of thousands of others driven from their homes.

Tensions within South Sudan, which became the world’s youngest country in 2011 after seceding from Sudan, burst out into open conflict on 15 December when soldiers loyal to the country’s former deputy president, dismissed in July, launched an attempted coup.

The UN mission in the country is currently providing shelter to some 45,000 people who have fled to UN compounds.

Kyodo News

US President Obama signs two-year budget bill

WASHINGTON, 27 Dec — US President Barack Obama has signed the bipartisan budget bill which covers spending levels for the next two fiscal years, according to the White House on Thursday.

Obama signed the bill and several other pieces of legislation while vacationing in Hawaii. The bill, which was crafted by key negotiators of the bipartisan budget panel, cleared both the GOP-led House of Representatives and the Democratic-controlled Senate earlier this month.

The modest accord sets spending levels for the federal governmental departments slightly above 1 trillion US dollars for each of the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years, eliminating 63 billion dollars in the ongoing automatic spending cuts, known as the sequester.

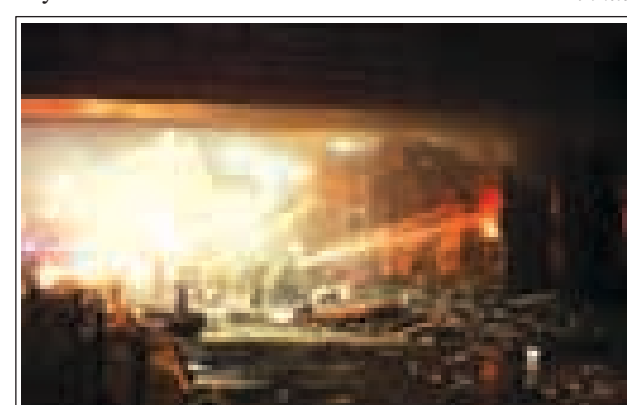
Increase in the outlays

would be offset by a variety of spending savings and revenue generators, including requiring federal employees to contribute more to their pensions and raising some government fees, which would total 85 billion dollars in a decade. In all, the deal would lower the budget deficit by more than 20 billion dollars over a decade.

According to the White House, Obama also signed the defense authorization act for 2014 fiscal year on Wednesday. The bill authorizes appropriations for Department of Defence programmes and military construction, Department of Energy national security programmes and related spending at other agencies.

It approves over 600 billion dollars for the Pentagon in the 2014 fiscal year, including baseline budget and spending for

ongoing operations in the war against terrorists. One notable feature of the bill is that it deals with sexual assault in the military, stripping military commanders of the ability to overturn jury convictions in military sexual assault cases and criminalize retaliation against a victim of sexual assault in the military.—Xinhua



A fire in a shopping mall in downtown Luzhou City of Southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Thursday night left 5 killed and 35 people injured, including five seriously, according to fire fighters.—XINHUA

Death toll climbs to 45 in Brazil floods



People move aboard a small boat in a flooded street, in Vila Velha, state of Espirito Santo, Brazil, on 26 Dec, 2013.—XINHUA

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Dec —The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in Brazil’s southeast states of

Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo climbed to 45, local Civil Defence authorities said on Thursday.

Indian court sentences man to life in jail for raping Spanish woman in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 27 Dec —An Indian court Friday sentenced a man to life in jail after convicting him of raping a 26-year-old Spanish woman at her house in Mumbai last year.

The court sentenced Md Badsha Ansari to life imprisonment for rape and sodomy, apart from three years in prison for criminal intimidation and one year for theft.

The horrific rape shook Mumbai in November last year when the man broke into the Spanish national’s house in posh Bandra area in the wee hours, and then raped her, before decamping with cash and valuables.

The Spanish musician had identified the accused during an identification parade, after the Mumbai police formed eight teams and nabbed the history sheeter.

Rapes of foreign nationals are not uncommon in India.

Xinhua



A memorial ceremony is held in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on 26 Dec, 2013, to mark the ninth anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed more than 220,000 people.—KYODO NEWS

Iranian dissidents say rockets hit their Baghdad camp, kill three

BAGHDAD, 27 Dec — A camp of Iranian dissidents in the Iraqi capital was hit by rockets on Thursday in an attack the group said killed three residents and seriously wounded several others. A Shi’ite militia claimed responsibility for the attack on the Mujahidin-e-Khalq (MEK) camp in western Baghdad, which has repeatedly been the target of mortar and rocket attacks in recent months.

The group, which calls for the overthrow of Iran’s clerical leaders and fought on Iraq’s side during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, is no longer welcome in Iraq under the Shi’ite-led government that came to power after the 2003 US-led invasion. A Paris-based spokesman for the MEK, Shahin Gobadi, said three people had been killed when “Camp Liberty,” located in a former US military compound, was hit with dozens of missiles.

Several of the wounded were in a critical condition, said Gobadi, adding that more than 50 had been reported injured. The group accused the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of being behind the attack in an attempt to win support from Iran’s government ahead of elections next year. Iraqi authorities have repeatedly denied involvement in attacks on the group.

In a rare claim of responsibility for attacks on the MEK, Wathiq al-Batat, commander of the al-Mukhtar Army militia, told Reuters his group had fired 20 Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds at the camp.

“We’ve asked (the government) to expel them from the country many times, but they are still here,” he said, accusing the group of communicating with Sunni and Shi’ite politicians he said were linked to al-Qaeda.—Reuters

WORLD



An Afghan policeman shows his certificate during a graduation ceremony at a police training centre in Balkh Province in northern Afghanistan on 26 Dec, 2013. —XINHUA

Capacity of Syria's power stations drops by half due to attacks

DAMASCUS, 27 Dec — Syria's Minister of Electricity Imad Khamis said on Thursday that the capacity of the power generating stations in the unrest-torn country had dropped to 50 percent due to the rebels' attacks, SANA news agency reported.

"The capacity of the power generating stations has dropped into 50 percent after the armed terrorist groups targeted the fuel, gas pipelines, and voltage towers which negatively affected the Syrian citizen's life, public and private companies," Khamis said.

The rebels have

targeted key power lines twice over the past 10 days, causing blackout in many areas in southern Syria, according to the mainstream media.

Syrian official media reported in September that financial losses of the energy sector alone amounted to 2 trillion Syrian pounds (140 billion US dollars) since the outbreak of the war in March 2011.

Meanwhile, the Minister revealed that his Ministry had signed 20 contracts with Indian companies during the last three months with 60 million Euro value.

Xinhua

Albania tightens punishments for serious criminal offences

TIRANA, 27 Dec — Albanian Justice Ministry on Thursday urged more severe punishments for serious criminal offences and re-evaluation of alternative sentences because of the increase of the juvenile delinquency.

"We need a new policy, a more severe policy against law violators. We have decided to ask General Prosecution Office to take more severe verdicts for grave penal acts and to re-evaluate alternative sentences," Minister of Justice Nasip Naco told a Press conference.

Naco considered the

probation service and electronic surveillance system as two important instruments, underling expansion of these services throughout the country's territory.

The minister's decision came after four armed robbers disguised as "Santa Claus" robbed jewelries worth of 410,000 US dollars from a store in the suburbs of Tirana on Christmas Eve.

The Albanian police was immediately mobilized to track the armed gang, in the meantime, started the investigation into the case.

Xinhua

Man tries forcing way into French presidential palace

PARIS, 27 Dec — A manager of a theater in Paris tried to force his way by car into the Elysee Palace to protest the government's cut of subsidies, local media reported on Thursday.

Citing a police source, BFMTV said the driver, an Italian national, was placed in custody after trying to force his way into the president's office.

A security perimeter was set up in front of the Elysee after the incident.—Xinhua

China stresses road safety for Spring Festival travel rush

BEIJING, 27 Dec — Chinese police will tighten patrol and inspection efforts to ensure road safety during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush period starting 16 Jan in China, according to the Ministry of Public Security (MPS).

Traffic management authorities plan to carry out two safety checks nationwide ahead of the major festival season to ensure safe and smooth journeys, the ministry's traffic management bureau said on Thursday.

During the checkups, authorities will target unsafe vehicles and unqualified drivers and ensure all dangerous road sections prone to fog and rollover accidents have warning signs erected.

Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, will fall on 31 Jan. It is the most

important Chinese holiday for family reunions, making it a hectic time for the country's public transportation system.

Nearly 3.28 billion trips are expected to be made by road during the traffic peak between 16 Jan and 24 Feb, according to the bureau.

Authorities will focus on overloading, fatigue, illegal road operations, and drivers operating vehicles for which they are not licensed during the rush period checkups.

Inspection should be enhanced on passenger buses, tourist coaches, chartered buses for migrant workers, micro-buses, and cargo trucks transporting dangerous materials, according to the bureau.

The bureau warned related agencies to guard

against harsh weather, including haze, snow and sleet.

China will also step up efforts to crack down on crimes involving drunk driving, according to a circular jointly issued on Thursday by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the MPS.

The circular defines drunk driving in detail, and details heavier punishment for drunk drivers, specific fines and procedures on the application of coercive measures.

Chinese authorities have investigated or punished 871,000 cases of drunk driving since the country's revised Criminal Law came into effect in May 2011, marking a 39.3 percent year-on-year decrease, according to the circular.—Xinhua

Two killed, six injured in Louisiana shooting

HOUSTON, 27 Dec — Two people were killed and six others were wounded following a shooting outside several bars in the US state of Louisiana on Thursday, local media reported.

The incident happened early on Thursday morning in Slidell in east Louisiana, the website of the Times-Picayune reported. Police believe an "ongoing feud" that was re-ignited inside one of the bars and at some point spilled out onto the street led to the deadly shooting.

At a Press conference held on Thursday afternoon, Slidell police confirmed one person died at the scene and another died later at an area hospital. Six others were injured. Police did not elaborate on their conditions.

Police said they believe there was one shooter and that they have identified a potential suspect, but will not release any information yet citing "sensitive nature of the investigation."

Witnesses said they saw fighting at the scene and that during the altercations several gunshots were fired into the crowd. One of the dead victims and some of the injured were innocent bystanders.

Several businesses in the area have surveillance cameras, and police are using that footage in their investigation. No other details are available now.—Xinhua



Photos offer a glimpse of the development of the Xuwei New Area in the coastal city Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province. The new area is a pilot zone of the National Demonstration Area for Eastern, Central and Western Inter-regional Cooperation approved by China's State Council. — XINHUA

Three militants killed in eastern Algeria

ALGIERS, 27 Dec — Three militants linked to al-Qaeda were killed on Wednesday night by the Algerian army forces in the Islamic Maghreb in the province of Constantine, APS news agency reported on Thursday citing a statement of the defence ministry.

The statement specified that a unit of the army ambushed a terror group in El-Abiar, in the municipality of Ben Badis.

Three Kalashnikov automatic rifles, a Seminov semi-automatic rifle, a pair of binoculars, ammunition and other stuffs were captured, a source said.

This "qualitative" operation was conducted in coordination with security services, the source added.

In mid December, the army forces killed two al-Qaeda linked militants in the Province of Tizi Ouzou, 100 km east of Algiers.—Xinhua



Rescuers participate in a joint exercise of the initial self-supporting unit together with the rescue battalion 239 of Home Front Command emergency organization in front of the Beer Sheva Market in Beer Sheva, southern Israel, on 25 Dec, 2013. The training exercise here on Wednesday resembled a conventional three story building, collapsed as a result of being hit by a missile. In recent years, Beer Sheva has constantly been under attack during diverse escalations and during the operation "pillar of defense". The rescue forces need to keep their training top notch.—XINHUA

The 66th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in the year of 2014

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 December, 2013

Happy ending in sight?

The peace process seems to be in limbo after the second peace conference of ethnic armed groups set to be held in Kayin's Hpan-an is put back until the last week of January 2014. However, this is not the sole challenge for Myanmar to take on in rebuilding itself as a peaceful democratic nation.

In the long-running fighting competition between two sides, the third party—the people—who have nothing to do with the war are always the losers, setting aside the cause of conflict. In fact, people in particular the war victims had anticipated for nationwide ceasefire declaration in October, but it came to nothing against all expectations.

When we talk about ceasefire, we usually talk about building mutual trust and signing truce. But, this is not a problem whatsoever. It just depends on two sides which have arms and then the guns will fall silent if both of them put people at the first place. As a matter of fact, six-decade-old armed conflict is far more than enough for innocent civilians.

Nonetheless, it is usual for peace process to take a rather long time while things are improving towards promising lasting peace for the first time over the six decades. It is therefore critically important to keep alive the hope that a peace agreement would be reached for the good of us.

Meanwhile, both the ruling and opposition parties are working for charter amendment—the absolute requirement for better future of all ethnic nationalities living in Myanmar—and it comes as an encouraging news to us that both parties are holding their central executive committee meetings on constitutional reform on Saturday.

We hope political parties as well as the parliament and all the actors will do their best for the sake of people and we believe things are just going to be fine if all actors perform in the interest of general audience. All we want is just a happy ending after all the cries and tears on the stage.

It is known that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a predominantly Theravada Buddhist nation in the world for nearly one thousand years, and over (90) percent of nation's population has taken faith in Theravada Buddhism since then. Furthermore, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been recognized as a permanent higher learning centre of genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in the Buddhist world but also throughout the world. According to historical records of Buddhism, the Fifth and the Sixth Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were successfully convened in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with a view to purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the Buddha's teachings) all over the world. The Sixth Great Buddhist Council, which was attended and participated by Maha Theras from Five Theravada Buddhist Nations, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, was successfully held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1954.

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, a great number of Buddhist Monastic Institutions and learning Centers of Buddhist Scriptures have been established in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for years. For the time being, the two Pariyatti Sasana Universities, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay have been so far established to promote and

propagate the Theravada Buddhism throughout the world. At present, Buddhist monk students are attending these two universities, and if they have got through the prescribed examinations held by these Universities, they will be conferred Takkasila Dhammacariya Degree (Bachelor of Arts) in Buddhism and Tekkasila Maha Dhammacariya Degree (Master of Arts) in Buddhism respectively. And now, the International

of Myanmar since sixty five years ago. Buddhist monk candidates who wish to appear for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi Examination. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates have to take (33) days to sit for this examination. They have to

Myanmar, hand in hand, are striving to propagate, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism not only in homeland but also at abroad. We all Buddhists know that the Sasana is of the three kinds, viz (1) Pariyatti Sasana (Learning the Buddha's teaching), (2) Patipatti Sasana (Practical application of the Buddha's teaching) and (3) Pativedha Sasana (Realization of the Buddha's teaching). Out of them, the Pariyatti Sasana is the most important one which mainly leads to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the noble teachings of the Buddha). The aims and objectives of holding the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination are to preserve, promote and flourish the genuine Theravada Buddhism all over the world.

We all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and honoured to learn that the 66th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is being held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) in the precinct of the Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar, and it will take (33) days from 8th December 2013 to 9th January 2014. It is learnt that altogether 480 entitled candidates of members of Sangha who have been enrolled throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will sit for the 66th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in the year of 2014. Out of them, 300 candidates will take the oral examination and 180 candidates will take the written examination respectively. Lodging and messing (four kinds of requisites) for candidates will be provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, other donors and well-wishers throughout (33) days. It is further learnt that devotees, well-wishers and other people are cordially invited to visit the Mahapasana Cave (examination centre) for paying profound respect to the members of Sangha who are sitting for the 66th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination in the year of 2014.

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the very first one in the Buddhist world has been also already established in the Republic of the Union of the Myanmar in order to propagate, promote and flourish genuine Theravada Buddhism throughout the world, and to share the knowledge of Buddhism both in theory and practice with the peoples of the world to promote their happiness and moral well-being.

According to the Pariyatti (learning canonical Texts) Education System of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, there are seven kinds of religious examinations including the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination yearly held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The seven kinds of religious examinations are as follows:-

- (1) Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination
- (2) Dhammacariya Examination
- (3) Pathamagyi Examination
- (4) Pathamalata Examination
- (5) Pathamange Examination
- (6) Abhidhamma / Visudhimagga Examination (only for Laymen and Nuns)
- (7) Five Nikaya Examination

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Republic of the Union

take both oral examination and written examinations will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida (the Title of Religious Heroes). Up to now, only thirteen outstanding members of Sangha (Bhikkhus) (Religious Heroes) were presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within over 65 years' duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.

It is learnt that many members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from year to year. However, most of them were not successful. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the most difficult of the religious examinations which are yearly held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Such Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination can be held only in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which has carefully preserved the genuine Theravada Buddhism for nearly one thousand years. It is learnt that such examination cannot be held in other Theravada Buddhist nations.

Members of Sangha, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the Republic of the Union



Sustainable development of Myanmar traditional...

(from page 1)

Traditional Medical Council Law in 2000. The two laws serve as main roles of supervising and paving the way for the development of Myanmar traditional medicine in a smarter way. The provisions of the Traditional Medicine Law encourage registration of quality and efficacious traditional medicines on which the public rely and manufacturing the traditional medicines in accord with the law and licenses to produce. It can be witnessed at present that there are tradition medicine factories that follow the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Likewise, Traditional Medical Council Law encourages and monitors the registered traditional medicine practitioners to provide systematic health care service to the people. So, I would like to seriously call on the Ministry of Health, the Department of Traditional Medicine, Myanmar traditional

medicine practitioners, experts and manufacturers to cooperate in their efforts for sustainable development of Myanmar traditional medicine and traditional medicine drugs within the framework of the laws related to the traditional medicine.

Taking a look at the human resources development by turning out traditional medicine practitioners, the Institute of Traditional Medicine established in 1976 nurtured diploma-level traditional medicine practitioners and the University of Traditional Medicine was set up in 2001. The University produced not only degree holders but also M.A holders of Myanmar traditional medicine.

Starting from 2007, Myanmar traditional medicine first-aid kits have been distributed to rural villages till now. Primary health care being provided in rural areas, inauguration of National Herbal Park in 2008 and emergence of internationally-recognized Myanmar Herbal Pharmacopoeia in 2013 are major milestones of the development of Myanmar traditional medicine. During the recent years of

2012 and 2013, Myanmar hosted and planned to host conference and meeting on Traditional Medicine in ASEAN. Fruitful results of the development of Myanmar traditional medicine bring health and fitness to Myanmar people.

Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners and experts who are present at the today's conference and experts who are present at the today's conference are a major consolidated force to take a responsibility for the development of Myanmar traditional medicine. Aiming at ensuring health and longevity of Myanmar people, I would like to send the message to the 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference, making a wish that may the Ministry of Health, the Department of Traditional Medicine, the University of Traditional Medicine, the Traditional Medical Council, the Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association and traditional medicine manufacturers be in unity cooperating in their efforts for sustainable development of Myanmar traditional medicine.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses...

(from page 1)

He stressed the need to debate the research papers conducted by Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners on a disease (or) a common disease and to cultivate the practices for debating the issue whether it should be approved or rejected in accord with own findings, reviews and experiences.

He called for exchange of views with international traditional medicine practitioners including those from ASEAN countries by inviting them and undertaking study tours frequently. Being a multiethnic country, all nation races living in states and regions have been provided with health care services with the use of traditional medicine since thousands of years ago. Myanmar traditional medicines have become popular not only in rural areas but also across the country, he added.

He pointed out that today's conference will become perfect through exchange of views on traditional medicine. He

called on traditional medicine manufacturers to cooperate with the Ministry of Health to be able to produce the medicines meeting set standards as import and export of traditional medicines are to be conformity with the Regulatory Framework of ASEAN countries in accord with the ASEAN Free Trade Area Agreement.

He called for cooperation between traditional medicine practitioners and manufacturers as Myanmar will host the 5th Conference on Traditional Medicine in ASEAN Countries in Mandalay in August, 2014.

In his conclusion, the Vice-President stressed the need to revitalize Myanmar traditional medicine, to strive for producing traditional medicines meeting ASEAN standards and to cooperate with the practitioners of western countries.

Next, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin read out the message sent by President U Thein Sein to the 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views round traditional medicine booths on display at MICC.

MNA

Practitioners' Conference.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President, the Union ministers and guests viewed round the booths on display at the hall. In the evening, a dinner was

hosted to traditional medicine practitioners and delegates to the conference at MICC.

The conference will be held till 29 December.

MNA

JICA and MoECAAF launched Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in the Ayeyawady Delta

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—In cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has launched a Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in the name of "Mangrove Rehabilitation Plan for Enhancement of Disaster Prevention in the Ayeyawady Delta". The Project Site is in the Kadonkani Reserve Forest, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region. The

Project duration is 4 years from 2013 November to 2017 October and JICA contributes 583 million Japanese Yen for the Project through Grant Aid Programme.

For the actual implementation of the project, preparation activities have been initiated between the two sides since 2011. In 2012 August, the grant agreement was signed between Ministry of National Planning and Economic

Development, Republic of the Union of Myanmar and JICA. In accordance with Grant Agreement, in 2013 Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry respectively signed Consultant Agreement with Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd for project design formulation and monitoring and evaluation services for the project and Contract Agreement with Hazama Ando Corporation for actual im-

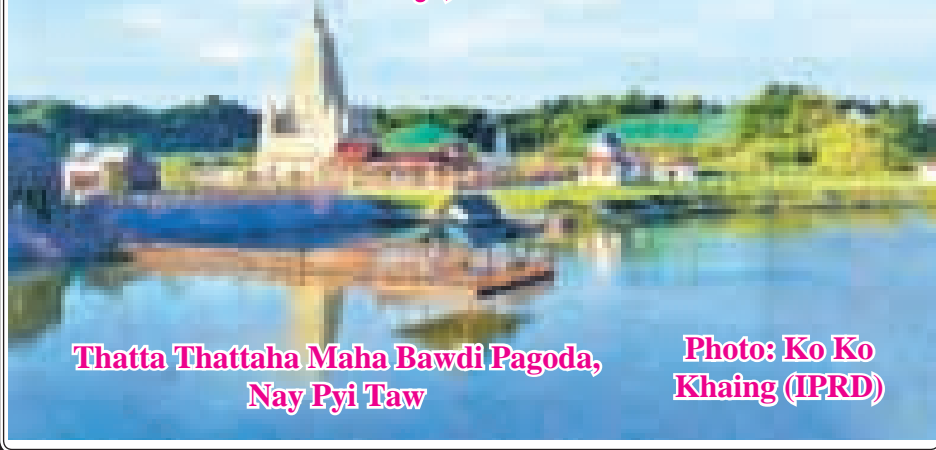
plementation of activities at project site.

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



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin reads message sent by President U Thein Sein to 14th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.—MNA

66th Anniversary Independence Day, 2014



Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda,
Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Ko Ko Khaing (IPRD)

Honest driver hands over bag to owner



YANGON, 27 Dec—Taxi driver U Kaung Myat Hlaing of No 78 on Padaukpin Street in Kyimyindine Township found a bag of his passenger on board forgot by a passenger at 2.40 pm on 25 December.

to Khokphu restaurant in Kayinchan Ward of Ahlon Township where the passenger started to hire his taxi.

The owner of the restaurant contacted the bag owner.

The driver returned

At the restaurant, the

House fire caused by mobile phone charging in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 27 Dec—A fire triggered by mobile phone charging broke out at a house in Pyinmana, this morning and left six households homeless.

The house fire was reported about 5.20 am today due to the mobile phone which was in a charging state at No. 17/14 (A) in sector-17 of Yan Aung ward-2 in Pyinmana. Thanks to the efforts of fire crews in cooperation with local people, the fire died down at about 6.30 am after reducing five houses into ashes. Property loss due to the fire reached K 32.7 million.

While actions are being taken against the fire negligence by Pyinmana police station. And fire victims—thirteen male and female each—are being accommodated at a religious school in the ward. No casualties in the fire were reported.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)



driver handed over 8800 yuans, one passport of Lu Qting of Ruili of Yunnan Province and documents related to timber work to bag owner Lu Qtng and U Kya Nyunt (a) U Aik Kyar Nu, owner of Udaung Yadana Co Ltd of Seinban Street between 62nd and 63rd streets in Myothit Ward of Mandalay.

The driver had given back foreign currency left on board on 27 February 2013 to the owner through Cambodian Embassy.

The embassy presented a certificate of honour to the driver.

Kyemon-Tin Maung
Oo (Ahlon)

Four objectives of 66th Anniversary Independence Day

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

Convocation Hall, lecture halls under construction at Kalay University



KALAY, 27 Dec—Kalay University that originated from Kalay College on 16 February 1993 in Kalay of Sagaing Region was upgraded to Kalay Degree College on 7 July 1999 and to the university level one on 14 May 2002.

The institution is nurturing over 4500 day students and over 4300 distance education students this year. It turns out over 1000 graduates yearly.

At present, the government spent K 1969.9 million on construction of three lecture halls that

measure 192 feet long and 38 feet wide each. So far, construction has been completed by 70 per cent. K 1625 million fund was spent on construction of 206 feet long and 164 feet wide convocation hall, and it has been completed by 80 per cent.

In addition, the university will be facilitated with one 120 feet by 90 feet gymnasium funded with K 180 million and one

stadium with K 53.54 million.

Furthermore, the university is constructing five officer housings spending K 78.2362 million and one engineer housing spending K 37.2 million.

Kalay District Management Committee Chairman U Maung Htoo inspected progress of construction tasks on 24 December.

Kyemon-Ju Nine

Anti-human trafficking lecture given at training course

YANGON, 27 Dec—Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Hla of Anti-Human Trafficking Corps of Myanmar Police Force gave lecture on prevention against trafficking in persons to the trainees of the Management Staff Grade II Refresher Course No 12/2013 at the management development training school of Yangon Region on 24 December.

The training course started on 21 October 2013 and it runs 12 weeks.

The lecturer shared

knowledge about efforts of the government in preventing the trafficking in persons and its plans, cooperation with NGOs and INGOs, UN agencies and international community, policies, taking care of human trafficking victims and achievements of the nation.

The lecture was attended by 65 trainees from General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Kyemon

Baby show marks 66th Anniversary Independence Day in Yangon South District

YANGON, 27 Dec—As Anniversary Independence Day, the baby show was



held at Shin Saw Pu Hall in Thanlyin of Yangon South District General Administration Department on 24 December morning.

Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Ohnma Nay Tun explained the purpose of the baby show.

District Assistant Surgeon U Tint Khaing of District General Hospital explained the disciplines

of the show.

The medical team checked the babies and Chairperson of the supervisory committee Daw Ohnma Nay Tun and officials presented prizes to the winning babies.

The baby show was competed by 37 babies under two years and six mothers from townships of Yangon South District.

Kyemon-Thet Khaing
(IPRD)

REGIONAL

S Korea, DPRK launch dispute arbitration panel for Kaesong complex

SEOUL, 27 Dec — South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has established an arbitration panel for handling legal disputes in the joint factory park in the border town Kaesong, South Korea's Unification Ministry said on Friday.

The panel is expected to deal with possible disputes in early March after both sides decide details about arbitration regulations, the unification ministry spokesman Kim Eyi-do said.

The DPRK on

Thursday sent a list of five panel members to South Korea, who has already sent its list of five officials to Pyongyang. This latest move followed the agreement made by both sides three month ago.

Around 30 foreigners, including finance officials from G20 member countries and experts from the Asia Development Bank and the Bank for International Settlement, visited the complex last Thursday to help Pyongyang promote foreign investment.

Xinhua



Vietnamese National Assembly (NA) Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung (R) meets with visiting Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 26 Dec, 2013.

XINHUA

Indonesian president calls on people to remain alert on disaster to commemorate Aceh tsunami

JAKARTA, 27 Dec — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Thursday called on people to remain alert on possible disaster that may occur anytime across the country in commemoration of the deadly tsunami that struck the country's Aceh Province nine years ago.

Yudhoyono made the remarks though several postings on his official twitter social media account to commemorate the Aceh tsunami. The tsunami in Aceh on 26 December, 2004 was triggered by a 9.1 magnitude

quake off the coast of Aceh Province's capital Banda Aceh. The tsunami ransacked areas as far as Southeast Asian, South Asian and African countries, leaving more than 230,000 people dead. Aceh alone reported a death toll of 175,000.

Indonesia and international organizations managed to rebuild Aceh and islands in Aceh Province's waters through integrated efforts coordinated by Indonesian government's agency of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Body (BRR).

A total of 7 billion US

dollars of donation funds provided by domestic and international communities has been spent to rebuild Aceh and nearby island of Nias that was hit by a major earthquake in 2005.

"Thank God that Aceh and Nias have been rebuilt. Through our togetherness we can overcome any disaster that hits us," Yudhoyono said.

Indonesian government, through its disaster mitigation agency, has taken various measures to increase people's alertness towards disasters in the future.

Besides, several buildings to accommodate refugees have also been built in several locations in Banda Aceh and nearby island of Nias for possible tsunami in the Province.

Possible major earthquake in waters off Sumatra coast, known as mega thrust, has been predicted by international agencies, after a series of earthquakes occurred around that area several times lately.—Xinhua

Xinhua

29 die in bus accident in northern Thailand

BANGKOK, 27 Dec— Police said on Thursday that at least 29 people were killed and four seriously wounded when a passenger bus plunged into a deep ravine in northeastern Thailand.

According to the police, the accident occurred overnight in Lom Sak district of Petchabun Province, around 400 kilometres from Bangkok.

The bus, carrying around 40 passengers from northeastern Khon Kaen Province to Chiang Rai Province, was travelling at high speed when it crashed through a bridge railing and fell into the ravine, according to the police.

The search-and-rescue operation is still ongoing, while the cause of the accident is under investigation.

Kyodo News



Bangladeshi military officers are deployed ahead of the upcoming elections in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 26 Dec, 2013. Tens of thousands of Bangladeshi troops have been deployed across the country ahead of parliamentary poll slated for on 5 Jan, 2014 amid boycott by the main opposition alliance.

XINHUA

TEPCO seeks approval of new business rehabilitation plan from gov't

TOKYO, 27 Dec— Tokyo Electric Power Co and a state-backed fund submitted to the government on Friday a new business plan that aims to revive the utility following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster through more financial support from the state and the resumption of its suspended reactors.

While TEPCO and the Nuclear Damage Liability Facilitation Fund have not announced the content of the plan, which needs to be approved by industry minister Toshimitsu Motegi to become official, sources close to the matter said it has been worked out on the assumption that two reactors at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Niigata Prefecture will resume operation from July.

But it is undetermined if the company can put its

business back on track in accordance with the plan, given uncertainty when the seven-reactor plant in Niigata will actually be able to resume operation.

Amid calls from TEPCO that it is impossible for a single private company to shoulder all the costs stemming from one of the world's worst nuclear crises, the government decided earlier in the month to provide more financial aid to TEPCO to make sure the utility will not face funding difficulties.

The decision includes lifting the ceiling for interest-free loans the utility is allowed to receive from the fund to 9 trillion yen from the present 5 trillion yen.

TEPCO, with the help of other nuclear power plant operators, will repay the loans it used for compensation payments to people and companies affected

by the crisis, which is so far estimated to reach up to 5.4 trillion yen.

While radiation clean-up costs outside the Fukushima plant are being paid from the national coffers on behalf of TEPCO, the government is seeking to retrieve the money through gains earned by selling TEPCO shares that are currently owned by the fund.

TEPCO and the fund compiled the initial comprehensive business plan last year when the utility received 1 trillion yen in public funds to bolster its financial standing.

But they ended up making a new rehabilitation plan as it turned out to be impossible to resume operations at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant from April as initially assumed.

The utility estimates that if it can restart the plant's Nos 6 and 7

reactors as planned, it can cut 240 billion to 330 billion yen of annual fuel costs for thermal power generation. The two units are now undergoing a safety assessment process.

To ensure swift decision-making and a flexible response on issues related to the crisis cleanup activities at the Fukushima plant, TEPCO plans to create an in-house company on 1 April that will be in charge of decommissioning the plant and tackling the increasing radioactive water.

As the new business plan was compiled, 11 financial institutions, including major banks, provided 500 billion yen in loans to the battered utility on Thursday.

Of the 500 billion yen, 300 billion yen is in fresh loans and the remaining portion is loan refinancing.

Kyodo News



Penguins walk in a parade at Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan in Osaka's Minato Ward on 26 Dec, 2013. KYODO NEWS

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ANORO

(Reg. No. 10/17590012)
 used in respect of - Class 5: "Pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances"
 Int'l Class 10: "Medical and surgical apparatus and instruments, machines, parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods as included in class 10"
 Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use in any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.
 Huan [A] Co. U.S.A. Associate MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
 E-mail: mya@myanmarlaw.com Tel: 276218 G.P.O. Box 688 Yangon. 28 December 2013

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 E-mail: mya@myanmarlaw.com Tel: 276218 G.P.O. Box 688 Yangon. 28 December 2013

A watched pot never boils

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	(8) Nos	US\$
(6)	IFB-152(2013-2014)	AC, 400 AMP, Dry Type 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 26th 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 BANGKAJA VOY NO (90)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKAJA VOY NO (90) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

USA, Canada to assist in clearance of unexploded ordnance in Laos

VIENTIANE, 27 Dec—The US government has pledged continued support to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to assist in the clearance of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Laos with a grant of over 2 million US dollars according to state-run daily *Vientiane Times*, on Wednesday.

The funding will support MAG clearance operations in Xieng Khuang province for a further 12 months. According to *Vientiane Times* the Canadian government has also provided a grant of 436,700 US dollars to fund clearance works in Khammuan Province for the next five months.

The grants are a recognition that more work needs to be done in removing UXO from Lao soil said Country Director of MAG in Laos Simon Rea at the signing ceremony. From 1964 to 1973, approximately 2 million tons of ordnance was dropped on the country amounting to some 270 million bombs.

Deadliest among the weapons dropped on Laos were cluster bombs designed to break apart and spread as smaller bombs. An estimated 30 percent of these weapons failed to explode on impact, continuing to kill and maim people 40 years after the end of the conflict.—*Xinhua*

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
 MYANMA RAILWAYS
 INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr.No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)11(MR/ML) (YUG2013-2014)	Spares Parts for Diesel Hydraulic Locomotive (132) Items
2.	12(T)12(MR/ML) (BN2013-2014)	Spares Parts for Rapower with MOI 18 W 17N Engine (31 Items)
3.	12(T)13(MR/ML) (BN2013-2014)	Spares Parts for Turbocharger ABB VTC 214-13-02 Items

Closing Date & Time - 20.1.2014 (Thursday) 12:00 Noon

2. Tender documents are available at our office working from 26.12.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Tharyay Street and Marchant Street, Houndaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-251985, 251984

Suicide bombing hits foreign military convoy in Kabul

KABUL, 27 Dec—Casualties were feared as a suicide car bombing went off near a military convoy of the NATO-led coalition forces in eastern Kabul on Friday, a police source said.

"One suicide bomber set off his explosive-packed vehicle next to a line of military vehicles of the coalition troops at around midday in Pul-e-Charkhi road which is also called Jalalabad road. Details about the casualties will be public after an ongoing investigation," the source told *Xinhua* on conditions of anonymity. Local TV footage showed the damaged civilian and military cars at the area where many military centers and local construction companies are located.

Afghan security forces cordoned off the area shortly after the blast. Police are working to keep people from gathering at the scene for fears that there might be a second blast.

The explosion took place at around 1:30 pm (local time) near the Phoenix military base, a joint Afghan and NATO base where Afghan forces receive military training under the U.S. and NATO trainers, witness Khoja Ahmad told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua

Israel plans new settlement push while freeing Palestinian prisoners

JERUSALEM, 27 Dec — Israel plans to announce a push for more construction in Jewish settlements when it frees two dozen Palestinian prisoners next week, an Israeli official said on Wednesday, in a move that could jeopardize US-brokered peace talks.

Palestinians have said any further settlement expansion could scuttle the negotiations, which resumed in July after intensive shuttle diplomacy by US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Talks ran aground in 2010 over the same issue. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has continued to pledge more settlement building, often timing the announcement of these plans to offset the anger of



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on 22 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

far-right political partners at Israel's release of Palestinians jailed for deadly attacks.

"Israel will declare new building in the settlements next week," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He would not say how many units were planned or where. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon hinted at new settlement plans as well during a visit

to a military base where he told reporters:

"I think it is our right to build, certainly according to our understandings and agreements with the Americans. And in accordance with that, we shall continue to build." Israel has said it will free two dozen Palestinian prisoners on 29 December, the third batch of inmates released since August.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Beyonce retains top spot on US Billboard album chart

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec — Beyonce held onto the top spot on the U.S. Billboard 200 album chart for the second consecutive week as her new self-titled album sold 374,000 copies in the lead-up to Christmas, according to figures released on Thursday from Nielsen SoundScan.

The pop star's fifth solo album, which was released on 13 December, has sold a total of 991,000 copies through 22 December, which was the final day for tallying this week's chart.

Currently the year's 12th-best selling album, "Beyonce" is expected to crack the top 10 in just a few weeks' time, Billboard said.

The album, Beyonce's first since 2011, was

released exclusively through Apple's iTunes digital music store and was not available in other retailers until 21 December.

Country music star Garth Brooks held at No 2 on the chart with his Walmart-exclusive box set, "Blame It All on My Roots," selling 199,000 copies.

British-Irish boy band One Direction's "Midnight Memories" moved to No 3 from No 5, swapping spots with country-pop singer Kelly Clarkson's Christmas album, "Wrapped in Red."

Sales of "Duck the Halls: A Robertson Family Christmas," the Christmas album from the "Duck Dynasty" reality TV series' Robertson family, jumped 22 percent in the week

before Christmas landing at No 4 on the chart.

That jump in the Christmas album's sales comes amid the controversy over anti-gay comments made by Robertson family patriarch Phil Robertson and published last week.

Week-over-week album sales rose 22 percent for the week ending December 22, the final full week before Christmas. But sales last week were down 17 percent from the same period last year and album sales for the year are 9 percent lower than 2012.

"Say Something," a song by duo A Great Big World featuring pop singer Christina Aguilera, held steady as the top digital track, with 238,000 downloads last week.—Reuters



Singer Beyonce

Miley Cyrus disappointed after music video leaks online

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec — Singer Miley Cyrus expressed her frustration on microblogging site Twitter after her new video for song Adore You was leaked online.

The 21-year-old had been counting down the days until her video's official release on Thursday (26 December), only to see it prematurely a day before, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"We all know smilers (fans) would break another record if it wasn't for the f*** face who leaked my video. All good! Keep smiling." She tweeted in reference to her fans known as 'Smilers'.



Miley's Adore You music video officially released on 26 Dec, 2013.

PTI

In the video, she is seen in a two-piece and was filmed primarily under white bed sheets.

PTI

Brad Pitt's love letters to former girlfriend revealed

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec — Actor Brad Pitt's love letters to former girlfriend Jill Schoelen, who he dated in the 1980s, have been revealed.

Brad reportedly gushed over his former girlfriend Jill in letters which he allegedly wrote when they were dating in 80s, reported Aceshowbiz.

"I adore you. I will love you forever," read one letter.

In another letter, Brad Pitt allegedly wrote, "I can't stop thinking about you. I don't feel complete without you next to me."

The World War Z star and the horror movie star broke up in 1989 after Jill dumped him for a movie

director she was working with. "It was one of my worst moments. You don't forget something like that, and maybe I've never quite gotten over the feeling of humiliation." The actor once said.

Jill Schoelen, meanwhile, once gushed over how romantic Brad Pitt was.

"Brad wrote me one of the most beautiful poems a man can write a woman. I thought he was so deep and soulful." She admitted, before adding that the time they spent together was 'a beautiful life experience'.

Brad Pitt, his fiancée Angelina Jolie and their children most recently were seen riding a boat in Queensland, Australia.

Brad Pitt was previously married to former Friends star Jennifer Aniston.—PTI



Brad will, reportedly, soon get married to Angelina.



Keanu plays the character of Kai, an outcast, in 47 Ronin.

When Keanu Reeves felt like an outcast

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec— Hollywood actor Keanu Reeves says while filming 47 Ronin with all-Japanese cast, he felt like an outcast.

He plays the outcast character Kai in the film based on a classic Japanese tale about 47 Samurai in 18th-century Japan who avenge the murder of their master.

"Even though everyone was really nice to me and we got along great and it developed great, I still couldn't hang out and speak Japanese, so in a way I was always Kai. I could say 'Good morning' and 'Nice to meet you' and all that, but I couldn't hang out."

Reeves said in a statement.

But the language barrier didn't come in his way of other things like learning to use the Katana, the traditional Japanese long sword.

"I'd never worked with a Katana before, that was fun. Even though it's a fake fight and it's movie fighting, you still have to have technique. I'm a beginner, but I got to be very specific, so that helped. I've always been drawn to eastern culture." He said.

Universal Pictures International India's 47 Ronin will release in India on January 3, 2014 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

PTI

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec — If one goes by sources, actors Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis might get engaged soon.

"They talk about getting married and having kids. An engagement is imminent." usmagazine.com quoted a source.

Another source said that the former That 70s Show co-stars, who have been dating for almost two years, are 'inseparable'.

When Mila Kunis is not working, she is of-

ten spotted on the sets of Ashton Kutcher's sitcom Two and a Half Men.

"They hang out in his trailer." Added the source.

The Ukrainian-born beauty has reportedly helped mellow out the former party boy, who legally parted ways with Demi Moore in November. Instead of wild nights out, Ashton and Mila prefer spending time in their shared \$10.8 million Hollywood Hills house.

"Ashton and Mila



Ashton and Mila have been dating for almost two years.

cook together. He knows girl." Said a source. he ended up with the right

PTI

Walcott double sends Arsenal back to top

LONDON, 27 Dec — Theo Walcott's double fired Arsenal back to the top of the Premier League as the Gunners got their title challenge back on track with a 3-1 victory at West Ham United on Thursday.

Carlton Cole opened the scoring for lowly West Ham after the break but Walcott struck twice before Lucas Podolski wrapped up a first win in four league games for Arsenal.

Eden Hazard's goal

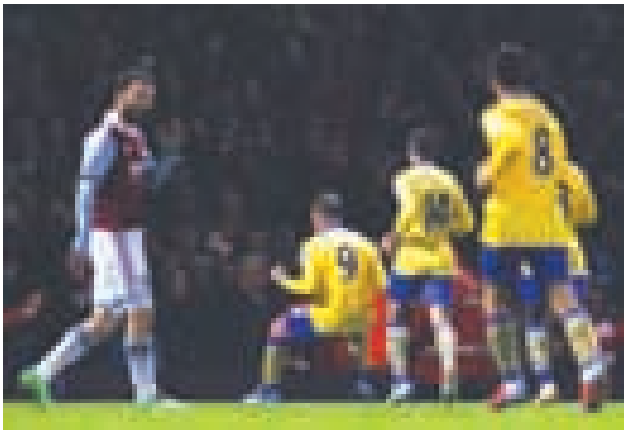
was enough for Chelsea to secure a 1-0 home win against Swansea City and move into second place with 37 points, two behind Arsenal, after 18 games.

Christmas leaders Liverpool could regain top spot on goal difference if they win at Manchester City in the later (1730) kickoff.

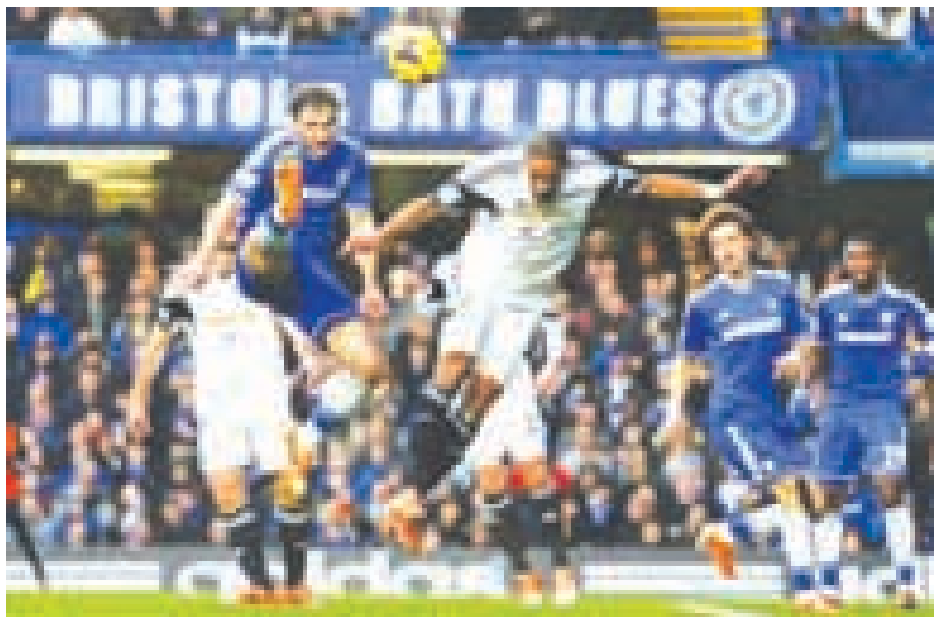
Champions Manchester United's surge in form continued as they hit back from two goals down at Hull City to win 3-2 and move into seventh spot.

Everton's hopes of completing 2013 unbeaten at home in the Premier League vanished as they lost 1-0 at home to bottom club Sunderland after keeper Tim Howard was sent off.

Everton are fifth with 34 points, one more than



Arsenal's Lukas Podolski (C) celebrates after scoring a goal against West Ham United during their English Premier League soccer match at the Boleyn Ground in London on 26 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS



Branislav Ivanovic (L) of Chelsea and Ashley Williams of Swansea jump for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on 26 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Newcastle United who thumped nine-man Stoke City 5-1.

Tottenham Hotspur are eighth following a 1-1 draw with West Bromwich Albion in Tim Sherwood's first match in charge since

being named as the club's permanent manager.

Wins for Crystal Palace at Aston Villa and Fulham at Norwich City meant the three sides that began the day in the bottom three all won, leaving West Ham

to drop into the bottom three.

Cardiff City were beaten 3-0 at home by Southampton, raising fresh doubts over the future of manager Malky Mackay.

Reuters

Man Utd storm back to beat Hull 3-2

LONDON, 27 Dec — Manchester United recovered from conceding two early goals to beat Hull City 3-2 in the early kickoff in the Premier League on Thursday. Goals from Chris Smalling and Wayne Rooney wiped out the deficit before halftime before James Chester's own goal provided the champions with a seasonal gift of three points.

United climbed into sixth spot with 31 points before the later fixtures.

Hull had stunned the visitors with early goals

from Chester and David Meyler.

United had Antonio Valencia sent

off late on and almost paid dearly when Hull laid siege to their goal and Chester was denied a stoppage time equaliser by David de Gea's

save. In later action third-placed Manchester City host leaders Liverpool while second-placed Arsenal at West Ham United.—Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney

Bad boy Shirokov wins second successive Russian award

Moscow, 27 Dec — Zenit St Petersburg midfielder Roman Shirokov was named Russia's Footballer of the Year for a second successive time on Thursday. The 32-year-old, capped 40 times by Russia, topped the annual poll of sports journalists, conducted by Football Weekly, to add to the award he won in 2012.

"It was really unexpected to win last year but I'm not so surprised this year," said the player known for his aggressive manner on the pitch and frequent arguments with fans and

referees. In May, he was sent off for making an obscene gesture at Zenit fans after scoring in their 3-1 win over FC Volga Nizhny Novgorod and then made another gesture when leaving the pitch.

Shirokov was handed a suspended six-month ban after calling the referee "a clown" following

Zenit's 1-1 draw against Amkar Perm in November. He was also fined 150,000 roubles by the Russian Football Union.

Brazilian striker Hulk, who was instrumental in helping Zenit qualify for the Champions League knockout stage, was second in the vote while Dynamo Moscow striker Alexander Kokorin came third.

Reuters



Russian's Roman Shirokov

Murray sees positives in defeat on return from injury

LONDON, 27 Dec — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray was happy with his movement if not the result after making a losing return from 15 weeks on the sidelines at an Abu Dhabi exhibition tournament this week.

The 26-year-old world number four called an early end to his 2013 season after playing a Davis Cup tie in mid-September to have surgery on his lower back.

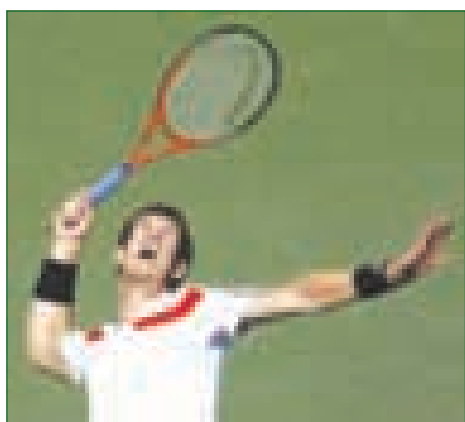
Murray has been trying to lower expectations as he begins his comeback from injury and was not too concerned at losing his first match in the Mubadala world tennis championships event at Zayed Sports City.

"I moved well in the first set, especially once

I got into the rallies," he told the National newspaper after a 7-5, 6-3 defeat to French world number 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Thursday.

"I didn't feel slow at all. In the second, I slowed down slightly, but that's something that is going to get better by playing

Andy Murray of Britain serves to Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 5 Sept, 2013. REUTERS



matches. I can't expect to feel great for long periods of matches straightaway.

"But it was a good workout. You want to play your best, but you need to be realistic and patient. I will play better tomorrow than I did today.

"I was hitting the ball okay, moving well for the

most part. Moving is the most important thing. I just need to be able to do it for a longer period. I just felt like I hadn't played a match for a while."

Murray missed this year's French Open due to a back injury but recovered in time to become the first British man to win Wimbledon for 77 years.

The Scot lost his US Open title in a quarter-final defeat to Stan Wawrinka and then played in Britain's world group playoff against Croatia before deciding to have the operation.

He has spent the intervening months in Florida recuperating and will make his return to the ATP tour at next week's Qatar Open in Doha.—Reuters

Valencia hire Pizzi as coach to replace sacked Djukic

MADRID, 27 Dec — Valencia have completed the appointment of Argentina-born coach Juan Antonio Pizzi to replace the sacked Miroslav Djukic, the La Liga club said on Thursday.

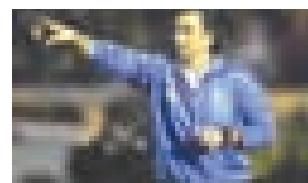
Djukic was dismissed last week after Valencia's erratic form left them in danger of missing out on a qualification place for European competition for next season.

Pizzi would be joined by physio Alejandro Richino and assistant Manuel Suarez, Valencia said in a statement on their website (www.valenciacf.com).

The 45-year-old arrives in Spain fresh from leading San Lorenzo to the Argentine championship.

He spent the better part of his playing career in La Liga, where he was a striker for Valencia, Tenerife and Barcelona.

Spain became his adopted country and he represented them at international level 22 times, scoring eight goals.—Reuters



Chile's Universidad Catolica head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi gestures during their first leg quarter-finals Copa Libertadores match against Uruguay's Penarol in Montevideo, on 11 May, 2011. REUTERS

GENERAL



Locals gather at the site where a passenger bus fell down from a hill in Thuan Chau District, Son La Province, Vietnam, on 26 Dec, 2013. Three people were killed when the bus fell down from a hill in Vietnam's northern mountainous Son La province on Thursday early morning, Vietnamese state-owned news agency VNA reported.

XINHUA

MYANMAR TV

(28-12-2013, Saturday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:15 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 20. Documentary |
| 6:30 am | 2:40 pm |
| 2. Physical Exercises | 21. Hyper Sports |
| 6:45 am | 3:00 pm |
| 3. Documentary | 22. News |
| 7:00 am | 3:15 pm |
| 4. News/Weather Report | 23. India Drama Series |
| 7:20 am | 4:00 pm |
| 5. Business News | 24. News |
| 7:35 am | 4:15 pm |
| 6. Hyper Sports | 25. India Drama Series |
| 8:00 am | 4:30 pm |
| 7. News/ International News | 26. Business News |
| 8:30 am | 4:45 pm |
| 8. India Drama Series | 27. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Botany) |
| 9:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| 9. News/ International News | 28. News |
| 9:30 am | 5:15 pm |
| 10. Documentary (Education) | 29. Game For Children |
| 10:00 am | 5:45 pm |
| 11. News | 30. Documentary |
| 10:15 am | 6:00 pm |
| 12. Documentary | 31. News/ Weather Report |
| 10:25 am | 6:20 pm |
| 13. Shwe Yin Khone Than | 32. Documentary (Education) |
| 11:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 14. Documentary | 33. News |
| 11:20 am | 7:15 pm |
| 15. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 34. Documentary |
| 11:30 am | 8:00 pm |
| 16. Game For Children | 35. News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 17. News/ International News/ Weather Report | 36. Business News |
| 12:30 pm | 8:50 pm |
| 18. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News | 37. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 1:40 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 19. Teleplay | 38. News |
| | 9:20 pm |
| | 39. Myanmar Series |
| | 40. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

28-12-13 07:00 am ~ 29-12-13 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * "Great Shwedagon" Auspicious Grounds And Devotional Posts
- * World News
- * Thread Painting
- * Local News
- * Annual Amazing Festival in Pinyinana
- * World News
- * Shan Chef
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Betels
- * World News
- * Prestigious Myanmar Silversmith
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-7)
- * World News
- * A Visit To Kayah State (Part-I)
- * Local News
- * Inlay Lak and Its Challenges
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Wedding Dresses
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"
- * Local News
- * Sweet & Dreamy Taste
- * World News
- * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train

Chadian soldiers killed in Central African Republic clash, civilian toll hits 50

YAOUNDE, 27 Dec — Eight Chadian soldiers of the peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic (MISCA) were killed in the past two days, including six slain on Christmas day, local police reported on Thursday.

At least 50 civilians have been killed in the clash this week in Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic and their bodies have been found, according to Red Cross sources.

The Chadian soldiers died in attacks by anti-Balakas fighters, who have been fighting with ex-rebel Seleka for months since former president Francois Bozize

was replaced by Michel Djotodia in March, Col. Christian Narkoyo, head of the mobile gendarmerie, told *Xinhua* on telephone.

The pro-Bozize Christians of anti-Balakas accused Chadians of siding with Muslim-dominated Seleka, which was officially dissolved not long ago by Djotodia in a bid to replace the loose coalition of former rebels with a national army.

Ex-Seleka fighters, some linked to looting, summary execution and other forms of violence, are still reportedly involved in ongoing fighting.

This is the second time

foreign soldiers have been killed this month. Two French soldiers lost their lives days after France sent troops to Central African Republic to help restore peace and order on 5 December. French soldiers were accused of sympathizing with Christian fighters by Djotodia's government.

The UN Security Council has authorized the intervention by French troops and MISCA after hundreds of people were reportedly killed in clashes between supporters of Bozize and ex-Seleka fighters, sparking fears of a repetition of the 1994 Rwanda massacre.

Xinhua

China continues fighting pirates off Africa

BEIJING, 27 Dec — China will continue to send naval fleets on escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, described by a Chinese naval officer as the nation's international obligation. The pirates in the area have become more violent and are brazen in using weapons. Reinforcing escort forces is a real need and a long-term mission, Ding Yiping, deputy commander in the Chinese Navy, said on Thursday, the fifth anniversary of China's first such escort mission.

In the past five years, China has sent 16 fleets composed of 42 warships to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, escorting 5,465 vessels and rescuing

42 ships attacked by the pirates, said Ding.

A total of 13,214 marines have participated in the escort missions.

Pirate activity has dropped off drastically in the wake of the escorts from various countries, Ding said. Only 11 incidents have been recorded this year to date, and none of them were successful.

The navy will expand its escort area and strengthen cooperation with international forces to ensure regional and world peace, he said. Ding said that China has no plan to send its aircraft carrier to the area as it is still in sea trials and is not yet combat-ready.

Xinhua

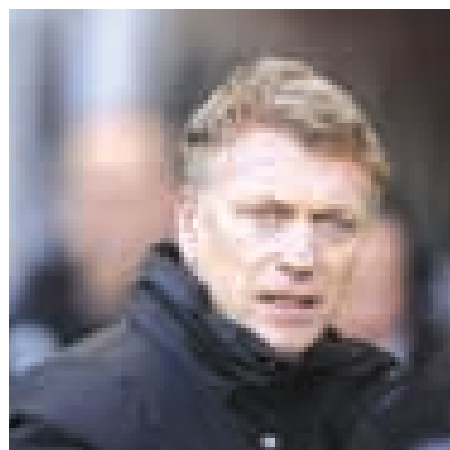
United comeback never in doubt, says Moyes

LONDON, 27 Dec — Troubled though his early months at Manchester United have been, manager David Moyes can rest easy that his side have lost none of the fighting spirit they used to display regularly under Alex Ferguson.

When the champions fell 2-0 down after 13 minutes at Hull City on Thursday, United's seemed set to choke on their Christmas turkey but they hit back to win 3-2 and edge closer to the pack at the top of the Premier League.

Former United prospect James Chester had scored after four minutes and United's defence was at sixes and sevens when David Meyler made it 2-0.

United were level before halftime, however,



Manchester United manager David Moyes reacts before their English Premier League soccer match against Hull City at the KC Stadium in Hull, northern England on 26 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

with talisman Wayne Rooney leading by example, curling in a free kick which Chris Smalling headed home and equalising with a stunning shot from distance - his 150th Premier League goal.

United rode their luck at times after the break, but Chester's own goal meant

they moved up to seventh and are beginning to look like a force again.

Victory made it five in a row in all competitions, the team's best run since Moyes took over.

"I always thought we'd go on and win it," Moyes told MUTV. "What we've got here is the

capability and I don't think there would have been one supporter who thought that the game was over (when we went two down), I certainly didn't.

"My only concern was Hull's defensive record here this season, I think they'd only conceded three goals prior to today. Thankfully, by halftime we were back level and I even thought we should have been 3-2 up by that point." United survived late Hull pressure after having Antonio Valencia sent off but hung on.

"When we got the third goal I really wanted the lads to go on and score again and get that fourth goal to avoid the scary moments that we had in the last five minutes," Moyes said.

Reuters

Defence Services standing united with government in transforming nation into peaceful, developed one

VSG attends graduation parade of 11th Batch of DSINPS



Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents best trainee award to Ye Yint Aung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec— On behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiripyanchi Soe Win delivered an address at the graduation parade of 11th Batch of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science (DSINPS) at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy (DSMA) in Yangon this morning.

The Vice-Senior General presented best trainee award to Ye Yint Aung, excellence in training award to Taing Zaw Htwe and excellence in study award to Sa Myo Thant.

He said in his speech that while Myanmar is on the threshold of democracy, Defence Services is standing united with the government in transforming the nation into a peaceful and developed one by taking lessons from some world nations that have encountered instability during their transitional periods. Moreover, greater atten-

tion has been given to providing health care services to national races.

He called on graduate trainees to do their bit in giving health care services not only to families of servicemen but also to local people at any places they arrive. He also stressed the need for strict adherence to the 60 points of military code of conduct and to strive to be good and able citizens of the State and Defence Services, performing constant learning on military affairs and medicine.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General and party met with the outstanding trainees and their parents. And then he looked round the Institute and coordinated the essentials.

In the afternoon, the Vice-Senior General together with Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), the senior military officers and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo visited Myawady publishing house and press house (Yangon branch).

In the evening, the Vice-Senior General attended a dinner of 11th Batch of DSINPS at DSMA in Yangon.

Myawady

Over two thousands to take part in ASEAN Para Games opening and closing performance

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—Seventh ASEAN Para Games Opening and Closing Organizing Committee held its work coordination meeting at the Ministry of Culture here yesterday evening, attended

by Chairman of the 7th ASEAN Para Games Organizing Committee Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu. The meeting focused on the performance by respective sectors.

The devices and mate-

rials provided by China in the 27th SEA Games will be used at the 7th ASEAN Para Games. Myanmar Computer Company (MCC) will provide technical assistance free of charge.

MNA

Myanmar, BAJ of Japan ink MoU on construction of Technical Education and Training School

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec— A ceremony to sign MoU between Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs and Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) from Japan on construction of Technical Education and Training School for the national races from border area in Hpa-an in Kayin State took place at the ministry, here, this morning.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win in his speech said that industrial maintenance course, electrical

course, construction course and welding course will be conducted to 180 trainees for a year from 2013 to 2019 at a cost of US\$ 1.5 million at the training school according to the MoU. The government is placing emphasis on human resource development and poverty alleviation. The project will facilitate economic and technological advancement in the region, creating job opportunities for local youths. He expressed thanks to Japanese government and Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ)

for its cooperation in the process. The ministry has been training national races from border area to become intelligentsia and intellectuals to be able to perform regional development tasks, he added.

The resident representative from BAJ spoke words of thanks. Then, Director-General of Education and Training Department U San Shwe Aung and the BAJ resident representative signed the MoU.

MNA



Signing MoU between Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs and Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) in progress.—MNA

Indonesian Information and Cultural Center opened

YANGON, 27 Dec—An opening ceremony of Indonesian Information and Cultural Center took place at the centre on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, here, today, in the presence of Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu.

Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono made an opening speech on the occasion. The Union Minister and the Indonesian Ambassador cut the ribbon to open the center and looked round the center together with the

attendees.

It is learnt that arrangements are being made to conduct courses on Indonesian language, dance, music, cooking and handicraft-making at the center and to show movies as an entertainment program. —MNA

Cruise liners arrive in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—Azamara Club Cruises' M.V Azamara Journey Cruise Liner carrying 669 tourists and 393 crews arrived in Myanmar

International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) this morning via Singapore Port. The tour is arranged by Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co., Ltd and supervised by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourisms and the Ministry of Transport.

The majority of tourists on board are US, British and Australian citizens. They will be on tour of Yangon, Shwedagon Pagoda, Bagan, Bago, Thanlyin market, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda and Kalewa monastery. The cruise liner will proceed to Phuket Jetty of Thailand on 29 December. This is the first-ever arrival of two passenger cruises on the same day throughout the history of Myanmar Port Authority. M.V Azamara Journey is 55th passenger cruises of Myanmar Voyages.

In addition, Voyages of Discovery under UK-based All Leisure Group

Plc's M.V Voyager cruise liner carrying 365 tourists and 244 crews arrived in Bo Aung Kyaw Port of Yangon via Chennai Port of India this morning. British citizens are in majority on board. The tour schedule includes Yangon, Bagan, Shwedagon Pagoda, Bago, Thanlyin market and Kyaik Khauk Pagoda and Kalewa monastery. The cruise liner will proceed to Phuket Jetty of Thailand on 29 December. This is the first-ever arrival of two passenger cruises on the same day throughout the history of Myanmar Port Authority. M.V Azamara Journey is 55th passenger cruises of Myanmar Voyages.

MNA



Photo shows UK-based All Leisure Group Plc's M.V Voyager cruise liner arrives at Bo Aung Kyaw Port of Yangon via Chennai Port of India.—MNA