

President U Thein Sein honours prize-winning sports contingents



President U Thein Sein bearing a broad smile poses for a documentary photo together with victorious Myanmar sports contingents in the 27th SEA Games.—MNA

away from victory after its second place with 26 gold medals in the medal tally of the 10th SEA Games in 1979. At present, victory could be plucked due to Myanmar sports contingents' efforts.

Myanmar started preparation for hosting the 27th SEA Games since 2009. Sports grounds, stadiums and sports gear were arranged to meet international standard while Myanmar selected players underwent training.

He continued that Myanmar sports contingents who won gold, silver and bronze medals were honoured. The athletes who missed the victory were urged to make more efforts in next competitions because the State and the public recognize their concerted efforts.

He said that the 27th SEA Games could bring benefits to Myanmar enabling her to join the international community. International society has also been aware of democratic transition progress of the country in the term of new government. In addition, Myanmar regained its own position and responsibilities in ASEAN community due to the success of SEA Games.

best in the competitions and stood second in the medal tally with 86 gold, 62 silver and 85 bronze, totaling 233 medals.

Myanmar had been far

(See page 8)

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— President U Thein Sein delivered an address at the ceremony to honour

victorious Myanmar sports contingents in the 27th SEA Games, at Myanmar International Convention Center, here, today.

President U Thein Sein

said in his speech that the 27th SEA Games successfully concluded on 22 December. Upholding patriotism and national spirit, Myanmar athletes did their

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office (Order No. 51/2013)

13th Waning of Nadaw, 1375 ME
(30 December, 2013)

Pardon

- The President issued this pardon under Section (204), Subsection (a) of the Constitution, in order to contribute to the stability of the state and the lasting peace, to build national reconsolidation, to ensure all-inclusiveness in the political process, on humanitarian grounds and to enable them to participate in the nation-building tasks after realizing the magnanimity of the state.
- In connection with any offenses in Paragraph (3) undergoing on 31 December 2013 and before;
 - All convicted shall be pardoned.
 - All cases being heard by respective courts shall be dropped immediately.

- All ongoing investigations shall be closed without any further action.
- The pardon covers only those being convicted and prosecuted in cases under the following laws:-
 - Unlawful Association Act cases;
 - Treason (Code of Criminal Procedure Article 122) cases;
 - Sedition (Code of Criminal Procedure Article 124 (a)) cases;
 - The Law to Safeguard the State from the Danger of Subversive Elements cases;
 - Peaceful Gathering and Peaceful Procession Law cases;
 - An act of harming public interests (Code of Criminal Procedure Article 505) cases;
 - 1950 Emergency Act cases;
 - The privileges granted under this order shall not tie with any offenses in Paragraph (3) which underwent after 31 December 2013.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

Preparations for construction of Nampaw Creek Bridge

HSIPAW, 30 Dec—AAA Cement In't Co Ltd of Hsipaw makes preparations for construction of Nampaw Creek Bridge in Hsipaw.

The bridge will be 22 feet long and 12 feet wide. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.

Chairman of Township Development Supportive Committee U Aung Khin, Deputy Township Administrator U Moe Htwe Oo and Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Sai Win Myint inspected the construction of the bridge on

27 December.

U Saw Naing of AAA Cement Int Co Ltd and responsible persons explained progress of works.

Engineer-in-charge of the bridge U Hla Tun said, "Our company places emphasis on development tasks of the township including Nampaw RC Bridge. We have built three bridges and Nampaw Bridge will be the fourth facility of its kind in addition to many small bridges for better transport of the local people."

MMAL-Hsipaw Ko Latt

Dahatgon BEPS in Natmauk Tsp needs water tank



MAGWAY, 30 Dec—Basic Education Primary School in Dahatgon Village of Natmauk Township in Magway Region has fulfilled basic needs but school children face difficulties in shortage of drinking water.

Three teachers including the headmaster are teaching 34 students from two

Dahatgon villages.

The school has been equipped with fly-proof latrine, desks and teaching aids. However, the children have to take water from one-furlong distance creek.

"In the rainy season, it is very dangerous for taking water from the creek due to torrent water," said local people.

YANGON, 30 Dec—Although overpasses and car parks have been built at junctions in main points of

Yangon, the facilities could reduce traffic congestions to some extent.

That is why, the

Transport Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation plans to form the traffic control room in

Yangon.

"We are making arrangements for opening a traffic control room in Yangon so as to ease traffic congestions," said an official of Transport Department.

The room will be equipped with necessary devices. The room will control all the vehicles running in Yangon with the use of modern devices meeting international standard.

The traffic control rooms are being operated in major cities of world countries. So, Myanmar also plans to apply such system.

Singapore one of the ASEAN member countries applies the traffic control room.—MMAL-Arkar Hein, Photo: Tin Soe (MMAL)

Traffic Accident

12-wheeled vehicle overturns on Hpa-an-Thaton Road

HPA-AN, 30 Dec—According to the information that a traffic accident occurred on Hpa-an-Thaton Road at 12.45 pm on 26 December, IP Aung Than and party of Myainggale police outpost and local authorities rushed to the scene and inspected the incident.

A vehicle with the load of seven goods from Myawady Trade Zone driven by Maung Maung Gyi (a) Rakhine, 26 of Baungduk Village in MraukU Township together with conductor Myo Zaw Tun, 32, of Aungmyitta Road in Thamaing of Yangon overturned near Lower Kawyin Village of Hpa-an

Township.

The vehicle plunged into the left roadside due to out of control.

Driver Maung Maung Gyi (a) Rakhine was injured in the incident. The conductor was free from injury. The driver was

rushed to Hpa-an General Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Hpa-an Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driver under the law.

MMAL-Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)



Fire breaks out at Mela (Bekalaw) Myanmar refugee camp

BANGKOK, 30 Dec—A fire broke out at Ward 3 in Zone C of Mela (Bekalaw) Myanmar refugee camp where about 50000 people are residing, 60 kilometres north to Mae Sot of Thailand, on 27 December.

The fire reduced 102 houses into ashes.

A short circuit started fire at the boarding hall at 1.30 pm on 27 December.

As some house owner did not want to destroy their houses, the fire strongly

engulfed the houses one after another. Indeed, the houses in the fire should be destroyed so as to reduce the burning momentum.

The burning hour lasted one and a half hours.

The fire victims take

shelter at their friends' houses, said Myanmar citizens in Thailand.

Officials of the camp recounted, "Local people and two fire engines put out the fire. However, a total of 102 houses were destroyed. The fire left one child and one adult injured, missing one child."

In February 2012, a fire broke out at Ohnphyan refugee camp in Popra Township of Tak Province at Myanmar-Thai border area, leaving about 3000 houses and tens of thousands of people homeless.

Mela refugee fire was the first of its kind.

MMAL-Soe Win (SP)



Transport

Mohnyin-Mandalay Aung Yadana bus line launched

MOHNYIN, 30 Dec—With the aim of ensuring better transport from Mohnyin to Mandalay, Mohnyin-Mandalay Aung Yadana express bus line was launched at the bus terminal in Mohnyin on 25 December morning.

Mohnyin District Deputy Commissioner U Aung Soe Moe, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Tun Tun Wai and owner of the bus line U Myint Oo cut the ribbon to open the bus line.

The express bus of the bus line will leave Mohnyin at 3 pm and arrive in Mandalay at 7 am the next day. The bus will also depart Thiri Mandalay Bus Terminal of Mandalay at 3 pm and arrive at the bus terminal in Mohnyin at 7 am the next day.

Fare of the bus is K 18000 per passenger. The express bus will pass Mohnyin, Indaw, Shwebo and Mandalay along its route.

MMAL-District IPRD

WORLD

Shots fired at residence of German ambassador in Athens

ATHENS, 30 Dec — Unidentified attackers opened fire on the German ambassador's residence in Athens with an assault rifle on Monday, but no one was hurt in the early morning attack, police said.

At least four shots hit the metal gate of the high-security residence, which lies on a busy street of a northern suburb, police said. Sixty spent bullet cases have been collected so far. Anti-German sentiment has grown during Greece's prolonged economic crisis, and many of those struggling with record unemployment and plummeting living standards blame Germany's insistence on fiscal rigor for their economic woes.

Germany is the biggest single contributing nation to Greece's 240-billion euro bailouts which have kept the country afloat since 2010 and saved it from

bankruptcy.

The German ambassador's residence was the target of an attack in 1999, when members of the now dismantled extremist group on 17 November fired a

rocket-propelled grenade that hit its roof.

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras spoke to the German ambassador Wolfgang Dold, who was at home at the time of the

incident, and Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos expressed his "outrage and outright condemnation" over the attack.

It was a "cowardly terrorist act clearly targeting Greece's image abroad a few days before the start of the Greek presidency," Venizelos said, according to a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

With a reputation for being Europe's problem child, Greece takes on the rotating European Union presidency for six months starting 1 January, hoping to show how far it has come since it almost crashed out of the common currency bloc 18 months ago.

No one has claimed responsibility yet for the 3.40 am (0140 GMT) attack. A police official who spoke on condition of anonymity said at least two assailants on foot were involved.

Reuters



Police experts search for evidence following a gun attack, outside the German ambassador's residence in Chalandri suburb north of Athens on 30 Dec, 2013.

Reuters



The Chaparrastique volcano, behind electricity cables, spews ash at the municipality of San Miguel on 29 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

El Salvador volcano erupts, evacuations ordered

SAN SALVADOR, 30 Dec—The Chaparrastique volcano in eastern El Salvador belched a column of hot ash high into the air on Sunday, frightening nearby residents and prompting authorities to order evacuations in the area.

There were no immediate reports of injuries in the San Miguel region, where the volcano is located and that is known for its coffee plantations.

Civil protection authorities said they would evacuate people from within three kilometres (1.9 miles) of the volcano and set up emergency shelters.

"The evacuations began almost right after the explosion," said civil protection official Armando Vividor. He said some 5,000 people lived around the volcano.

The volcano, which is about 140 kilometres (86 miles) to the east of the

capital, spewed ash over a wide area and the smell of sulfur hung over surrounding towns, according to reports on social media. Authorities recommended breathing through moist handkerchiefs.

Santos Osorio, a member of a local coffee growers union, said heavy ash was falling in the area and local coffee plantations would be checked for damage.

El Salvador's crop has already been blighted by an outbreak of leaf rust that has reduced output in all five of Central America's coffee producers.

El Salvador has 23 active volcanoes and the Chaparrastique volcano is considered one of the most active, with 26 eruptions in the last 500 years, the environment ministry said. In a 1976 eruption, lava gushed from the volcano and it shook violently in another event in 2010.—Reuters



Members of the emergency services work at the site of a bomb blast on a trolleybus in Volgograd on 30 Dec, 2013.

Reuters

14 killed, 23 hurt in trolleybus blast in Russia's Volgograd

SOCHI, 30 Dec — At least 10 people were killed in an explosion on a trolleybus in Russia's southern city of Volgograd on Monday morning, *Itar-Tass News Agency* reported.

The report said the explosion in Kachintsev Street in the Dzerzhinsky district of the city left another 23 people

injured.

The incident comes a day after a suicide bomber killed at least 17 people and injured dozens more in the same city's main railway station 40 days before Russia is to hold the Winter Olympics in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

Kyodo News

Iran and world powers resume expert level nuclear talks

DUBAI, 30 Dec — Iran resumed technical talks with world powers in Geneva on Monday, a vital step in implementing a nuclear deal signed last month which suspends key elements of Teheran's nuclear programme in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

The talks between expert teams from Iran and six world powers are meant to translate the political deal into a detailed implementation plan by the end of January, Iran's state news agency, *IRNA*, quoted an unnamed source as saying.

A key sticking point appears to be how much advance information Western governments will get so they can verify that Iran is meeting its end of the deal before they lift any sanctions.

The third round of talks

between technical experts from the permanent UN Security Council members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — plus Germany, are set to last a day and resume in 2014, *IRNA* reported, a sign of the complexities facing the negotiators

in reaching agreement on practical steps. They began work on 9 December but Iran broke off the talks in protest at the US blacklisting an additional 19 Iranian companies and individuals under existing sanctions.

Iranian officials said the move violated the spirit

of the deal but US officials said it did not breach the agreement.

Iran rejects Western fears that its nuclear work has any military intentions and says it needs nuclear power for electricity generation and medical research.

Reuters



The flag of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) flies in front of its headquarters during a board of governors meeting in Vienna on 28 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

India's homegrown terror outfit plans to explode nuclear bomb in western state of Gujarat

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec — Indian Mujahideen, a homegrown terror outfit, planned to explode a nuclear bomb in the western state of Gujarat's city of Surat, local media reported on Monday.

The terror group's India chief, Yasin Bhatkal, who was arrested by police in August this year, revealed this to his interrogators, *The Times of India* newspaper reported, citing the interrogation report.

According to the report, Bhatkal told the interrogators that he had even asked,

Riyaz Bhatkal, over the phone whether the latter could arrange a small "nuclear bomb" to explode in Surat. "Riyaz told me that attacks can be done with nuclear bombs. I requested him to look for one nuclear bomb for Surat," the newspaper quoted Yasin as saying. However, the plan could not be initiated as Yasin was tracked by the Indian authorities and subsequently arrested from near the international border with Nepal.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Japan mid-tier camera makers face shakeout as smartphones shatter mirrorless hopes

TOKYO, 30 Dec—Panasonic Corp and Japan's other mid-tier camera makers have a battle on their hands to win over a smartphone "selfie" generation to mirrorless cameras that held such promise when they were launched around

five years ago.

Panasonic, like peers Fujifilm Holdings and Olympus Corp, has been losing money on its cameras since mobile phones that take high-quality photos ate into the compact camera business. This

year, compact camera sales are likely to fall more than 40 percent to fewer than 59 million, according to industry researcher IDC.

Meanwhile, sales of mirrorless cameras — seen as a promising format between low-end compacts and high-end single-lens reflex (SLR) cameras — are sputtering as buyers put connectivity above picture quality.

A 40 percent drop in Panasonic's overall camera sales in April-September left the imaging division vulnerable as the company's mid-term plan to March 2016 demands unprofitable businesses turn themselves around or face the axe.

"If you look mid-to-long term, digital camera makers are slipping and the market is becoming

an oligopoly," said Credit Suisse imaging analyst Yu Yoshida.

Panasonic held 3.1 percent of the camera market in July-September, down from 3.8 percent a year earlier, according to IDC. Canon Inc, Nikon Corp and Sony Corp controlled over 60 percent between them.

"Only those who have a strong brand and are competitive on price will last — and only Canon, Nikon and Sony fulfil that criteria," added Yoshida.

Canon and Nikon dominate the SLR camera market, while Sony could survive any shakeout thanks to its strength in making sensors for a number of camera manufacturers as well as collaboration with its smartphone division.—Reuters



A model poses with Nikon Corp's new Nikon 1 J1 camera at its unveiling ceremony in Tokyo, in this 21 Sept, 2011 file photo.—REUTERS

Spain arrests eight over global bank cyber heists

MADRID, 30 Dec—Spanish police on Sunday said they had arrested eight people suspected of helping to steal more than \$60 million from banks worldwide by hacking into credit card processing firms and withdrawing money from cash machines.

The arrests are one of the biggest breakthroughs yet outside the United States in connection with a series of global bank heists, coordinated across numerous countries by cells which withdrew millions of dollars in a matter of hours. Spanish police said in a statement they had detained six Romanian citizens and two Moroccans on the outskirts of Madrid, and seized 25,000 euros in cash as well as around 1,000 blank credit cards, IT material and jewels after several building searches. The statement said the global hacking gang had been controlled by a single person, who had been arrested in Germany. The police could not be reached for comment on when the alleged mastermind had been detained. German prosecutors said in May they had arrested two Dutch citizens suspected of taking part in a \$45 million cyber heist involving two Middle Eastern banks.—Reuters

Bad weather hampers effort to rescue ship stuck in Antarctic ice

SYDNEY, 30 Dec—Adverse weather conditions off Antarctica are preventing an Australian icebreaker from punching through thick sea ice to free a stranded research ship carrying dozens of scientists and tourists, authorities said on Monday.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said the *Aurora Australis* made it to within 10 nautical miles of the stranded *Akademik Shokalskiy* before being compelled by strong winds and snow showers to move back into open waters about 18 nautical miles from the Russian-flagged vessel.

"These weather conditions have resulted in poor visibility and made it difficult and unsafe for the *Aurora Australis* to continue today's attempt," the AMSA said on its website.

It said it also remains unsafe to attempt to launch a helicopter evacuation mission from the Chinese icebreaker *Xuelong*.

The *Xuelong* has remained in the area after undertaking an unsuccessful rescue attempt Friday, in which it made it to within 6.1 nautical miles of the *Shokalskiy* before the thickness of the ice exceeded its icebreaking capabilities and caused it to stall.

A third icebreaker, the French vessel *Astrolabe*, had also been on the way to rescue the *Shokalskiy* before it ran into engine trouble.

The *Shokalskiy*, which left New Zealand on 28 Nov with 74 people aboard, became trapped by ice in Antarctica's Commonwealth Bay on Christmas Eve while on a scientific expedition.

The AMSA said that its Rescue Coordination Center is in regular contact with the vessel and that those on board it "remain safe and well with supplies for several weeks."

Kyodo News

Canada's astronaut, space executive call for int'l cooperation with China

OTTAWA, 30 Dec—Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield is calling for cooperation with China in space and wants it to be part of any international effort to return to the moon, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported on Sunday on its website.

"I think right now a lot of people see it as kind of crazy to cooperate with the Chinese, but I think it's the next logical step," CBC quoted Hadfield as saying in a recent interview with the *Canadian Press*.

China sent its first as-



A man enters BBC New Broadcasting House in London on 11 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Hacker took over BBC server, tried to 'sell' access on Christmas Day

BOSTON, 30 Dec—A hacker secretly took over a computer server at the BBC, Britain's public broadcaster, and then launched a Christmas Day campaign to convince other cyber criminals to pay him for access to the system.

While it is not known if the hacker found any buyers, the BBC's security team responded to the issue on Saturday and believes it has secured the site, according to a person familiar with the cleanup effort.

A BBC spokesman declined to discuss the incident. "We do not comment on security issues," he said.

Reuters could not determine whether the hackers stole data or caused any damage in the attack, which compromised a server that manages an obscure password-protected website.

It was not clear how the BBC, the world's oldest and largest broadcaster, uses that site, ftp.bbc.co.uk, though ftp systems are typically used to manage the transfer of large data files over the Internet.

The attack was first identified by Hold Security LLC, a cybersecurity firm in Milwaukee that monitors underground cyber-crime forums in search of stolen information.

The firm's researchers observed a notorious Russian hacker known by the monikers "HASH" and "Rev0lver," attempting to sell access to the BBC server on December 25, the company's founder and chief information security officer, Alex Holden, told Reuters.

"HASH" sought to convince high-profile hackers that he had infiltrated the site by showing them files that could only be accessed by somebody who really controlled it, Holden said.

So far Hold Security researchers have found no evidence the conversations led to a deal or that data was stolen from the BBC, Holden said. It is common for hackers to buy and sell access to compromised servers on underground forums.—Reuters



Migrating red crabs are seen in Christmas Island, Australia, on 26 Dec, 2013. Recently, millions of red crabs began their annual migrations from the rainforest on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean to the sea coast to breed. Local government closed most of the roads during the migrations, which normally requires at least a week.

XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Sanofi says US regulators reject MS treatment Lemtrada

PARIS, 30 Dec — Sanofi said its Lemtrada multiple sclerosis treatment had failed to win approval from US regulators for launch in the world's biggest drug market, due to safety concerns and a need for further clinical studies.

The French drugmaker said it strongly disagreed with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision and planned to appeal the decision.

The FDA considered Sanofi unit Genzyme had not submitted evidence from studies to show the

benefits of Lemtrada outweigh its "serious adverse effects", Sanofi said in a statement on Monday.

The FDA also demanded Sanofi carry out further clinical trials using different designs and methods prior to approval, Sanofi said.

"We strongly believe that the clinical development program, which was designed to demonstrate how Lemtrada compares against an active comparator as opposed to placebo, provides robust evidence of efficacy and a favour-

able benefit-risk profile," Genzyme Chief Executive David Meeker said.

Lemtrada, an injectable drug also known as alemtuzumab, is designed to treat relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis, the most common form of the disease. It was approved in September by European regulators in an increasingly crowded market dominated by rivals Biogen Idec, Novartis and Teva Pharmaceutical.

Lemtrada was at the heart of the French drugmaker's lengthy \$20.1 billion takeover battle for US



Chris Viehbacher, Chief Executive Officer of Sanofi, poses for the media before the company's 2012 annual results presentation in Paris on 7 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

biotech firm Genzyme, which it acquired in 2011.

As part of the takeover agreement, Genzyme shareholders received contingent value rights (CVRs) entitling them to future pay-

ments of up to \$14 a share if certain goals were met. Sanofi said on Monday it did not expect to meet the CVR milestone of US approval for Lemtrada by the end of March.—Reuters

Crocs to receive \$200 million from Blackstone, CEO to retire

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — Crocs Inc (CROX.O) said Blackstone Group LP (BX.N) is making a \$200 million investment that will give the private equity firm a 13 percent stake in the shoe company. In exchange for the \$200 million, Blackstone will receive preferred stock that can convert to common stock in three years if certain conditions are met. It will also receive two board seats.

The preferred stock will have a 6 percent cash dividend rate and is convertible into shares of common stock at a conversion price of \$14.50 per share.

The shoemaker also said late on Sunday that the company's chief executive, John McCarvel, plans to retire in April and will also give up his seat on Crocs' board. "We will recruit a new CEO who will work with the reconstituted board to refine our short-term and long-term strategic plans, which will include a sharper focus on earnings growth with less emphasis on top-line growth," Chairman Thomas Smach said in



Crocs Chief Financial Officer Jeff Lasher speaks at the Reuters Consumer and Retail Summit in New York on 11 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

a statement. Crocs, which is known for its colorful clogs, intends to use the Blackstone investment to help pay for a \$350 million stock repurchase it expects to launch in the first quarter.

Established in 2002, Crocs sells its shoes, made out of a proprietary closed-cell resin it calls Croslite and which are offered in more than 300 four-season footwear styles in some 125 countries, according to its website.

Crocs posted a 2 percent decline in sales for the third quarter, hurt by weakness in the Americas

and Japan. The company said it saw less discretionary spending for footwear, apparel and other consumer goods in the United States.

The company now expects fourth-quarter revenue to be at the low end of the previously provided outlook range of \$220 million and \$225 million, while it expects loss per share to be near 23 cents.

Analysts, on an average, were expecting fourth quarter loss per share of 20 cents on revenue of \$222.3 million, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Reuters

Straumann to cut prices of some dental implants

ZURICH, 30 Dec — The world's largest dental implant maker, Straumann, will cut the price of its standard titanium implants by around 15 percent next year in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the firm's chief executive told a Swiss newspaper on Sunday. The Swiss company said its price gap with rivals must be reduced, and that it may adjust prices in other parts of Europe at a later date.

Premium implant makers like Straumann and local rival Nobel Biocare have been hit by weak consumer confidence in Europe, as cash-strapped consumers cut back on non-essential dental treatment or trade down to cheaper brands.

"If we don't adapt prices to the market situation, then in a few years we'll be selling a third less in price-sensitive markets such as Germany than we do today," Chief Executive Marco Gadola told the NZZ am Sonntag. The Basel-based firm wants to become a global leader in the value segment of the market, which is growing at a faster pace than the premium

segment.

Straumann also plans to offer its new Roxolid implants at the same prices as models it is phasing out to try to create better value and a competitive edge.

The Roxolid implants are made from an alloy of titanium and zirconium that is stronger than the titanium used on its own in older models. In October, the Straumann raised its full-year sales forecast, expecting a better performance in North America and Japan to offset weak sales in Europe, where it makes more than half of its revenues.

Reuters



Nepal court upholds ban on sale of cigarettes without pictorial warnings

KATHMANDU, 30 Dec — Nepal's highest court has upheld a ban on sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products that do not carry a pictorial health warnings printed on 75 percent of the packaging, a court spokesman said on Monday.

In 2011, Nepal's parliament passed a bill that banned smoking in public places, prohibited sale of tobacco products to minors and directed manufacturers to print pictures and facts highlighting health hazards of tobacco consumption on 75 percent of the packaging of tobacco products.

The law did not come into immediate effect, however, because it was challenged in the courts by leading cigarette manufacturers.

They argued that an immediate ban on products not carrying pictorial warnings would result in heavy losses for them because products without such warnings had already been distributed in the market. They also argued that devoting 75 percent of packaging space to such warnings would be impracticable as that would leave insufficient space for printing the names of the product and the manufacturer.

Kyodo News

Japan, Oman seek to reach investment agreement during PM Abe's visit

TOKYO, 30 Dec — Japan and Oman will seek to reach agreement on an investment pact when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits the Middle East nation in January for talks with Sultan Qaboos bin Said, sources close to the matter said on Saturday. Oman, which seeks to lessen its dependency on crude oil exports and develop other industrial sectors, wants Japanese companies to join projects to build an airport and other large-scale public infrastructure, the sources said.

Japan and Oman launched talks in February toward concluding a pact to facilitate investments between the two countries.

Kyodo News

UK government could sell off Lloyds bank stake in 2014

LONDON, 30 Dec — The British government could sell off all of its 18.4 billion pound stake in the Lloyds banking group in 2014, the *Daily Telegraph* reported, citing unnamed sources.

The newspaper reported that the entire government holding could be sold off in the next 12 months in a combination of retail and institutional offerings.

"Post-results is when a further institutional offering would make most sense.

After that, the thinking is an autumn sale, combining an institutional and a retail segment, is a realistic prospect," a source was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

The UK government has already sold off 6 percent of its stake in the partly nationalised bank, raising over 3.2 billion pounds in September this year.

The government currently holds around 33 percent of the bank, five years after Lloyds and



rival Royal Bank of Scotland were bailed out by the government at the height of the credit crunch. Shares in Lloyds closed at 78.84 pence on the London Stock Exchange on Friday, valuing the group at 56.5 billion pounds.—Reuters

A pedestrian passes the head office of the Lloyds Banking Group in central London on 5 Aug, 2009.

REUTERS

WORLD

Maruha Nichiro subsidiary recalls 6.3 million packs of frozen food

TOKYO, 30 Dec — A subsidiary of Maruha Nichiro Holdings Inc said on Sunday it is recalling a total of 6.3 million packs of frozen foods including croquettes and pizza after pesticide was detected in some of them.

Frozen food subject to the recall was made at a factory of the subsidiary, Aqlifoods Co, in Gunma Prefecture.

The food maker examined the products and detected malathion, used as insecticide, in the wake of reports from customers that the food smelled unusual. Malathion is not usually used in the factory, it said.

Kyodo News



Yutaka Tanabe (R), president of Aqlifoods Co, speaks at a Press conference in Tokyo on 29 Dec, 2013, with Toshio Kushiro, president of Maruha Nichiro Holdings Inc. They announced that Aqlifoods, a subsidiary of Maruha Nichiro, is recalling a total of 6.3 million packs of frozen foods including croquettes and pizza after pesticide was detected in some of them.

KYODO NEWS



Yui Ito, a 17-year-old violinist and a victim of the human papilloma virus vaccine Cervarix, performs at an audition in Tokyo on 21 Oct, 2013, to qualify to appear as a soloist in concert with the Nippon Symphony. Yui, who has suffered partial paralysis and excruciating pain since 2011, uses a wheelchair except when in bed, but courageously stands to play when performing for an audience.—KYODO NEWS

Yemen jails nine al-Qaeda suspects for plotting to kill president

SANAA, 30 Dec — A Yemeni security court on Sunday sentenced nine al-Qaeda suspects to up to 10 years in prison for plotting to assassinate President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, official Saba news agency reported.

The court in the capital Sanaa sentenced nine al-Qaeda suspects to between two and 10 years in prison for plotting to assassinate Hadi by a roadside bomb on his convey in Sanaa during the past months. A similar trial was concluded on 15 September, in which three al-Qaeda members were sentenced to up to seven years in prison for the same charges. Meanwhile, the

court handed down a death penalty against al-Qaeda suspect Ahmed Turkey for attacking the intelligence headquarters branch in the southern port city of Aden in 2011 that left at least 20 security personnel killed.

The Yemen-based regional al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is active in the poverty-stricken country, taking advantage of growing chaos and political splits in the south and eastern regions since 2011.

Hadi took office in February 2012 after a UN-backed power transfer deal eased former President Ali Abdullah Saleh from power after a year of mass protests.—Xinhua

LONDON, 30 Dec — British police said on Sunday they had arrested two men after a suspected arson attack on a ferry in the North Sea carrying more than 1,000 people from Newcastle in England to Amsterdam.

Police said the incident occurred late on Saturday night on board the *MS King Seaways*, a ship operated by Denmark's DFDS Seaways, after a passenger set fire to a cabin in circumstances that remained unclear. Local media said the vessel was about 30 miles off the English coast at the time.

Up to seven people, most of them crew

members, had been taken by helicopter to a hospital in the English town of Scarborough where they were treated for smoke inhalation, the police said.

"Two men have been arrested — a 26-year-old man on suspicion of arson and a 28-year-old man on suspicion of affray," Britain's Northumbria police force said in a statement. "Both are currently helping police with inquiries."

DFDS, which operates the daily service from the North Shields port near Newcastle to IJmuiden near Amsterdam, said in a statement that crew members had put the fire out within 15 minutes.

It said the vessel, which has since returned to England, had been carrying 946 passengers and 127 crew members, adding that 15 passengers and eight crew were thought to have suffered smoke-related injuries. None of the injured was reported to be serious.

Many of the passengers were Britons planning to celebrate New Year's Eve in the Netherlands.

DFDS said on its website that its Newcastle-Amsterdam service scheduled for later on Sunday would operate as normal, but that its Amsterdam-Newcastle service on Sunday had been cancelled due to the incident.—Reuters

US intelligence estimate sees big rollbacks in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — A new US intelligence estimate predicts that gains the United States and allies have made in the Afghanistan war in the past three years will be significantly rolled back by 2017, even if some US troops remain, the *Washington Post* reported on Saturday, citing officials familiar with the report.

The National Intelligence Estimate also predicts that Afghanistan will quickly fall into chaos if Washington and Kabul fail to sign a security pact to keep an international military contingent there beyond 2014, the newspaper said. The pact must be signed for the United States and its allies to provide billions more

dollars in aid to the impoverished country.

The newspaper cited officials who have read the classified report, which includes input from the 16 US intelligence agencies, or were briefed on its conclusions. "In the absence of a continuing presence and continuing financial support," the intelligence assessment "suggests the situation would deteriorate very rapidly," the newspaper quoted one US official familiar with the report as saying.

But the newspaper said some officials felt the report on the potential outcome of the longest war in US history was overly pessimistic and did not take into account

progress made by Afghanistan's security forces.

"I think what we're going to see is a recalibration of political power, territory

and that kind of thing," the paper quoted one official as saying. "It's not going to be an inevitable rise of the Taliban."—Reuters



Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers keep watch near a building in which the Loya Jirga (or grand council) is holding a committee session, in Kabul on 22 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

Blast at Egyptian army building wounds four soldiers

CAIRO/ANSHAS, 30 Dec — A bomb exploded outside an Egyptian army building north of Cairo on Sunday, wounding four soldiers, the army said, in

the second bomb attack on security forces in the Nile Delta in less than a week.

The bomb partly destroyed the back wall of the military intelligence

building in the village of Anshas, 100 km (60 miles) north of the capital.

The army described the bombing as a terrorist attack. Its statement referred to "groups of darkness" and did not name the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group it declared a terrorist organization last week.

That decision was a response to a suicide bomb attack on Tuesday on a police compound in the Nile Delta city of Mansoura, north of the site of Sunday's explosion. The army-backed government has used the new classification to detain hundreds of the movement's supporters and thousands more are already in jail. Some of those held in recent days are students,

who have continued daily protests in spite of the increased penalties for loyalty to the Brotherhood.

The government had accused the Brotherhood of carrying out last week's suicide bombing, which killed 16 people and for which a radical Sinai-based group called Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed responsibility. The Brotherhood, which says it is committed to peaceful activism, condemned the attack.

In Anshas, some residents blamed the Brotherhood for Sunday's attack, saying the aim was to disrupt a mid-January referendum on a new constitution, the next step in the government's political transition plan.—Reuters



People and army personnel stand around a damaged building after an explosion in Egypt's Nile Delta town of Anshas, about 100 km (65 miles) northeast of Cairo, on 29 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

New sub-power station under construction in Meiktila



MEIKTILA, 30 Dec—A 33/11 KV (10) MVA sub-power station is being constructed for the dwellers in Aung San Ward, Meiktila near Central Institute of Transport and Commu-

nications beside Meiktila-Kyaukapadaung motor road. Power access was taken from the transformer near Irrigation Department in Wun Zin Ward in the

past, it is not sufficient for the people in Aung San Ward. Upon completion of sub-power station, it will be beneficial to not only households in Aung San Ward but also nearby villages. The officials from Electricity Supply Enterprise are striving for sufficient use of electricity for locals, said an official of the enterprise.

Meiktila Township consists of 14 wards and 379 villages. Although 14 wards in Meiktila now enjoy electricity access, most villages are carrying out electrification task on self-reliance basic.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Construction

People's Square constructed in Manawramman garden



Construction of People's Square in progress in Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay Region.

National Sports

Myanmar Para (Shotput) athletes hope gold medals



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Myanmar paralympics (athletic) team is under

intensive training in Wunna Theikdi Sport Ground to participate in the 7th ASEAN Para Games.

A total of 58 athletes consist of 41 men and 17 women will participate in the event. Coach Daw Aye Aye Nwe of Myanmar Para Sports Federation is giving

intensive training to Myanmar athletes for the latter to be able to secure gold medals. "Myanmar Para Sports athletes are supported by the State and donors. So we are very satisfied," said Daw Aye Aye Nwe.

Kyemon-Kyaw Thuya (Nay Pyi Taw)

Stationery donated to students in Kyaukdaga



KYAUKDAGA, 30 Dec—Phado Sedana Social Services Group donated blackboard, desks and pencils to 60 primary students who are studying their education at temporary school on 28 December. The student's parents who reside in the village-tract at 5th and 12th mile on Minhla-Seinkant-

lant Road in Phado Area in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago Region are manual workers and engaged in cutting bamboo and making charcoal. The teachers also contributed voluntary works to the students and provided traditional medicine for them.—*Kyemon-Myo Win (Kyaukdaga)*

Earthen road opened to mark 66th Anniversary Independence Day

MINBU, 30 Dec—Zayetyi-Alanpal earthen road was opened as the celebration of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day at the archway of the road, near Zayetyi Village in Minbu Township, here, on 29 December.

U Kyaw Thu, executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee elaborated on construction of the road. U Aung Win, a local spoke words of thanks for construction of the road.

Magway Region Minister for Development Affairs U Nay Shin, Region Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Tin and District Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Myint cut

the ribbon to open the road. They then greeted local people.

The road with the length of two miles had been constructed spending K 5.4 million through rural development fund. This road can contribute to devel-



Over 200 houses engulfed in Labutta fire

LABUTTA, 30 Dec—A fire broke out in Kanbet Village of Labutta Township, reducing 200 houses into ashes on 30 December

omponent of education, health and economic sectors 1966 people from nearby villages.—*Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo (Minbu District IPRD)*

morning.

A total of 15 people were injured but not in a serious condition. The fire destroyed textile shop, rice shop, medicine shop and construction material shop.

The fire victims are being accommodated at the relief camp at Maha Aungmyezan Monastery and social organization provided assistance to them.

"Political parties, social organization and health care group gave blankets, foods, clothes, snacks, purified drinking water and instant noodle to the victims," said a local people.

Kanbet Village of Labutta Township is formed with 1500 houses.

NLM



Head of Pyay District Rural Development Department U Min Maung and party inspect reconstruction of Saytaing Bridge between Pauktaw and Agga Villages in Pyay District, Bago Region on 27 December.—KYEMON-HTUT AUNG LWIN

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 31 December, 2013

Make the country a better place to live in

Myanmar is a fascinating country with its natural and cultural heritage. With the current experience of rapid growth in tourism demand, the responsibility to conserve our cultural values aiming at making the country a better place for people to live in and a better place to visit is comprehensively stated as the vision supported by the relevant action points of the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Policy.

Viable and sustainable tourism industry in Myanmar requires strong public and private partnerships as well as inclusion and support from the local communities and civil societies. The role of the private sector is driving development and investment in tourism services and experiences, while the public sector plays a catalytic role of providing and improving infrastructures and a conducive climate for investments.

As tourism plays a vital role in Myanmar by reducing poverty, bringing about employment opportunities, balancing social and economic development and implementing political reforms, tourism development in the country shall be beneficial and inclusive, and as best possible accessible to all of the people both as visitors (customers) and participants (suppliers) of the tourism industry. But its objectives and implications should be transparent to all tourism stakeholders.

We are now taking concrete steps to further strengthen cooperation mechanisms within the public sector and with the various tourism sector stakeholders (private sector, local communities and civil society) in order to realize the three principal outcomes of sustainable development — economic growth, environmental sustainability and social justice.

At a time when activities are being undertaken to make the country a better place to live in, to provide more employment and greater business opportunities for all our people, to contribute to the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage and to share with us our rich cultural diversity, we warmly welcome those who appreciate and enjoy our heritage, our way of live and who travel with respect.



President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Argentina's Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Ms Ana Maria Ramirez, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented her credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 am today.

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to Myanmar Ms Ana Maria Ramirez.

MNA

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA

President U Thein Sein honours ...

(from page 1)

The Myanmar sports contingents had shown the public their strength in overcoming the challenges. It was the success not only for the contingents but also for 60 million people.

The President concluded his saying that the contingents need to carry on training without being contented with the victory gained.

Next, "Mawgunthit" video was shown to honour the victorious sports contingents of the 27th SEA Games.

Next, President U Thein

Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-

in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented certificates of honour to the medalists.

Three gold medalist Wushu athlete Maung Wai Phyo Aung spoke words of thanks.

In the evening, the President hosted a dinner in honour of the victorious Myanmar athletes. It was also attended by the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, the Chief Justice of the Union, the

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Chairman of Union Election Commission and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), Union ministers, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, deputy ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the SEA Games organizing committee members, presidents of sports federations, coaches, athletes and wellwishers.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents certificate of honour to victorious athletes.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents certificate of honour to victorious athletes.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents certificate of honour to victorious athletes.—MNA

bridge is the 36th of its kind in the term of new government. The RC type bridge can withstand 21 tons of load. It was built at the cost of K 1214.4 million.

Kayan Soe Myint, Photo: decoration group

Haungthayaw bridge commissioned into service

Haungthayaw River crossing bridge on Kyarinn-Tagay-Khotkhar-Kyaykton Road was put into service in Kayin State on 27 December. At the opening ceremony, Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min delivered an address and heard reports by Deputy Managing Director (Works) of Public Works U Win Tint on construction of the 780-foot bridge.

The newly-opened

I wish you "Happy New Year" on the new year occasion.

On such an auspicious occasion, we should abstain from excessive drinking, making too much noise, committing an act of vandalism as well as avoid possible crimes.



Cartoon Thabyay

Sudanese Ambassador presents credentials to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Mr Omer Eisa Ahmed, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Presidential Palace,

Nay Pyi Taw at 11:30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Mr Omer Eisa Ahmed, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.—MNA



Myanmar's image will shine brighter than ever before by successfully hosting ASEAN Summit, its related meetings



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at fifth meeting of the Central Committee for Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship and Establishment of ASEAN Community.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at the fifth meeting of the Central Committee for Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship and Establishment of ASEAN Community at the meeting hall of the President's Office, here, this afternoon.

Also present were the Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the deputy ministers, departmental heads and guests.

In his address, the Vice-President stressed the need to get ready for hosting ASEAN Summit and related meetings by finalizing the ongoing preparations as Myanmar will officially take ASEAN's Chair on 1 January, 2014. He called on the Ministry of

Information to launch public awareness campaigns through media. The information team led by Deputy Minister for Information Presidential Spokesperson U Ye Htut is responsible to release information on activities and stances of Myanmar to local and foreign media. Cooperation with media is necessary for ensuring transparency, he added.

He continued that special cares have to be taken on foreign media persons while the Summits and ministerial meetings are being held. He called for capacity building of the staff of Information Ministry to be media friendly and to be able to deal with media management.

He also highlighted

necessary preparations in Myanmar International Convention Centre for Summit and related meetings, event management in order to meet international standards and hospitality

services and management for heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and visitors.

He called for cooperation and coordination among the ministries con-

cerned regarding the service of Nay Pyi Taw Airport and collaborative efforts with private catering service.

He stressed the importance of transportation subcommittee for the convenience of VIPs and delegation members, saying that coordination among Nay Pyi Taw Council, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and private transport sector is needed.

He urged the H&T Ministry and Nay Pyi Taw Council to organize market festivals and night markets meeting international standards of health, hygiene and food safety in cooperation with respective shopping centres and markets.

It is required to promote security conscious and public awareness for mass participation in order to perform rapid response. All subcommittees are to follow the rules and regulations of the financial subcommittee for ensuring thrifty spending.

More efforts are needed to enhance the image of the host country while hold-

ing AMM Retreat from 15 to 18 January, he said.

In his conclusion, the Vice-President called on those present to grasp the good opportunity for raising the image of the nation through cooperation of the ministries concerned and other organizations and mass participation.

Next, chairmen of ASEAN Political-Security Community committee, ASEAN Economic Community committee, ASEAN Social-Cultural Community committee Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, Dr Kan Zaw and U Aye Myint Kyu, central committee member U Kan Chun and those present reported on work progress.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President stressed the importance of cooperation in respective sectors based on the experience obtained in the SEA Games. He pointed out that Myanmar's image will shine brighter than ever before by successfully hosting the ASEAN Summit and its related meetings.

MNA



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye presents certificate of honour to outstanding athletes. (News on page 1)—MNA



Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents certificate of honour to outstanding athletes. (News on page 1)—MNA

66th Anniversary Independence Day 2014



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

Photo: Kyaw Swe Moe (IPRD)

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

Voluntarily Services

Catholic Church of Myeik carries out sanitation to mark X'mas

MYEIK, 30 Dec— gathering garbage along Catholic Church of Myeik Strand Road from Pearl Yadana Hall to Myeik Shopping Centre.

Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District U Lwin Ko Oo and officials looked into sanitation tasks of the students.

About 150 students led by officials of the church joined hands with workers of Township Development Affairs Committee in

Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD



Farmland owners from irrigated area meet

KALAY, 30 Dec— Yazagy Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented by Irrigation Department near Yazagy Village of Kalay Township.

Its feeder canals will irrigate 6500 acres of farmlands.

The dam will extend

irrigated farmlands to 8500 acres of land.

On 26 December, Chairman of District Management Committee U Maung Htoo met local farmers and discussed effectiveness of irrigation system.

Kyemon-Ju Nine



Construction

Yenangyaung Bridge under construction in Kalay Tsp

KALAY, 30 Dec— Yenangyaung Bridge located on Kalewa-Kyikon-Tamu Road in Sagaing Region.

The bridge lies on India-Myanmar-Thailand tripartite highway.

The bridge is a link for transport of domestic commodities in townships of upper Sagaing Region and those of northern Chin State.

At present, the bridge, 190 feet long, is being built by Bridge Special Construction Group No 11 of Public Works.

The facility will be two-lane bridge.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo inspected progress of the bridge for ensuring timely completion by meeting set standard on 27 December.

Illegal sawn timber seized in Sagaing

SAGAING, 30 Dec—A team comprising Head of Township Forest Department U Kyaw Phone Wai, foresters U Than Swe and U Bo Nyan, ranger U Myo Thwin, officials and staff, policemen and local authorities led by Assistant Director U Thant Zin-2 of Sagaing District Forest Department searched the illegal timber on 27 December.

They found 514 pieces of illegal Inn sawn timber weighing 11.2456 tons on board three boats near Wachet Village in Sagaing Township.

The boats are kept at

Seven significant buildings in establishment of royal palace reconstructed

A building of seven significant buildings under construction near Mandalay Hill in Aungmye-thazan Township.



MANDALAY, 30 Dec— World War in the area of Thudamma Sangha Golden Monastery, Maha Pathan Golden Ordination Hall, Pitakat Chamber, destroyed in the Second

The bridge constructed was funded with K 50 million by the State for better transport of the local people in their trading works with India.

The bridge construction

World War in the area of Thudamma Sangha Golden Monastery, Maha Pathan Golden Ordination Hall, Pitakat Chamber, destroyed in the Second

started on 1 October this year, and it may be completed this fiscal year, said Chairman of District Management Committee U Maung Htoo.

Kyemon-Lin Let Kyei Sinn

Sangha Golden Monastery and Maha Pathan Golden Ordination Hall are being decorated with Myanmar handicrafts.

The reconstruction tasks are donated by U Kyaw Win and family of Mandalay (Real Estate Service).

The construction tasks are expected to complete in April next year.—*Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Crime

Officials seize illegal sawn timber on board engineless boats in Sagaing Township.



Htonbo ward administrator office. Investigation is

being conducted to arrest the crime brokers for illegal

timber and boats.

Kyemon-Myo Win

REGIONAL

10 prefectures predict more deaths in Nankai Trough quake than state

TOKYO, 30 Dec — Ten prefectures predict that they will see more deaths than the state's estimate if a big earthquake occurs along the Nankai Trough off central and western Japan, based on tougher conditions such as the collapse of embankments, a *Kyodo News* study showed on Sunday.

Among the 10, Hiroshima Prefecture forecasts a massive quake could kill 14,759 people, 18.4 times as many as the state's prediction, while Osaka Prefecture expects 133,891 to die, a 13.7-fold increase.

While the state calculated the possible death toll on the assumption that embankments will not be affected by the quake, many local governments compiled their own data assuming that the subsidence of embankments will increase the area of land underwater and kill more people.

Meanwhile, Nagasaki Prefecture, where the state estimated 80 people would die, said, "While up to 5,360 people could die under the worst-case scenario, no one will be victimized if we carry out appropriate

evacuations." The Cabinet Office said in August last year the nationwide death toll could hit 323,000.

A government expert panel predicted earlier this year that there is a 60 percent to 70 percent chance that a major earthquake could occur along the Nankai Trough within the next 30 years.

The Nankai Trough runs from Suruga Bay in Shizuoka Prefecture to the Hyuganada Sea off Miyazaki Prefecture in the southwestern Japan region of Kyushu.—*Kyodo News*



Vacationers form long lines in a departure hall at Narita International Airport, northeast of Tokyo, on 28 Dec, 2013, as the New Year's holiday exodus began the same day. Some 177,000 people are expected to leave Japan from the airport at the end of the year.

KYODO NEWS

Delhi Police seize illicit drugs worth 16 mln USD

NEW DELHI, 30 Dec — Delhi Police has seized illicit drugs worth 1 billion rupees (16 million US dollars) in one of its biggest hauls made in four separate raids across the Indian capital, a senior police official said on Sunday.

"Acting on a tip-off, the raids were carried out by a team of Delhi Police. Some 47 kilograms of heroin and two kilograms of cocaine valued at over 1 billion rupees were seized and one person has been arrested," he said, on condition of anonymity.

However, the alleged kingpin could not be nabbed as he has been operating from Afghanistan, the official said, adding that the illicit drugs were brought into India through borders in the northern state of Punjab.

A probe has been ordered as there is a suspicion that some of the illicit drugs also make their way to Sri Lanka from India through the southern city of Chennai, the official said.

Xinhua

Protests against Bangladesh election turn violent

DHAKA, 30 Dec — Violent clashes erupted in Bangladesh on Sunday as opposition supporters took to the streets to protest against a 5 January general election which they are boycotting.

The opposition says it will not take part in the vote unless an interim government oversees it and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina steps down.

The boycott means more than half of 300 parliament seats will go uncontested, undermining the legitimacy of the election and making it highly

unlikely it will do anything to restore stability in one of the world's poorest countries.

The leader of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Begum Khaleda Zia, called for a march on the capital, Dhaka, in defiance of a police ban to protest against what she calls the "farcical" election.

One person was killed as police opened fire to disperse protesters throwing stones and crude bombs in central Dhaka and a railway guard was killed in a blast at a city station, police said.

"The government is undemocratic and illegal. It should step down immediately," former premier Khaleda told reporters in front of her home after being barred from attending the march. Dozens of police were deployed late on Saturday to stop her from leaving her house. Khaleda said the "march for democracy" would go on Monday.

Pro-BNP lawyers also clashed with police and ruling party supporters at the Supreme Court.

Opposition party officials say hundreds of their supporters have been



Lawyers loyal to Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Bangladesh Jamaat-E-Islami shout slogans as policemen use water cannons during a protest inside the premises of Supreme Court in Dhaka on 29 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

detained across the country over recent days and Dhaka is virtually cut off as authorities suspended bus, rail and ferry services into the

city. Violence has gripped the country as Hasina and her ruling Awami League press ahead with vote.

Reuters

Seven students drown during field trip in southern Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, 30 Dec — Seven students from Nguyen Binh Khiem secondary school in Dau Tieng District of Vietnam's southern Binh Duong Province have been drowned after being swept away by sea waves at a beach in southern Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City, local press reported on Monday.

Specifically, the accident took place on Sunday afternoon when the students were on a school field trip to Can Gio District of HCM City, reported Vietnam's state-run TV station VTV.

During a rest at Can Gio beach, 12 male students went swimming, of whom seven were swept away by big sea waves.—*Xinhua*

Cambodia conducts live fire drill to strengthen military capacity

KAMPONG SPEU, (Cambodia), 30 Dec — Cambodia on Monday conducted a live fire exercise to build capacity for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in defending territorial integrity, an army chief said.

The drill was held at the military training field in Kampong Speu Province, about 70 km west of

capital Phnom Penh, with the participation of about 1,900 soldiers.

Gen Pol Saroeun, commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, said that BM-21 rocket launchers were fired during the exercise.

"The purpose of the

exercise is to strengthen the capacity for our armed forces in defending our territorial integrity and national interest only," he told reporters at the event. "The drill is also to test our new weapons."

About 145 shells had been fired and all had hit

the target in the distance between 20 km and 40 km, he said.

It was the third time that the country held live fire drill with BM21 rockets. The first one was made in March 2010 and the second was in April this year.

Xinhua

S Korean rail workers to end long-drawn-out strikes

SEOUL, 30 Dec — South Korean rail workers, who have been on the country's longest strike for fear of privatization of railway services, have decided to end their long-drawn-out walkouts.

Lawmakers of the ruling Saenuri Party and the main opposition Democratic Party agreed to form a parliamentary subcommittee on developing the rail industry, which was expected to discuss the ban on the rail privatization. Kim Myung-hwan, the labour

union chief of the Korea Railroad Corp (KORAIL), agreed to end the three-week strike if the National Assembly sets up the subcommittee.

The union head and members of the parliamentary transportation committee reached such agreement at around midnight on Sunday. The committee called a plenary session to establish the subcommittee.

More than 8,700 KORAIL workers walked off the job on 9 December in a protest against the

government's move to open a new subsidiary for the state-run rail operator, which unionists fear will result in privatization and layoffs.

Thousands of rail workers and supporters rallied in downtown Seoul and marched down the streets on Saturday after the government issued a formal license for the KORAIL's new affiliate that will operate the new high-speed line from Suseo-dong in Seoul to the southern port city of Busan.—*Xinhua*

A man takes photos of Cambodian opposition supporters during a rally at the Freedom Park in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 29 Dec, 2013. An estimated 40,000 opposition supporters took to the streets in capital Phnom Penh on Sunday afternoon to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Hun Sen and a re-vote following allegations of serious irregularities during the July election.—XINHUA



MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st JANUARY 2014 (Karin New Year Day) and 4th JANUARY 2014 (Independence Day). Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (359)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (359) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KUO HUSING VOY NO (1009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HUSING VOY NO (1009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Israel reopens commercial terminal with Gaza after 4-day closure

GAZA, 30 Dec — Israel reopened its commercial crossing point with the Gaza Strip on Sunday, four days after shutting it down in retaliation for a Palestinian sniper's fire that killed an Israeli worker on Tuesday.

About 450,000 liters of diesel will enter through Kerem Shalom crossing on Sunday to restart the sole power plant in the Palestinian coastal enclave, which was shut down on Friday due to the lack of fuel, said Ra'ed Fattouh, a Palestinian border official.

About 330 truckloads of goods and shipments of transportation fuel would also make their way into the Hamas-controlled territory

through the crossing, Fattouh added.

On Tuesday afternoon, a Palestinian sniper shot dead an Israeli worker repairing parts of the fence between Gaza and Israel. No group claimed responsibility for the shooting.

The closure of the crossing affected Palestinian farmers who export their strawberries to Europe through Kerem Shalom.

It also left Gaza's 1.7 million people in darkness for at least 12 hours a day as the power station produces about half of Gaza's electricity when running at full capacity. Other electricity is purchased via cables from Israel and Egypt.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV CHANG DA LONG VOY NO (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG DA LONG VOY NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SINOR LINES PTE LTD
S'PORE

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1356)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1356) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC - TRANSPORT S'PORE
PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Syrian troops kills 73 rebels in separate clashes

DAMASCUS, 30 Dec — The Syrian troops on Sunday killed as many as 73 rebels in separate clashes nationwide, the state-media reported, as opposition activists claimed that aerial bombing on rebel-held areas in Aleppo killed 471 people over the past week.

The official SANA news agency said the Syrian troops killed 30 "terrorists" from the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front and other jihadist groups during a series of "qualitative" operations in two areas of the rebel-held Douma suburb, east of the capital Damascus.

In the town of Yabrud near Damascus, the troops eliminated gatherings of the Nusra fighters, killing 15 of them and destroying their ammunitions and weapons.

In the northern province of Aleppo, a total of 28 armed rebels, many of whom foreign and Arab

nationals, were killed by the Syrian troops in the towns of Zarzour and al-Nakkarin, according to SANA, which added that one citizen was killed when a mortar shell landed Sunday at the Abasiyen district of Damascus.

On the opposition side, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Sunday that a total of 517 people, 471 of whom civilians, have been killed over the past week in Aleppo as a result of aerial bombing on areas in Aleppo city and its countryside.

The activists' report couldn't be verified independently.

The Syrian media has recently refuted previous activists' accounts on incidents in Aleppo, saying the army only targets the positions of the Nusra Front and the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Xinhua

The 2010 TUN FOUNDATION Literary Award Winner on Culture, "Facts About Myanmar Traditional Chinlone Game And Correct Methods of Chinlone Playing" Book, Written By Pekin Pyan Win Ko (Innwa)

Available at Every Book Shop.

Contact No. Du Wun Sar Pay

01-385597

095190676

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PARAGON PESCADORES VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PARAGON PESCADORES VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA TRANS SHIPS

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



A bullet train runs on Wuhan-Xianning railway in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 28 Dec, 2013. China's railways network topped 100,000 km in total mileage on Saturday, as several new high-speed rail links, including the Xiamen-Shenzhen railway, Xi'an-Baoji railway, Chongqing-Lichuan railway, and others in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, started operations ahead of the spring travel peak, one of the busiest travel seasons next month.—XINHUA

Mongolia to celebrate 65th anniversary of ties with China

ULAN BATOR, 30 Dec — The Mongolian government decided on Saturday to host a series of cultural events in 2014 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic ties with China.

The celebration will include activities such as Chinese and Mongolian cultural days, youth sports matches and TV programmes featuring the memoirs of former ambassadors of the two countries.

Investment forums and round table discussions involving scholars of the two

countries will also be held.

The celebration will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Dendev Terbishdagva, and will run throughout the year.

China and Mongolia established diplomatic relations on 16 October, 1949, and China is currently Mongolia's largest trade partner and investor.

The two countries have also witnessed a rise in cultural exchanges. Currently, about 8,000 Mongolian students study in China.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



Producer, songwriter and rapper Pharrell Williams (R) accepts the Golden Note Award as Jon Platt, president of EMI Music Publishing, looks on at the 25th Annual American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Rhythm & Soul Music Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 29 June, 2012.

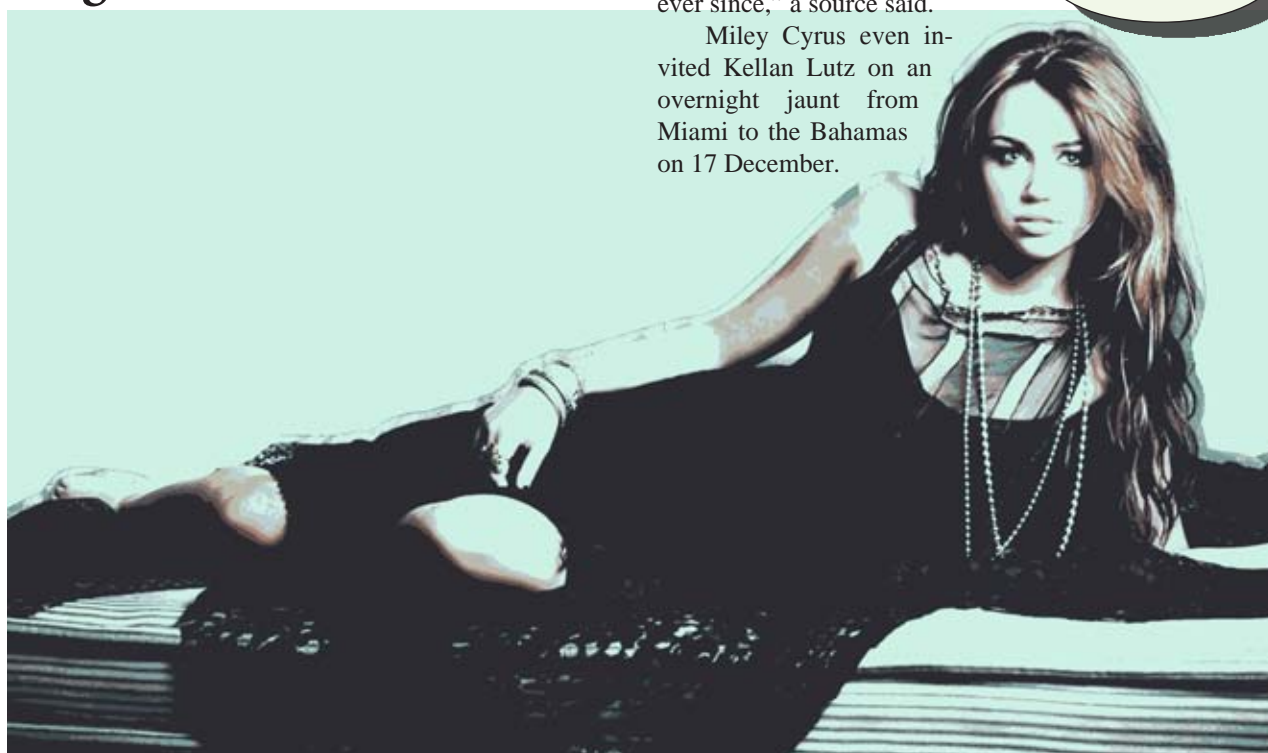
REUTERS

Pharrell Williams seizes No 1 spot in UK singles chart

LONDON, 30 Dec — American singer-songwriter Pharrell Williams seized top spot in Britain’s singles chart on Sunday with his track “Happy”, ousting talent show winner Sam Bailey after only a week at No 1.

The song, which features in the soundtrack to “Despicable Me 2”, achieved sales of nearly 107,000 copies in the past week, the Official Charts Company said, handing Williams his third British No 1 this year.

Williams is set to release his second solo album early next year, the company added, noting that the as-yet-untitled album would be his follow-up to 2006’s “In



Singer Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus dating Twilight actor?

LOS ANGELES, 30 Dec — Singer Miley Cyrus is reportedly dating Twilight actor Kellan Lutz, a good friend of ex-boyfriend Liam Hemsworth.

The 28-year-old actor is said to have reached out to the Bangerz singer, 21, in early December. “The next day, they hung out. And they’ve been hooking up ever since,” a source said.

Miley Cyrus even invited Kellan Lutz on an overnight jaunt from Miami to the Bahamas on 17 December.

“It doesn’t hurt that he is Liam’s pal. But they really enjoy each other’s company,” the source added.

Miley Cyrus and ex-fiance Liam Hemsworth split back in September after being together for three years.

PTI



Taylor Swift performs at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne, Australia.

Taylor Swift Tops Most Charitable Celebrities List

LOS ANGELES, 30 Dec — Taylor Swift was the most charitable celebrity of 2013, according to the social change nonprofit DoSomething.org. The pop star topped the organization’s annual “Top 20 Celebs Gone Good” list for the second year in a row thanks to the \$100,000 donation she gave the Nashville Symphony on the occasion of her 24th birthday. She was also recognized for her headlining gig at a London benefit for homeless youth.

Coming in just behind Swift at Number Two in the rankings, One Direction got props for raising more than \$3 million through their single for the British charity Comic Relief, as well as raising more than \$800,000 for cancer research. Beyoncé came in at Number Three, with particular recognition for headlining the “Chime For Change” concert for women’s rights.

PTI

‘Hobbit’ blasts past newcomers to claim third box office crown

LOS ANGELES, 30 Dec— “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,” the special-effects-laden tale that pits dwarfs against a dragon, blasted to its third consecutive box office title, collecting \$29.9 million over the post-Christmas weekend to beat newcomers “The Wolf of Wall Street” and “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.”

Walt Disney’s animated film “Frozen” was second with ticket sales of \$28.8 million in its third week, ahead of Will Ferrell’s quirky comedy “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues” that collected \$20.2 million at domestic theaters.

“American Hustle,” which reunited director David O Russell with his “Silver Linings Playbook” stars Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, was fourth with \$19.6 million in ticket sales at theaters in the US and Canada, according to studio estimates. Sony, the distributor of “American Hustle,” also said it had

grossed \$3 billion worldwide as of this weekend.

Director Martin Scorsese’s “The Wolf of Wall Street” was fifth with \$18.5 million after finishing a close second to “The Hobbit” on Christmas Day, according to estimates compiled by Rentrak. The nearly three hour movie received good reviews but registered only a “C” rating from CinemaScore, a site that measures audience reaction.

“The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,” the second of three movies based on JRR Tolkien’s 1937 novel, has collected more than \$190 million in ticket sales since its 13 December release, according to Rentrak. Its worldwide sales total more than \$614 million, according to distributor Warner Brothers.

“47 Ronin, the Keanu Reeves samurai adventure film that Universal Pictures made for \$175 million, opened with \$9.9 million in ticket sales. That was on par with the industry’s \$17

million to \$20 million projections for total ticket sales of \$20.6 million since its Christmas Day release.

On 24 December, Reuters reported that Universal, a unit of cable giant Comcast Corp, had taken unspecified writedowns when it became apparent the film would not take in the amounts it had spent to make and market it.

Nikki Rocco, president for domestic distribution at Universal Pictures, acknowledged that the opening of “47 Ronin” was disappointing, but said the studio would move on to greener pastures regardless of the film’s performance.

“Of course it’s very disappointing and you don’t want to open a picture at this level, but exit polls are decent and we think it will find its way,” Rocco said.

“The Wolf of Wall Street,” which stars Leonardo DiCaprio in the biographical story of a drug-snorting Wall Street scam artist, sold \$18.5 million worth of tickets after

critics gave it generally positive reviews. The film and DiCaprio have both been nominated for a Golden Globe Award.

“The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” which stars and was directed by Ben Stiller, collected \$13 million in ticket sales. The film was first developed in the early 1990s, and for a while Steven Spielberg

was signed to direct it. Fox cast Stiller in the title role in 2011.

This year is set to surpass 2012 as a record year for the box office by nearly 1 percent, according to Rentrak. Total gross sales were \$10,811,701,260 billion in 2012, while 2013 is on track to exceed \$10.9 billion.

Reuters



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

Chelsea make Liverpool suffer, Arsenal top

LONDON, 30 Dec — Chelsea heaped more Christmas misery on Liverpool with a 2-1 victory at Stamford Bridge and Olivier Giroud's goal helped Arsenal win 1-0 at Newcastle United to return to the top of the Premier League on Sunday.

Everton moved back into the top four with a 2-1 win over Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur beat Stoke City 3-0 to get their first victory since appointing Tim Sherwood manager as the English game served up more drama in its congested festive schedule.

Chelsea fell behind to a goal from Martin Skrtel after four minutes, but rallied with first-half strikes from Eden Hazard and Samuel Eto'o to inflict a second defeat in four days on Liverpool following their loss at Manchester City.

Arsenal's win came courtesy of France striker Giroud, who had not scored in all competitions since November 23, but got the faintest of touches to glance a Theo Walcott free kick into the net midway through the second half.

They now top the table with 42 points from 19 games, one clear of Manchester City with Chelsea a point further adrift in third.

Liverpool, top on Christmas Day, dropped to fifth, a point behind local rivals Everton who moved fourth with 37 points thanks to a second-half winner from Romelu Lukaku.

A Roberto Soldado penalty and goals from Mousa Dembele and Aaron Lennon lifted Tottenham to seventh on 34 points. Liverpool have

had the wind taken out of the sails with back-to-back away defeats against fellow title challengers with both games starting brightly for them before turning sour.

They had their tails up after four minutes when Skrtel put them ahead, tapping home from close range after Luis Suarez beat Branislav Ivanovic to a Philippe Coutinho free kick.

That sparked Chelsea into life and they rapidly got on top, with Brazilian David Luiz, drafted into midfield to

replace the suspended Ramires, showing why Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho might be tempted to use him there more often. Chelsea attacked in waves and drew level through Hazard on 17 minutes with the Belgium international curling home after the ball broke fortuitously to him on the edge of the area. They deservedly took the lead 11 minutes before the break when Eto'o darted in front of his marker Skrtel to poke an Oscar cross past Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet into the net.

Chances were limited in the second half, Liverpool's best effort coming from Mamadou Sakho who hit the woodwork with a looping header seconds before Eto'o forced an excellent save from Mignolet with a powerful near-post shot.

Liverpool were incensed not to be awarded a penalty late in the match when Eto'o appeared to foul Suarez right in front of referee Howard Webb, but the official waved away their protests and Chelsea closed out the win. "We were lucky to win the game because it



Liverpool's Martin Skrtel (front) is challenged by Chelsea's John Terry during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 29 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud (2nd L) heads and scores his goal against Newcastle United during their English Premier League soccer match at St James' Park in Newcastle, northern England, on 29 Dec, More.

REUTERS

Schild secures place in slalom history

LIENZ, 30 Dec — Austria's Marlies Schild became the all-time leader of World Cup slalom victories with her 35th success secured on home snow in Lienz on Sunday.

The former world

champion, who overtook the 34 wins of Swiss Vreni Schneider, followed up her victory in Courchevel on 17 December by topping a podium comprising the very best slalom specialists of the decade.

American Mikaela Schiffrin, who dethroned Schild at the world championships in Schladming last season, was second 0.41 seconds adrift, while Olympic champion Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany was third.

"It's hard to believe but now for sure the record is mine," Schild said.

"I must admit I felt relieved after Courchevel. I needed to break the jinx. It was making me nervous in the end. Everybody was talking about the record.

"I even noticed in training that there was a before and after Courchevel. I'm much more relaxed now."

Schild signalled her return to form in the French

resort of Courchevel — her first victory in nearly two years.

The Austrian, who tore knee ligaments in December 2012 in Are, had been usurped at the top of her sport by Schiffrin, who took advantage of her absence to win the world title and the slalom World Cup globe.

The 18-year-old again led the way after the morning run while Schild, her visibility hampered by the rain, had to settle for sixth.

But experience, and the knowledge of the Lienz course on which she had won three times previously, made the difference in the afternoon when the Austrian clocked the fastest time by far.—Reuters



Austria's Marlies Schild passes a pole during the first run of the women's slalom World Cup race in the Tyrolean ski resort of Lienz on 29 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

Everton's Jagielka ruled out for up to four weeks

LONDON, 30 Dec — Everton captain Phil Jagielka will be out of action for up to four weeks with a hamstring injury, manager Roberto Martinez said on Sunday. The England defender was hurt near the end of Everton's 1-0 Premier League loss to Sunderland on Thursday and missed the 2-1 victory over Southampton on Sunday.

"It happened at the end of the game against Sunderland," Martinez told



Everton captain Phil Jagielka

reporters. "With this soft tissue injury it could be up to four weeks, but knowing Jags he will be back earlier.

"It is just the accumulation of games and the demands of this month. November into December is high-risk in terms of injuries to the players."

Victory over Sunderland lifted Everton to fourth in the standings, five points behind leaders Arsenal at the halfway point in the season.—Reuters

Sharapova makes no promises over Brisbane return

BRISBANE, 30 Dec — Having pulled out of the Brisbane International tournament through injury for the last two years, Maria Sharapova might consider it a victory in itself if she actually gets out on court at the Pat Rafter arena on Monday.

The tournament is perhaps more important to the Russian world number four as a warm-up for the Australian Open this year as she is on the comeback trail after four months on the sidelines with a shoulder injury.

At least she made it to Brisbane this year, something which an ankle injury prevented her from doing in 2012, but she was giving no guarantees that she would be quickly back to the form that has won her four grand slam titles.

"I want to bring the work I've done in the off-season, try to bring that onto the court as soon as I can. Will that happen this week? I don't know," she told reporters on Sunday.

"I know that if I have the effort I had in the off-season I'll be at a level I want to be."

Sharapova plays

Ozil lacked incision and failed to create a chance of note in the first half.

The game looked to be heading towards a draw when Arsenal struck the decisive blow. Walcott's free kick was perfectly angled into the box and Giroud got in between the Newcastle centre backs to feather a delicate header into the net.

There was a frenetic finale but Arsenal's defence held out to ensure they go into the New Year on top of the table for the first time since 2007-08.

Reuters

France's Caroline Garcia in the first round on Monday evening, her first match since the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati in August and her first under new coach Sven Groeneveld.

The 26-year-old recruited Groeneveld in November, ending a period without a coach after she dispensed with Thomas Hogstedt, who had been working with her for two-and-a-half years, and Jimmy Connors, who lasted a month, in quick succession.

"From the first time we met I really liked what he had to say," she said.

Reuters



Maria Sharapova

GENERAL

Mr. Allan William Sail
Age 74
Stisted, Braintree, U.K

Husband of Ni Ni Myaing, father of Jane A. Sail, son of Mr. W.J. Sail and Mrs G. E. Sail, son-in-law of Dr. Po Myaing and Daw Saw Shin died peacefully at 2:40 am on 29-12-2013 (Sunday), funeral will be at 3:00 pm on 2-1-2014 at 'Ye-way' Cemetry. Transport will leave at 1:00 pm from 35 D, Thirimingalar Lane 15, East Ywama, Insein T/S.

The family

43rd IAA World Congress to held in Beijing



BEIJING, 30 Dec — The 43rd International Advertising Association (IAA) World Congress will be held in Beijing from 8 to 10 May, 2014. About 2,000 people from around the world, including professionals from the advertising industry and representatives of the IAA's branches, will attend the event, which

is themed "Innovation and Evolution."

The event will be hosted by the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of China and Beijing Municipal People's Government. Beijing will host the event for the second time. The IAA's 39th congress was also held in the capital city in 2004.—Xinhua

US Obamacare expected to see more glitches in 2014

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — With Obamacare going into full effect on 1 January, more glitches are expected for President Barack Obama's embattled healthcare overhaul, although the scope of the problem remains to be seen, US experts said on Sunday.

Obama's healthcare rollout, also known as Obamacare, has faced myriad hurdles since the 1 October launch of its website healthcare.gov, through which potential buyers were supposed to be able to choose from various healthcare plans but instead faced a labyrinth technical glitches.

To add to Obama's healthcare woes, recent polls have found that Americans are overwhelmingly uneasy about the new healthcare law, believing it will lead to higher premiums and deductibles.

Anger is also mounting among an estimated 4 million Americans who have been dumped by their insurance providers, as their

plans failed to meet Obamacare's new guidelines. That development came after repeated promises from Obama that those who liked their insurance plans could keep them.

Some experts said more problems will follow when Obamacare is fully implemented on 1 January, as many who signed up for plans under the healthcare revision in recent weeks could see processing delays and may not yet be able to use their benefits.

Scott Gottlieb, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, told Fox News on Sunday that some people who thought they had signed up for Obamacare will not be able to access healthcare.

He added that some plans offered under Obamacare do not cover treatment by specialists, and patients may have to travel up to 50 miles to see a specialist in their coverage network.

Xinhua

New Year-related injuries in Philippines climb to 198

MANILA, 30 Dec — Firework-related injuries in the Philippines have kept rising as the New Year is approaching, forcing security forces on high alert.

There had been 198 revelry-related injuries by Sunday morning, according to the Department of Health. Of the total, 193 were injured by fireworks and five others by stray bullets.

The government urged the public to welcome 2014 in a happy yet safe manner, Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr said on Sunday, adding that more than 1,800 hospitals nationwide are preparing to accommodate revelry-related injuries.

Coloma said government agencies concerned had already aired warnings against the use of harmful fireworks to greet the New Year, lamenting that many Filipinos still defied these warnings and kept on using such fireworks that ended up in injuries or even lives.

Police forces are on heightened alert, patrolling public areas like parks, churches, airports and transport terminals, as well as malls. Meanwhile, Coloma urged law enforcers not to fire their guns in welcoming 2014.—Xinhua

Schumacher 'critical' after skiing fall

LYON, 30 Dec — Retired seven-times Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher was in 'critical' condition with head injuries after an off-piste skiing accident in the French Alps resort of Meribel, his agent said on Sunday.

The 44-year-old German was in hospital in Grenoble and under the care of Professor Gerard Saillant, a brain and spinal injury expert who is also president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) Institute.

"He suffered head trauma with coma that needed prompt neurosurgical treatment," Schumacher's agent Sabine Kehm said in a statement late in the evening, which a hospital

MYANMAR TV

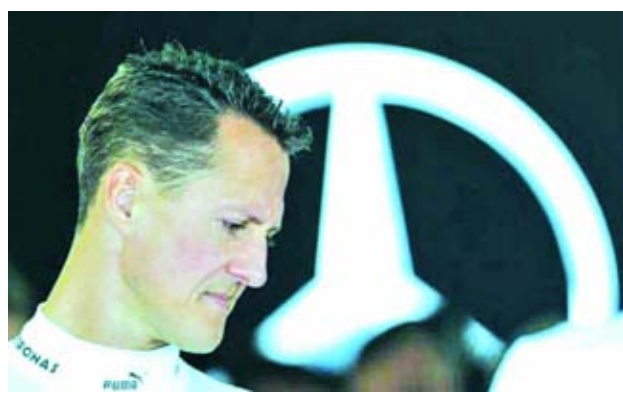
(31-12-2013, Tuesday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:15 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 19. Business News |
| 6:15 am | 3:30 pm |
| 2. Mytta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw Phayahyi | 20. India Drama Series |
| 6:35 am | 4:00 pm |
| 3. Physical Exercises | 21. News |
| 6:40 am | 4:15 pm |
| 4. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies | 22. India Drama Series |
| 6:45 am | 4:45 pm |
| 5. Documentary | 23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Mathematic) |
| 7:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| 6. News/Weather Report | 24. News |
| 7:40 am | 5:15 pm |
| 7. People Talks | 25. Business News |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| 8. News/ International News | 26. India Drama Series |
| 8:30 am | 6:00 pm |
| 9. India Drama Series | 27. News/Weather Report |
| 9:00 am | 6:20 pm |
| 10. News/ International News | 28. Documentary (Education) |
| 9:30 am | 6:30 pm |
| 11. Business News | 29. Teleplay |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 12. News | 30. News |
| 10:15 am | 7:20 pm |
| 13. Documentary | 31. Documentary |
| 11:25 am | 8:00 pm |
| 14. Tamyethnar Takwetsar | 32. News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 8:30 pm |
| 15. News/International News/Weather Report | 33. Monthly Weather Report |
| 12:30 pm | 8:40 pm |
| 16. Myanmar Movie | 34. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 2:40 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 17. Traditional Boxing | 35. News |
| 3:00 pm | 36. Sing A Song |
| 18. News | 37. India Drama Series |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

31-12-13 07:00 am ~ 1-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode-4) Tumbling Doil, Pyit Tine Htaung
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip With Wayne (Cambodia)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Kya-sin-maw-kun"
- * Local News
- * Hand Down Arts Heritage
- * World News
- * Graffiti: Character Art
- * Local News
- * City Night Your Night
- * World News
- * Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
- * Awesome Myanma Sculptures
- * Who can match their Unique Music and Fashion?
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food (Episode-4) (Pyay Daw Oo Rice Salad)
- * World News
- * Early Morning Athletics
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel With Maria (Night Market of Pyay) (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * Around The Maha Boditahtaung
- * Local News
- * Preserving Myanma Handicrafts
- * A Myanmar Tapestry



Mercedes Formula One driver Michael Schumacher of Germany stands inside his team garage during the first practice session of the Japanese FI Grand Prix at the Suzuka circuit on 5 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

official read to reporters. "He remains in a critical condition."

A hospital official declined to give more details but said more information would be given on Monday. Christophe Gernigon-

Lecomte, the director of the Meribel ski resort where Schumacher has a vacation home, said earlier that the former champion was wearing a helmet when he fell and hit his head on a rock at around 11 am local time

(1000 GMT). He added that the German had been conscious while being transported first to a local hospital in Moutiers before then being transferred to Grenoble.

"He was conscious but very agitated while being taken to hospital," said the director.

In Germany, Schumacher's accident topped news bulletins, with the bestselling tabloid newspaper Bild reporting on its website: "Schumi fighting for his life".

Bild reporters also said that Ross Brawn, the Briton who worked with Schumacher at Ferrari and Mercedes as technical director and team principal respectively, had arrived in Grenoble.—Reuters

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends awarding ceremony for outstanding students



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets students at ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students for 2013-2014 Academic Year at MICC.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended a ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students for 2013-2014 Academic Year at Myanmar International

Convention Centre, here, this morning.

Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint spoke on the occasion that the government initiated free education in

primary level, providing textbooks and notebooks to students free of charges this year as part of efforts for implementation of compulsory primary education system started in 2012-2013

Academic Year in order to improve learning opportunities in basic education level. Plans are underway to also free secondary education, providing textbooks and not charging school

National Skill Standard Authority meets

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec —National Skill Standard Authority held a work coordination meeting at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, here, this morning.

cupation, competency-based training, competency-based assessment and skill-development fund.

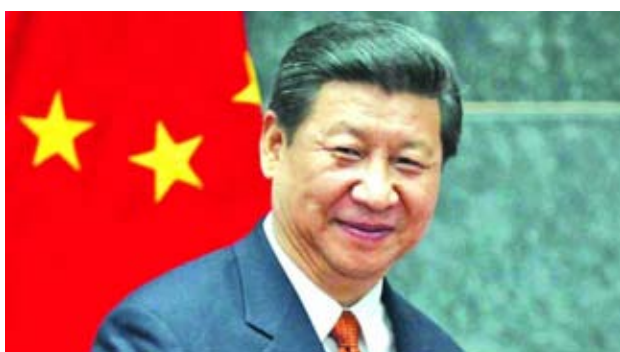
“Standardization on skills of workers and benefits for them were under discussion at the today’s meeting. It was aimed at

developing awareness of skill recognition system among workforce and issuing certificates to them prior to free flow of skilled workers in 2015,” said Director-General U Myo Aung who also served as the secretary of the com-

mittee. Assistant Director Daw Khin Mar Aye called for collaboration and cooperation of organizations concerned for the sake of workforce in Myanmar, saying that cooperation between NSSA and other associations is still low.

MNA

President Xi to lead overall reform



BEIJING, 30 Dec—President Xi Jinping will head a leading group for overall reform, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee decided on Monday.

print put forward at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee.

A decision made at the session first came up with the idea of establishing such a leading group, an important reform move. The leading group will be in charge of “designing reform on an overall basis, arranging and coordinating reform, pushing forward reform as a whole, and supervising the implementation of reform

plans,” the document said.

It will research and decide on major guidelines, policies and schemes for systematic reform in economic, political, cultural, social and environmental sectors as well as the Party system, the document said.

The group will lead major reforms at the national level and address major issues with nationwide significance and long-term effect, which involve different regions and departments. It will guide, push forward and supervise the implementation of major reform policies, the document said. When explaining the reform blueprint to the plenary session in November, Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said it is hard for certain or several departments to push forward

such a complicated systematic reform so a higher level of leadership is needed.

The leading group will allow the Party play a better role of commanding the whole situation and coordinating the efforts of all quarters, he said. Prof. Xie Chuntao, with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, told Xinhua that setting up the group is necessary because reform this time will be both unprecedented in scale and degree. A goal has been set to “achieve decisive results in the reform of key sectors by 2020.”

To achieve this, an institution that exercises core leadership is essential because reform on such a large scale will involve not only government institutions but also those of the Party, legislature and judiciary, said Xie.

Xinhua

Amnesty granted for five prisoners

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—On humanitarian grounds and encouraging prisoners, after understanding the magnanimity of the State, to serve the national interest and in their own interest, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has granted amnesty for five prisoners who are in the list of Committee for Scrutinizing Remaining Political Prisoners and had served their terms to a certain extent in the prisons or work camps. Amnesty is granted in accord with Section 204 (a) of the Constitution and Section 401 Subsection (i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure as of today, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—MNA

fees and others in the upcoming academic year, he continued. He gave an account of educational programs that include stipend awarding and cash assistance to the schools in the next three years from 2014-2015 to 2016-2017 Academic Years and opening of capacity building courses with the use of a US\$-60 million interest-free loan from the World Bank.

Next, the Acting Union Minister and Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Myat Hein, U Win Myint and U Win Shein presented prizes to outstanding stu-

dents who passed matriculation examination with flying colours and teachers and students who were awarded in Mathematics and English Skills Contests, impromptu speaking, poem recitation, story telling competitions, painting contest, ASEAN Quiz, Myanmar ICT Award, international sports event and 27th SEA Games and posed for documentary photos with them.

After the ceremony, the Vice-President and party viewed round educational booths in display in the hall.

MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw receives Argentinian ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Argentinian Ambassador to Myanmar

Ms Ana Maria Ramirez with the residence in Bangkok, Thailand, at his office here at 1pm today.

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Significant night temperature (30-12-2013)

Haka	1°C
Loilem	3°C
Mogok	4°C
Pinlaung	5°C
Heho	6°C
PyinOoLwin	6°C



Afghan girls talk to each other on the snow in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan on 30 Dec 2013. The first snow of this winter visited the Afghan capital on Monday.—XINHUA/AHMAD MASSOUD