

## President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to King of Thailand, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand which falls on 5 December 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

## Myanmar close to hitting expected 3 million visitors mark

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 Dec—Given tourist arrivals of 2.7 million to Myanmar up to November, Myanmar's tourism boom is on track to meet its expected three million visitors this year according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

With strong demand to visit Myanmar by travelers willing to explore destinations offering a genuine meaning of ecotourism and opportunities for recreation in locations of great scenic beauty and high cultural heritage year after year, 2.7 million globetrotters visited Myanmar up to last month, said Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe at the closing of a tour guide training course in Kayin State.

He expressed his belief Myanmar is sure to see three million arrivals by tourists as expected by the end of this year.

With a 43 percent rise on 1,121,795 who entered the country during



*A stupa built on a stone in Myanmar offers breathtaking beautiful scenery to globetrotters seeking ecotourism thrills.—PHOTO: YE MYINT*

the first seven months in 2013, Myanmar received 1,604,746 in the same period this year. The number of visitors arriving by air jumped 25 percent in 2013 and visitors arriving in

Yangon by water rose 612 percent, from 1,552 in the first seven months of 2013 to 11,053 in the same period this year.

According to the ministry, Myanmar welcomed

2.04 million visitors in 2013, a record number for the Southeast Asian nation where the tourism industry is growing at an impressive pace. Ministry figures show that as of October

31 Myanmar had 1,076 licensed hotels, motels and guest houses with 42,037 rooms while 279 hotels

in Yangon have 12,794 rooms. Among them, 26 hotels are in operation with foreign investment while five are operating through a joint-venture business.

According to the country's Tourism Master Plan, Myanmar expects to welcome more hordes of travelers from around the world. The Asian Development Bank forecasts arrivals of three million visitors by 2015 and 7.5 million by 2020.

Recently, global travel search engine Skyscanner said Myanmar will be the hottest travel destination next year.

The country is to host the ASEAN Tourism Forum-2015 from 22 to 29 January next year, aiming to help ensure the country's tourism industry growth and delivering broad and equitable social, economic and environmental benefits to its people.

GNLM

## Myanmar posts trade deficit in 1<sup>st</sup> eight months of FY 2014-15

YANGON, 4 Dec—Myanmar had a trade deficit of more than \$3 billion in the first eight months April-November of fiscal year 2014-15, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce on Thursday.

During the eight months, foreign trade totaled \$18,134.681 million, with exports amounting to \$7,340.755 million and imports \$10,793.826 million, the statistics show.

The total foreign trade in the first eight months of the current FY is up more than \$3 billion from the more than \$15 billion in the

same period of the previous fiscal year.

Of total exports, normal trade accounted for \$4,791.998 million and border trade made up \$2,548.765 million.

Of total imports, normal trade accounted for \$9,367.886 million and border trade \$1,426.040 million.

Major exports include agricultural produce, livestock, marine products, products from mining, forest and industrial sectors. Major imports include materials for the investment sector, raw materials and household goods.—GNLM

## Human trafficking cases exceed last year's 102

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 4 Dec—The number of human trafficking cases from January to November has reached 108, and Shan State tops the chart with 49 cases, followed by Yangon with 13 cases and by Mandalay with 10 cases, according to the statistics of anti-human trafficking squads.

The squads could save 162 trafficking victims out of 222 this year, most of them women. In the previous year, 220 out of 256

people in 102 cases were saved by the police.

Police Captain Min Naing said Myanmar's anti-human trafficking police squads put more efforts to expose human trafficking cases, with the result that this year's human-trafficking figures have exceeded those of the previous year.

Most victims were sold as fraudulent marriage partners and forced labourers in neighbouring coun-

tries, especially in China, but there was only one forced adoption case this year. The police could expose 19 human trafficking cases reported in the country until the end of November in which the majority of women were put into prostitution.

The squads in cooperation with Thailand also made an effort to get damages for Myanmar victims who were killed in a cold storage vehicle in Thailand in 2008. Myanmar police are carrying out the work to

provide the price of compensation to the families of those victims.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime in both developed and developing countries. Under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, offenders of trafficking in persons especially women, children and youth shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of imprisonment for life.

GNLM

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## Medical team gives free health care to locals in Ottarathiri Tsp



NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — Ottarathiri Township Health Department carries out free health care services at the pre-primary school in the compound of No 24 Basic Education Primary School in Lewun Village,

Ottarathiri Township, on 3 December.

A medical team comprising two doctors, nurses, midwives, health assistant and members of Red Cross Brigade and Maternal and Child Welfare Association

led by Township Medical Officer Dr Shan Lian Thang of Ottarathiri Township Hospital (50-bed) gave health care services to about 200 people free of charge.

Three patients of them

were referred to the township hospital.

Personnel of the Township Health Department provide free health care services to the local people in the villages monthly.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

## Rural youths study basic computer technology

THATON, 4 Dec—Future of the rural youth depends much on development of villages and uplift of living standard.

The government is implementing the rural development and poverty alleviation projects for improvement of the rural areas.

With the aim of broadening the horizon of the local youths in information technological sector, a basic computer course is being

conducted in Kataikgyi Village in Thaton Township, Mon State.

“Local authorities manage the training course for the youths. The course is being conducted free of charge at the Dhammayon of Kataikgyi Monastery,” said village administrator U Myint Aye.

He continued, “Our village will consume electricity soon. Thanks to electrification, the local youth will have many

opportunities to seek the ways for uplift of their living standard. A social organization provided four computer sets and technical assistance to the village authorities to be able to conduct the computer course for the youth. We have a plan to invite the youth from surrounding villages to join the work plan of the training course.”

The training course started on 25 November to date without holiday.

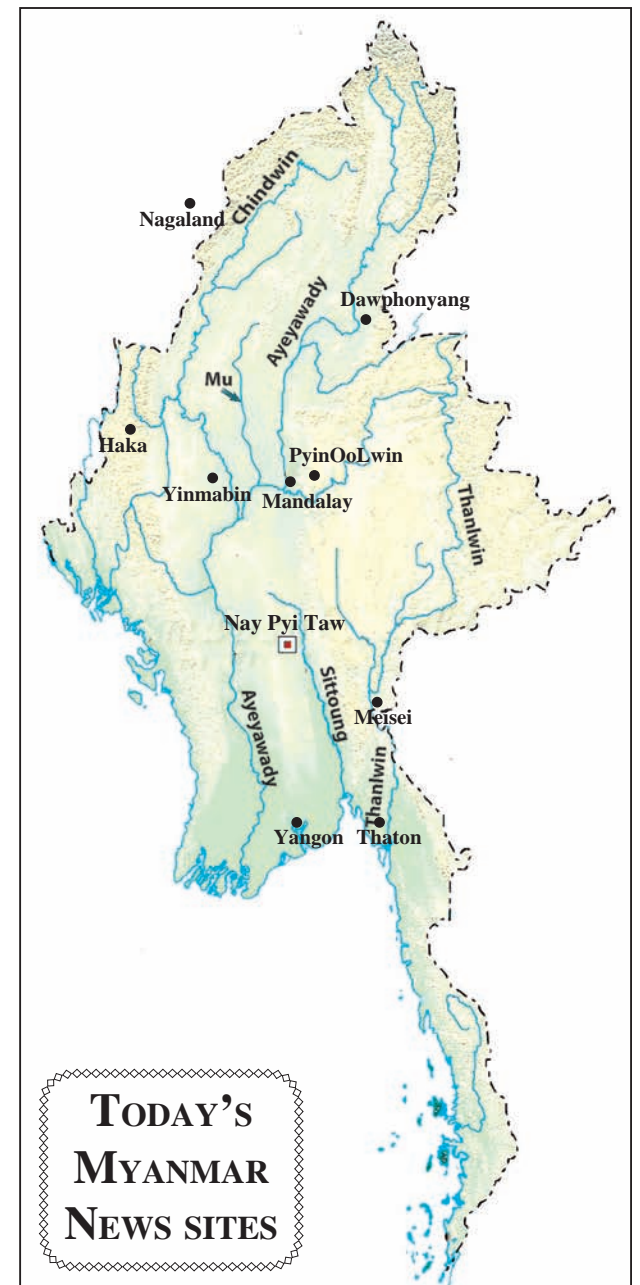
Ma Hnin Nanda Soe of Kataikgyi Village, a trainer of the course, said, “I am a graduate. Before joining the job, I will share my computerization knowledge and technology to my friends.”

*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

## People enjoy new harvest feast

DAWPHONYANG, 4 Dec — Shan Literature and Culture Committee in Mole area of Dawphoneyang Sub-Township in Kachin State opened the new harvest feast at the Dhammayon in Phakay Village, Dawphoneyang, Kayah State, on 2 December.

Col Nyi Nyi Swe of the local station, Sub-Township Administrator U Aung Aung and local authorities formally opened the ceremony. Local people then enjoyed the new harvest feast. They also visited the booths displayed by departmental personnel and local people.—*Township IPRD*



## Chin State marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities



HAKA, 4 Dec — A ceremony to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed at the city hall in Haka, city of Chin State, on 3 December.

Chief Minister of the State U Hong Ngai stressed the need to uplift living standard of the persons with disabilities to be able to join the nation-building tasks as much as possible.

Director of Chin State

Relief and Resettlement U Lin Htut read the message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Deputy Director U Chan Pe of State Department of Social Welfare, emergence of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and officials, aims of observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and Chin CBR tasks.—*Chin State IPRD*





## NATIONAL

# Norwegian king and queen visit pottery in Yandabo Village

MANDALAY, 4 Dec— His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway visited the pottery of over two hundred years old in Yandabo Village in Myingyan District of Mandalay Region and viewed the stone pillar marking the truce of the first Anglo-Myanmar War on Thursday.

The king and the queen arrived in Yandabo from Bagan by special vessel in the afternoon and viewed the production of pottery at the workshop of octogenarian U Ba Chit, where officials explained the production process and presented gifts to the king and the queen.

Traditional pottery production in Yandabo, which was handed down from generations to generations, dates back over 200 years when Myanmar was ruled by kings. Pottery from Yandabo has been distributed to the entire country since 2010 and the village has been a tourist attraction since 2011.

U Ba Chit said that he had never seen a foreign dignitary visiting their village in his life of over 80 years and that he was glad to see the king and the queen who visited the village unexpectedly. He added that the king and the queen had a chance to enjoy the first-hand experience of pottery production and he hoped the royal visit would inspire youths in the village.



*His Majesty King Harald V and Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway view production process of pottery in Yandabo Village, Myingyan District.—THURA ZAW*

rience of pottery production and he hoped the royal visit would inspire youths in the village.

School teacher U Thein Oo was of the opinion that the king and the queen visited the village because they were attracted by photographs taken by Norwegian tourists.

Then, the king and the queen viewed the stone pillar marking the truce of the first Anglo-Myanmar War near the village and left for Mandalay.

On 24 February 1826,

the British and Myanmar signed the truce near the villages after the first Anglo-Myanmar war which broke out from 1824 to 1826.—Thura Zaw

## Myanmar, Australia ink MoU on migration management project

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi and Australian Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison MP signed an MoU on a border region migration management project on the last day of the Myanmar-Australia ministerial meeting on immigration and border protection in Sydney.

Under the five-year project, the Australian authorities will provide technical assistance and security training to enhance network communication at the international airports and jetties as well as border gates to implement the migration process between Myanmar and Australia.

During the visit, the Myanmar delegation observed Australia's scheme for checking passports and related documents at international airports and its network structure, arrangement on issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards, implementation of a media

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Han	Managing Director Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
(b) U Thaung Han	Director-General Hydropower Management Department Ministry of Electric Power
(c) U Khin Maung Win	Director-General Electric Power Department Ministry of Electric Power
(d) U Than Daing	Managing Director No 2 Mining Enterprise Ministry of Mines

## Union FM sends message of felicitations to Thai Dy PM and FM

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand which falls on 5 December 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

der gates to implement the migration process between Myanmar and Australia.

During the visit, the Myanmar delegation observed Australia's scheme for checking passports and related documents at international airports and its network structure, arrangement on issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards, implementation of a media

department for immigration program and immigration laws.

At the meeting from 24 to 28 November, both sides discussed Australia's aid to provide capacity building training for staff from the ministry, arrangements on taking census data, restoring statistics and experience of population-related policies in Australia.—MNA

## Complaints filed for youths detained by KIA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — The KIA, despite its participation in the peace negotiations with the government, is expanding its troops by recruiting coercively. Young ethnic people who are leading their lives honestly are detained forcefully and are sent to Sai Aung Camp, Mon San-yan Camp and Wai Kyai-bum Camp of battalion 3

of Brigade 5, where they are forced to do military training courses including new private training courses, corporal courses and officer courses.

Many of the trainees fled from the courses due to insufficient food, torture and racial discrimination and the KIA is trying to capture them again, according to Rakhine, Shan, Bamar and Palaung youths who recently fled from the training courses.

Complaints have been filed to the Human Rights Commission, international social organizations and the UN agencies for the safe return of the offspring of the local people to their parents, according to sources.—Myawady

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— A memorandum of understanding has been signed between three ministries and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at Thiri Mingala Hotel here on Thursday, officials have said.

The Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education entered an agreement with the UN agency to broadcast children's rights education programmes designed to promote public awareness of childcare, health and education.

Reports said that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement joined the four entities to create televised

## Myanmar, UNICEF ink agreement to telecast children's rights education programmes

programmes, which are expected to be aired next year.

The telecasts will provide the public with information of birth registrations, vaccination of

measles and rubella, and children's rights to education.

After the signing ceremony, Deputy Minister U Pike Htway and Mr Suleman Malik of the UNICEF

presented gifts to officials from radio stations as a token of their cooperation. They also looked round publications of children's rights.

MNA

### Correction

Please read "Girl Guides of Myanmar, Japan will open international camp in Nay Pyi Taw" at the head line of the story appeared in the lowest part on page 2 of this daily issued on 1 December.—GNLM





## Emperor, empress visit Hiroshima A-bomb memorial



Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko offer flowers in front of a cenotaph for atomic-bomb victims at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, on 4 Dec, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

HIROSHIMA, 4 Dec — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Thursday visited Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima and laid flowers at the cenotaph for atomic-bomb victims.

Following their visit to the memorial, the imperial couple visited one of the city's four atomic-bomb nursing homes and offered words of encouragement to the elderly survivors.

The couple's visit to the city of Hiroshima is part of their activities to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II next year and follows several visits to war-related places earlier this year.

In June, the emper-

or and empress visited Okinawa Prefecture, where they offered flowers at a national cemetery for the war dead, and in October visited Nagasaki to express condolences over the 1945 US atomic bombing.

They are also expected to visit Palau, one of the fiercest battlefields in the Pacific during the war, possibly next April.

Also on their two-day trip to Hiroshima through Thursday, the emperor and empress met people affected by mudslides in August. On Wednesday, they visited a disaster site in Asam-inami Ward where they prayed for the victims.

Kyodo News

## Sino-Japanese ties “very important”, China's Li tells Japanese experts

BEIJING, 4 Dec — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, in another sign of easing tensions between China and Japan, told a meeting Thursday with a long-established panel of experts that Sino-Japanese relations “are very important” not only for the two countries but also for the region.

“Since the two countries normalized diplomatic relations (in 1972), China's principle and basic policy toward Japan has been consistent,” Li said at the meeting with members of the New Japan-China Friendship Committee for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The meeting in Beijing's Great Hall of the People took place after members of the committee agreed that deep mutual distrust between the two countries, particularly in the areas of politics and security, should be dispelled by having more exchanges in various fields.

Since taking office in March 2013, it was Li's first meeting with a group of Japanese people in connection with bilateral issues, according to a Japanese government official.

Li said bilateral relations should be developed with the spirit of “taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future” but he did not touch on specific issues such as persistent friction over the ownership of a small group of islands in the East China Sea, the official said. Li said China does not want to damage its ties with Japan and proposed that the two countries have more multilayered frameworks to consult a range of issues, Japan Post Holdings Co President Taizo Nishimuro, co-chair of the committee, told a press conference. The committee, an advisory body to the two governments, held a formal meeting for the first time since October 2011, following Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping last month. The Abe-Xi talks, the first since both took power two years ago, on the margins of a regional economic summit on 10 November were symbolic rather than substantial but paved the way for the resumption of high-level exchanges between the Asian powers.

In a related development, Japan and China are planning to restart a forum focused on ways to save energy, involving dozens of companies and senior government officials of the two countries, in late December in Beijing.

The forum, held every year since 2006, was suspended after the one in 2012.

Japan-China relations had been in a deep freeze for several years due to disagreements over the ownership of the Senkaku Islands and wartime historical issues. The long-established committee, whose members include scholars, writers and former diplomats, will present a package of measures for improved ties to the two governments.

The discussions in the Chinese capital marked the last time for the current members of the panel to get together. They agreed to ask the two governments to select new members as soon as possible to help repair the soured relations.

The committee had been led by Nishimuro and Chinese former State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan since their first meeting in February 2010. It had four formal meetings since then.

The committee's history dates back to 1984 following an agreement between then Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and then Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang to further develop ties in various fields.

Kyodo News

## Schools, offices shut as typhoon bears down on Philippines

MANILA, 4 Dec — Schools and government offices were shut in parts of the central Philippines on Thursday and residents stocked up on supplies and food, as provinces yet to recover from last year's devastating super-typhoon Haiyan braced for another category 5 storm. Typhoon Hagupit was churning across the Pacific around 860 km (535 miles) east of the island nation on Thursday, the local weather bureau said, packing winds of up to 195 kph (120 mph) with gusts of up to 230 kph.

It was expected to strengthen to a category 5 storm before slamming into Eastern Samar Province in the central Philippines on Saturday, the weather bureau said.

Eastern Samar and the island of Leyte were worst-hit last November by typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms ever to make landfall, which left more than 7,000 dead

or missing and more than 4 million homeless or with damaged houses. Local government officials and emergency teams from the Red Cross, army and coastguard were on alert for possible swollen rivers, landslides, flash floods, and storm surges, said Roger Mercado, governor of Southern Leyte Province.

“All radios and television are open, cell phones are being charged. People are buying food stuff, preparing fuel and gasoline supply,” Mercado told local radio DZMM. “People are now conscious of preparations.” The national government said it had moved to Manila the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) informal senior officials meeting set for 8 to 9 December. In the central Philippine city of Legazpi, near the likely path of the typhoon. While the local weather bureau and the Japan Meteorological Agency predicted Hagupit — Fil-

### Typhoon Hagupit

Tacloban city, the worst-hit town by super typhoon Haiyan last year, is bracing for another typhoon which may make landfall in the Philippines on Sunday.



Map showing the projected and potential path of Typhoon Hagupit which is currently heading towards the Philippines.—REUTERS

ipino for lash — making a direct hit on the central Philippines, the forecasting website Tropical Storm Risk and the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre of the US navy showed the storm veering north, closer to Manila. The Southeast Asian country was hardest hit by extreme weather in 2013, said a report by a German

government-funded think-tank Germanwatch. Concerns over extreme weather have been exacerbated by an apparent shift in storm paths, with southern regions hit by powerful typhoons in the past three years. About 20 typhoons strike the country each year, most hitting the north along the main island of Luzon.—Reuters

## Indonesia to sink illegal foreign fishing vessels from Saturday

JAKARTA, 4 Dec — Starting Saturday, the Indonesian government will sink foreign ships conducting illegal, unreported and undocumented fishing operations along the country's sea borders, a Cabinet minister said on Thursday.

“We will take stern legal measures, including sinking the ships,” Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Tedjo Edhy Purdijatno told reporters after meeting President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo at the presidential office.

“We have reported our

plan to the president and it will be done from this Saturday,” he said, adding that three ships will initially be sunk in Anambas waters in Riau Islands Province, which borders the South China Sea.

Late last month, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti unveiled her office's findings on illegal fishing operations by foreign vessels in Indonesian waters.

Satellite images, according to her, showed small vessels surrounding a larger ship around the Natu-

na Islands, bordering the South China Sea, conducting open-sea transshipment of goods.

The ships, she said, appeared to be Indonesian due to their flying the Indonesian flag and bearing Indonesian names. However, it turned out that all of their operators are foreign.

The country's 2009 Law on Fisheries stipulates that fishing operation patrol units are given the authority to implement special actions, such as the burning or sinking of foreign fishing ships caught in Indonesian

territory, based on sufficient evidence and for the sake of duty.—Kyodo News

People participate in antique cars parade as part of the celebration of Thai King's 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary in front of Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4 Dec, 2014. Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej will celebrate his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on 5 Dec.—XINHUA





## WORLD

## Parties reviewing election tactics after polls show big LDP lead



*Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is also leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), gives high-fives to supporters during his official campaign kick-off for the 14 December lower house election, at the Soma Haragama fishing port in Soma, Fukushima prefecture on 2 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

TOKYO, 4 Dec — Japan's ruling and opposition parties have started adjusting their campaign strategies after opinion polls suggested the Liberal Democratic Party may win more than 300 of the 475 seats in the 14 December lower house election.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan has decided to send leader Banri Kaieda or other top executives to campaign in constituencies where it believes the party has a better chance of beating the LDP.

"Today media organizations have reported the ruling coalition is in the lead, but election campaigning has only just started. In an election, whoever lets down their guard always loses," Prime Minister and LDP leader Shinzo Abe said on his Facebook page.

"In the past, the LDP suffered a major defeat under the Hashimoto administration after media reports that the LDP was on course for an overwhelming victory," Abe said, looking back at the era of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in the 1990s.

Abe went to Osaka on Thursday where the LDP is expected to face a tough battle in the western Japan prefecture, as the Japan Restoration Party, now the Japan Innovation Party, delivered a strong performance there in the last House of Representatives election in December 2012.

LDP executives expressed concern about any overconfidence among party members and the possibility of Abe or other figures making gaffes during their campaign speeches.

In Fukui Prefecture, also in western Japan, Kaieda appealed to voters on Thursday by attacking Abe's economic policies for creating a wealth gap and saying the DPJ could handle the economy better.

"Stable employment conditions and appropriate revenues are needed (for Japan) to get out of deflation," he said.

The Japan Innovation Party, the second-largest opposition force, has sent Kenji Eda, one of its two co-leaders, to eastern Japan and the other co-leader, Toru Hashimoto, who is also mayor of Osaka, to western Japan to give speeches.

As the election approaches, some opposition party leaders may not be able to move around so easily to support their party's candidates due to concerns that they themselves are in danger of losing their seats.

Natsuo Yamaguchi, head of the LDP's junior coalition partner Komeito party, plans to continue campaigning around the country in a bid to help the party win more seats in the proportional representation section.

The latest opinion poll released by *Kyodo News* showed that all nine of Komeito's candidates in single-seat constituencies are expected to retain their seats.

"Our party will continue to work hard without letting our guard down," Yamaguchi said.

*Kyodo News*

## Russia depends on itself for economic development: Putin

MOSCOW, 4 Dec — Russia depends on itself for economic development while remaining open to world investments and not interested in arm races, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday in his annual State of the Nation address.

Western sanctions encourage Russia to attain more economic efficiency, Putin said, stressing that the government should overcome disorganized administration, irresponsibility and bureaucracy, which are "direct threats to our security."

The government is tasked with solving the problem of high inflation and ensuring economic growth at the same time, as well as reversing the depreciation of the Russian ruble, Putin said to the par-

liament.

He added that the Central Bank and other relevant departments have been asked to take harsh and coordinated measures to fight speculators in the currency market.

"The Central Bank has moved to a floating exchange rate, but it doesn't mean that the bank would give up impacting the ruble's exchange rate or that the ruble would become a financial speculation factor with impunity," Putin said.

Meanwhile, Putin said Russia is not to engage in a costly arms race and will not seek self-isolation despite current challenges.

"No one can reach military superiority over Russia ... We've got enough strength, will and courage to defend our freedom," Putin stated.



*Russian President Vladimir Putin gives his annual state of the nation address in the Kremlin in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 4 Dec, 2014. XINHUA*

The US global missile defence system, he said, threatens the security of not only Russia, but the entire world.

"I think it is detrimental to the United States itself, as it creates a dangerous illusion of invincibility and increases the desire for unilateral and, as we often see, injudicious decisions," Putin said.

Russia, he noted, will not bow because "the more

we retreat, the more our opponents will behave cynically and aggressively."

The president ruled out curtailing cooperation with Europe and the United States, adding that Moscow will restore and broaden traditional ties "with the south of the American continent and will continue cooperation with Africa and Middle Eastern countries."

*Xinhua*

## Protesters block New York streets after officer cleared in chokehold death

NEW YORK, 4 Dec — Thousands of demonstrators disrupted New York City traffic into early Thursday after a grand jury decided not to bring charges against a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man.

Mostly peaceful protests sprung up on Wednesday evening at locations throughout Manhattan, including Grand Central Terminal, Times Square and near Rockefeller Centre, after the panel returned no indictment against Officer Daniel Pantaleo in the death of Eric Garner in July.

The US Justice Department said it was investigating to determine whether Garner's civil rights had been violated.

The 43-year-old father of six was accused of illegally selling cigarettes on a sidewalk when Pantaleo put him in a chokehold from behind and tackled him with the help of other officers. Police said he had resisted arrest. The city's medical examiner had ruled the death a homicide.

The deadly encounter on Staten Island, New York City's least populous borough, was captured on a video that quickly spread over the Internet and fuelled debate about how US police use force, particularly against minorities.

President Barack Obama said the grand jury de-

cision spoke to "the concern on the part of too many minority communities that law enforcement is not working with them and dealing with them in a fair way."

The decision poses the biggest challenge yet for New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who came into office in January promising to mend strained relations between black New Yorkers and the police department.

It was the second grand jury in just over a week to decline to prosecute a white policeman in the death of an unarmed black man. The decision by a panel in the shooting death of black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked a spasm of violence, with businesses burned and loot-

ed in the St Louis suburb.

By contrast, the New York protests were civil, with about 30 arrests by mid-evening. Police were clearly showing restraint and allowing demonstrators to block traffic briefly before coaxing them to move on.

Marchers snaked through the streets for hours, chanting and bumping up against throngs of tourists in New York for the holiday season. Disparate clusters of protesters crossed through Times Square a number of times, and one group brought traffic on the West Side Highway along the Hudson River to a standstill.

Later, after marching from Central Park to lower Manhattan, some protesters crossed a bridge into the bor-

ough of Brooklyn.

Keiha Souley, 35, was driving his taxi cab on Broadway when protesters blocked traffic. As he chanted along with demonstrators, he said he did not mind the delay. "You've got to stand up sometime," he said.

In one of several "die-ins", demonstrators laid on the pavement in silent protest about a block from where the Christmas tree lighting ceremony was under way at Rockefeller Centre. Police blockaded the street, preventing marchers from interrupting the nationally televised event.

About a thousand people packed into the ornate main hall of Grand Central Terminal for a noisy but peaceful protest.—Reuters



*People sit and block the Lincoln Tunnel as they protest against the grand jury decision to not indict the police officer in the death of Eric Garner, in the Manhattan neighbourhood of New York on 3 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS*



## Hungary summons US envoy over McCain's 'neo-fascist' comment

BUDAPEST, 4 Dec — Hungary's Foreign Ministry summoned the US envoy on Wednesday after US Senator John McCain called Prime Minister Viktor Orban a "neo-fascist dictator."

The United States has become increasingly critical of Orban's government, accusing him of getting too close to Russia since East-West tensions rose over Ukraine.

Hungary's foreign minister called in Chargé d'Affaires André Goodfriend over McCain's comments, made in the US Senate during a political spat over the appointment of Hollywood producer Colleen Bell as US Ambassador in Budapest.

McCain, a Republican, told the Senate on Tuesday: "I am not against political appointees ... I understand how the game is played,

but ... (Hungary) ... is on the verge of ceding its sovereignty to a neo-fascist dictator, getting in bed with Vladimir Putin, and we're going to send the producer of 'The Bold and The Beautiful' as the ambassador." Bell has since been approved in the Senate and is expected to take up her position in Hungary.

"The Hungarian government ... rejects the words of Senator John McCain regarding the Hungarian Prime Minister and the relationship of Hungary and Russia," Foreign Ministry State Secretary Levente Magyar told national news agency MTI.

Noting Orban's Fidesz party has won parliamentary, European, and local elections, Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto told MTI: "Hungarian citizens ... articulated a very clear opinion that everyone ought

to respect." He added that the Hungarian embassy in Washington would contact McCain's office to inquire about the Senator's words and their background.

McCain's office in Washington reaffirmed to *Reuters* that the senator had been referring to Orban when he used the words "neo-fascist dictator."

The US State Department distanced the US administration from the remarks. "I think it's no surprise that there are a number of views Senator McCain has espoused that we don't share," spokeswoman Marie Harf told a regular news briefing.

The United States, as well as European Union partners, has also criticized Orban for what they see as weakening democratic checks and balances and attacking non-governmental organizations.—*Reuters*

## Obama, Hillary Clinton meet at White House but details are few



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks on "Smart Power: Security Through Inclusive Leadership" at Georgetown University in Washington on 3 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec — US President Barack Obama met Hillary Clinton, his former secretary of state, on Wednesday but the White House declined to say whether they discussed her possible presidential candidacy in 2016.

A White House official said they informally discussed many issues during a private hour-long meeting in the Oval Office.

Clinton, who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination against Obama in 2008, said in September she would probably decide whether to try again after the first of the year.

Obama said in an ABC News interview last month he expects Clinton to stake out some positions that differ from his if she seeks the nomination. Obama cannot run again under US law.

"She's not going to agree with me on everything," Obama told ABC's "This Week With George Stephanopoulos." "One of the benefits of running for president is you can stake out your own positions, and have a clean slate, a fresh start."—*Reuters*

## N Korea likely to meet US security experts in Singapore

SEOUL, 4 Dec — North Korean officials could hold a meeting with US security experts in Singapore next month, *Yonhap News Agency* reported from Washington on Wednesday, citing diplomatic sources.

Both sides are looking into the possibility of holding such a meeting, though details have yet to be determined, such as the timing and participants, the report said.

North Korea's chief delegate to the six-party talks on ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, Ri Yong Ho, and his deputy, Choe Son Hui, are likely to attend the talks.

Former US special envoy for North Korea policy Stephen Bosworth and former deputy six-party talks negotiator Joseph DeTrani are likely to represent the US side.

The six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program have been deadlocked since late 2008.

The multilateral forum involves the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.—*Kyodo News*

## Maritime guns for hire adapt to changes in sea piracy

SINGAPORE, 4 Dec — Cash-strapped maritime security firms are being forced to use fewer costly elite guards and to diversify into other businesses

such as cyber security, as a steep decline in Somali pirate attacks and hotter competition erode fast-thinning margins.

Hundreds of securi-

ty firms sprang up over the past seven years to offer protection to shipping companies, with scores of merchant vessels being boarded and sailors taken

hostage in pirate raids off the coast of conflict-torn Somalia.

However, attacks in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean have dropped from a peak of 237 in 2011 to just 10 in the first nine months of this year, the lowest since the piracy scourge began in 2008, according to the International Maritime Bureau.

The fall has been helped by using armed guards, deploying naval forces and defending ships with barbed wire or fire hoses. The cost of using guards has also halved as the sector has become more competitive, which though good for ship owners is bad for security firms.

"Day rates for embarked teams are continuously being squeezed to rock bottom," said retired rear admiral Vasilis Politis, managing director of Greek armed guard company Marine Security International.

The price for a security team to protect a ship has slumped from an average of \$40,000 per voyage to around \$18,000-\$20,000, said Gerry Northwood, who previously commanded the British Royal Navy's Counter Piracy Task Group which detained 13 Somalis after an attack on a tanker in 2012.

A typical team comprises three or four guards, working round the clock and armed with semi-automatic weapons to maximize fire power and rifles for accuracy and range.

Faced with a tougher operating environment, some firms have switched from using former US and British marines and special forces to cheaper alternatives including guards from India, the Philippines and Estonia, said Ian May, Asia manager for Protection Vessels International.

Declining revenue has encouraged industry con-

solidation. Ambrey Risk, one of the biggest firms, bought the maritime security division of rival Drum Cussac this month, while Gulf of Aden Group Transits shut in July.

Peter Cook, chief executive of the Security Association for the Maritime Industry (SAMI), said its membership had fallen from a high of 180 companies in November 2012 to 140, and he anticipated further falls.

Companies are trying to expand into new areas including cyber security for ships and the offshore industry, port security and training coast guards.

Some are also offering protection in areas where piracy has increased such as West Africa, with 23 attacks recorded up to September this year, and Asia, where almost 100 attacks were reported in the waters off Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.—*Reuters*



Senator John McCain



Visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team members from the guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72) close in on rigid-hulled inflatable boats to apprehend suspected pirates in Gulf of Aden in the Arabian Sea, in this 12 Feb, 2009 file photo.—REUTERS



# Assad says Syria war will be long, difficult

PARIS, 4 Dec — Syria's conflict will be long and difficult and its army cannot be everywhere at once, President Bashar al-Assad said in an interview published by a French magazine on Thursday, in which he also vowed to remain in power.

Assad told Paris Match no one could predict when the war with insurgents seeking to oust him would end but said enemies had failed to win over the population, allowing the military to advance.

In extracts published on Wednesday, Assad also said US-led air strikes in Syria since September were an "illegal interven-

tion" that had made no difference in the fight against Islamic State militants who are fighting government forces.

"The Syrian army cannot be everywhere at once. Where it is not present, terrorists take the opportunity to cross borders and infiltrate in one area or another," said in the French language magazine in comments translated by Reuters.

"It is not about a war between two armies, where one occupies a territory and the other another one. It is another type of war. We are dealing with terrorist groups that infiltrate a town or village. So this war will

be long and difficult."

The text was also carried by Syrian state media on Thursday.

The uprising against Assad began as peaceful pro-democracy street protests in March 2011 and gradually evolved into civil war after a fierce crackdown.

Assad said the army was progressing in many regions. Asked whether he saw his departure as the solution, he said:

"The state is like a ship: the captain does not escape in the storm. He does not quit the deck. If passengers need to leave, then he is the last to go."

He disputed a United

Nations estimate that the conflict had killed nearly 200,000 people since 2011, saying figures in the media were exaggerated.

He dismissed the idea Syria's military had allowed Islamic State to flourish earlier in the war to wipe out other insurgents and suggested the United States had helped create it.

"In reality, Islamic State was created in Iraq in 2006. It was the United States which occupied Iraq, not Syria," he said, adding the group's leader was jailed in a US-run prison there. "So who created Islamic State? Syria or the United States?"

He said Syrian forc-



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad speaks during an interview with French magazine Paris Match, in Damascus, in this handout released by Syria's national news agency SANA on 4 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

es had not used chemical weapons because they had more efficient arms to fight "terrorists." Rebel groups,

the United States and its allies accuse Damascus of carrying out chemical attacks.—Reuters

## Australia exercises sweeping new security laws, bans Syria travel

SYDNEY, 4 Dec — Australia on Thursday for the first time exercised sweeping new security powers allowing it to block citizens from travelling to overseas conflict zones such as those in Iraq and Syria, where dozens of Australians have joined Islamist militant groups. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop designated the Islamic State's stronghold of Raqqa Province in Syria off limits as part of a push to combat what the government says is growing radicalisation among young Australian Muslims.

It is the first use of new security powers obtained by conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott, under which Australian citizens travelling to any area overseas declared off limits can face up to a decade in prison. "Under the provisions of our foreign fighters legislation, I have today declared Al Raqqa Province an area where a listed terrorist organization is engaging in hostile activity,"



Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

Bishop told Parliament.

"This now makes it an offence under Australian law to enter or remain in the province of al-Raqqa without a legitimate reason. Anyone who enters or remains faces a penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment." In September, the United Nations demanded that all states make it a serious criminal offence for their citizens to travel abroad to fight with militant groups, or to recruit and fund others to do so, in a move sparked by the rise of Islamic State.

Security analysts have put the number of foreign

fighters in Iraq and Syria, travelling from scores of countries around the world, in the thousands.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalised Muslims or by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East, having raised its threat level to high and undertaken a series of high-profile raids in major cities. Abbott has said that at least 70 Australians were fighting in Iraq and Syria backed by about 100 Australia-based "facilitators".

The government, which recently warned that the balance between freedom and security "may have to shift", is also introducing controversial data retention laws it says are needed to tackle security and criminal threats.

Critics say the data laws go too far in compromising privacy, will be too costly and could lay journalists and whistleblowers open to hefty prison sentences.—Reuters

## New group of Iraqi peshmergas enters Syrian Kurdish town

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 4 Dec — A second group of 150 Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces has entered the Syrian border town of Kobani from Turkey to replace a first group helping Kurdish forces fight off a siege by Islamic State militants, peshmerga sources said on Thursday.

Despite having limited strategic significance, Kobani has become a pow-

erful international symbol in the battle against hard-line Sunni Muslim insurgents who have captured large swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria and declared an Islamic 'caliphate'. The majority of its inhabitants are Kurds.

"The first group has left Kobani and is en route to the airport right now," one peshmerga source told Reuters, referring to the

150 Iraqi Kurdish forces who arrived in the besieged town in early November.

The second group of peshmergas arrived in Kobani late on Tuesday, the source added.

Syrian Kurdish fighters, who have been resisting Islamic State fighters in Kobani for nearly three months now, have welcomed the help of fighters who are known as peshmergas or 'those who defy death'.

However, neither the peshmergas nor the heavy weapons they brought, along with the US-led air strikes meant to push back the Islamist fighters, have so far made significant impact to tip the balance in the battle.

Turkey has refused to take a frontline role in US-led action against Islamic State, insisting that any campaign should include a strategy to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. But it has allowed the peshmergas to cross through Turkey into Kobani.

Reuters



Kurdish Peshmerga fighters hold their weapons while celebrating atop an army vehicle as they move towards the Syrian town of Kobani from the border town of Suruc, Sanliurfa Province on 13 Oct, 2014. —REUTERS

## US military monitoring Islamic State training in Libya: general

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec — The US military is closely monitoring a nascent effort by Islamic State, the militant group that has overrun parts of Syria and Iraq, to train a couple of hundred fighters in eastern Libya, the commander of US forces in Africa said on Wednesday.

Army General David Rodriguez, head of the US Africa Command, said it was not yet clear how closely aligned the trainees were with Islamic State or whether the effort should be targeted by US forces.

He said he had not recommended US troops or air power to go after the training camps in the cha-

otic North African country at this point.

"We're watching it very carefully to see how it develops," Rodriguez told reporters at the Pentagon. "Right now it's just small and very nascent and we just have to see how it goes." Rodriguez said the trainees appeared to be members of Libyan

militias who were "trying to make a name or trying to make a connection." It was unclear whether they might join Islamic State fighters elsewhere once their training was complete, he said.

"It's mainly about people coming for training and logistics support right now, for training sites, and

that's what we see right now. As far as a huge command and control network, have not seen that yet," Rodriguez said.

"The numbers are somewhere around a couple hundred ... but again we don't have a specific precise assessment of that right now," he said.

Libya itself is caught

in a conflict between two rival governments, one which is self-declared and was set up in Tripoli after forces from group known as Libya Dawn took over the capital in the summer, and another, internationally recognized government which operates from the eastern city of Tobruk.

Reuters



## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 5 December, 2014

## Unity in diversity is our destiny

By Kyaw Thura

Myanmar had been enjoying stability and prosperity under its own monarchy over the course of history before falling under British occupation. Its days of glory have since then passed, leaving the country amid an independence struggle and then the games of power struggle soon after independence. In other words, the country has survived painful days, with its wounds still bleeding.

A glance at what has torn the country apart in the past decades is enough to reveal that the pains have resulted from war, oppression, pov-

erty and ethnic conflict, all of which are nowadays worsened by land-grabbing, corruption and economic injustice.

A multi-ethnic and multi-religious country, Myanmar needs to pay careful consideration to how to handle the rights of all ethnic groups and religious faiths so that it can be peaceful and prosperous as a democracy.

Even with peace talks in progress, the problem of ethnic conflict remains unsolved. No matter how much we say we have a great love for peace, it is impossible to restore peace as long as stakeholders harbour a grudge against each other. It will not be far wrong to conclude that the country is now in a position in which we cannot afford even a single misstep.

In spite of differences in race, gender and religion, people have one thing in common, which is love for peace.

Martin Luther King once marvelously stat-

ed, “We have guided missiles and misguided men”, warning that the human race has been left with two choices, “either nonviolence or nonexistence”.

Everyone has a dream and that dream is none but peace. Awkwardly, peace still remains a dream. It is high time that Myanmar evolved into a love-oriented society. Only then will we be able to dry the tears our beloved motherland has shed and clean the blood she has shed.

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Bribery and Corruption

By Khin Maung Myint

These two words are inseparable like two lovers. Without bribery there won't be corruption and without corrupted person there won't be bribery. Please note that I did not say briber, because even if there are no corrupted person there could be bribers, who will attempt to bribe to get favours and undue privileges. Bribery and corruption is a worldwide phenomenon that plagued every country, though they may vary in dimensions.

## What is Bribery and Corruption?

I will try to define it from a layman's point of view and not from the legal perspective. Bribery is an act of giving someone, with authority, a gift, either in kind or cash, to get that person's favor, or in most cas-

es, undue privileges. Corruption is an act of taking a bribe and going out of the way, or rather out of the procedure, to grant favors and privileges. Both bribery and corruption are criminal acts punishable by imprisonment.

## Difference Between a Gift and a Bribe.

A retired judge once explained to me the difference between a gift and a bribe. He said, quoting the standing laws of those days, only fruits and flowers in small numbers can be accepted as a gift. However, if it is in abundance, that is, if some one gives you a truckload of fruits or flowers it would amount to bribery. Here, fruits and flowers are just metaphors, what he meant was things that are of little value. According to

him, cash cannot be accepted as a gift, whatever the amount and if taken, it is deemed as taking a bribe and is guilty of corruption.

## Different Ways of Taking Bribe

In the past, bribery and corruption is not so rampant as nowadays. In those days bribe money is dubbed *tea money*. From that term it can be deduced that the amount is not much, thus it must be going on among the lower echelons of the bureaucracy only. Here, I would like to relate one interesting episode that will support my deduction. While I was posted at a far flung district town, there was an office superintendent (OS) at a certain office. People who came to that office for one reason or the other, would invite him to have tea at a shop in front of the office. The old OS would tell them he was busy so he cannot

join them, but to order a cup of tea for him and to tell the owner of the shop that he would come for his tea later. By the nature of his work, the OS had to deal with twenty to twenty five clients every working day and almost all of them offered him tea. After office hours he would go to the tea shop and ordered one cup of tea and sat down to enjoy his drink. After a while he would tell the cashier at the counter to settle the bill and a waiter would approach him and passed him a folded paper. The OS would take a peek inside the folded paper and when satisfied he would pocket it and left happily. I will leave the details for your imaginations, as to what was in that folded piece of paper.

Later the term changed to *one table*, indicating that the cost or the price of a bribe had increased and hence the level of the bribe taker or the corrupted per-

son were getting higher. At present, I think the slang for bribing is *pouring water*, indicating the volume of money involved. I must admit I do not know how that expression came into being. However, I am sure the epidemics of bribery and corruption had spread further up the ladder of hierarchy. The methods of taking bribe, too, had changed over the years and have become more sophisticated than that of the old OS's days. As there are too many ways of bribing and because they are just hearsays and I haven't had the first hand knowledge, I would not expound on that matter. Nonetheless, I like to point out that a biscuit tin containing biscuits only can be deemed a gift, but if it is stashed with money, it would amount to be a bribe.

## How to Tackle Bribery and Corruption

There is a saying in Myanmar, “the floors decayed because of a leaky roof”. If we repair or replace just the decayed floor without touching the leaky roof, it would not be effective. The floors will rot again. So what I would like to suggest, with goodwill

and intentions, is to either replace or if still repairable, to start from the roof first. In other words, we must tackle this epidemic from top to bottom and not the reverse.

Another important factor for the successful eradication of bribery and corruption is to increase the salary of the employees at all levels. Here the Singapore's example should be taken into consideration. Singapore may not be one hundred percent corruption free, but is among the list of least corrupted nations. The reasons—reasonable and appropriate salary and other financial assistances, enough to cover the expenses of the government employees, played a crucial role in controlling corruption. We don't need to equal that of Singapore, but at least some improvements from the present status will do. Also it would be necessary to take criminal actions against those corrupted government service personnel. Administrative action alone would not be enough to deter the would-be bribe takers.

## Looking forward to a corruption free society

## Union FM meets IOM director general, ICRC official



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin meets Mr Alain Willy Aeschlimann, ICRC Head of Operations for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific in Geneva.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—Ambassador Mr William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry on Thursday.

At the meeting, they discussed matters of further cooperation between Myanmar and IOM.

The union minister also met Mr Alain Willy Aeschlimann, ICRC Head of Operations for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific in Geneva at his office on Thursday.

They focused on deeper and closer cooperation between Myanmar and ICRC in the future.

MNA

The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin: Dept; Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (4-12-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K659,700 per tical: Selling K660,700

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K659,700 per tical: Selling K660,700

## FE RATE

USD Buying K 1032: Selling K----

SGD Buying K 788: Selling K800

Euro Buying K1,260: Selling K1,280



## LOCAL NEWS

## Local farmers expect high yield of groundnut

YINMABIN, 4 Dec — Hsinpadetha-11 groundnut, sesame and sunflower plantations are thriving in rural areas of Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region.

Hsinpadetha groundnut strain yielded over 60 baskets per acre.

Local farmers said that they spent K110,000 per acre on ploughing, seeding, weeding and pesticides in cultivation of groundnut and cost of quality groundnut seeds but can earn K500,000 per acre.

*Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)*



## MWAF donates cash and kind to Philanthropic School for the Blinds in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLOWIN, 4 Dec— Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation donated rice, clothes and cash to Philanthropic School for the Blinds in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, on 2 December.

Vice President of MWAF Daw Tin Tin Latt explained the purpose of donations. The federation officials donated K300,000 to the fund for construction of the two-storey building of the school and rice and clothes to the school officials.

Responsible persons of the federation enjoyed the entertainment of the students from the school.

They also donated books to the Township Maternal and Child Welfare



Association in ward 4.

Philanthropic School for the Blinds in PyinOoLwin admits 86 men and 51 women, totalling 137

regardless of religion and race to be able to study literature and vocational courses. So far, the school has turned out three grad-

uates and Maung Thein Hlaing who secured medals in the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Paralympics Games.—PyinOoLwin District IPRD

## Chief Ministers of Sagaing Region and Kachin State visit India



NAGALAND, 4 Dec — According to press release of the Indian Embassy in Yangon, a 10-member delegation from Myanmar led by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye and Chief Minister of Kachin State U Lajon Ngan Sai visited India from 30<sup>th</sup> November – 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 at the invitation of the Chief Minister of Nagaland. The visiting Chief

Ministers from Myanmar were warmly welcomed by the Nagaland Chief Minister at the inauguration of Hornbill Festival, an annual cultural festival of Nagaland, India on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014. The Festival was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. Also present on the occasion were Governor of Nagaland and Ambassador of India to Myanmar

Gautam Mukhopadhyaya. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the two Chief Ministers of Sagaing Region and Kachin State were the guest of honour at the festival of Kisama village and were also Chief Guests of Kigwema village stone pulling ceremony.

The two Chief Ministers will then travel to Shillong, Meghalaya State to attend a two day Conference/Seminar on India's

North Eastern States and Eastern Neighbours: Engaging for connectivity, culture and prosperity by an intelligent third space in Shillong on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2014. The Seminar is being organized by the Asian Confluence, Divya Jeevan Foundation in collaboration with Indian Council for World Affairs. The Seminar will

address the complex and sensitive issues relating to the tremendous role that the civil society can play in the development of North Eastern part of India and as India's land connectivity corridor to the greater economy of the South East and East Asia.

Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai along with 38 member delegation including cultural troupe visited Imphal to attend Sangai Festival, an annual cultural festival of Manipur State from 20<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. In November 2013, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region and Chief Minister of Mandalay Region visited Imphal and attended Sangai Festival.

The visit of Chief Ministers from Myanmar to the North East of India is yet another milestone in furthering relations between the bordering States of India and Myanmar which will go a long way in establishing greater people-to-people contact, opening new avenues of trade and cultural exchanges thereby bringing peace and co-prosperity to the entire region. The visits of Chief Ministers from the bordering States of Myanmar to the North East India will provide impetus to

the further expansion and deepening of India-Myanmar relations.

*Indian Embassy*

## Vocational courses conclude in Dawphoneyang

DAWPHONYANG, 4 Dec — The Basic Domestic Science Course No 21/14 and the Advanced Tailoring Course No 12/14 concluded at the Vocational Training Course for the Women under the Education and Training Education Department recently.

Momauk Township Administrator U Peter Dwe La made a speech at the training school.

Col Nyi Nyi Swe of the local station, the township administrator, Kachin State Hluttaw representative U Sai Myo Aung and the sub-township administrator presented prizes to outstanding trainees from the courses.

Principal Daw Khin San Wain of the school gave certificates to a trainee leader.

Officials viewed the works of trainees displayed at the school.

*Township IPRD*



# Asia cheered by US economic resilience, euro struggles

TOKYO, 4 Dec — Asian stocks rose on Thursday amid fresh signs of resilience in the US economy, while the euro wallowed near two-year lows before a much-anticipated European Central Bank meeting that could open the door to more stimulus.

Tokyo's Nikkei climbed 0.8 percent to near 7-1/2-year highs, with sentiment buoyed by media projections suggesting a strong win for Japanese premier Shinzo Abe's coalition at the 14 December election. A victory for Abe could lead to a new mandate for his "Abenomics" policies to revive the economy.

"There's activity in anticipation of extremely promising conditions being born," said Hiroyuki Nakai, chief strategist at Tokai Tokyo Research Center Co in Tokyo. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS rose 0.4 percent, while Australian shares .AXJO were up 0.9 percent.

The Shanghai Com-

posite Index .SSEC surged 2.3 percent as the rally on expectations that China would implement further stimulus measures showed no signs of abating.

Private payrolls and services sector data released on Wednesday underscored the US economy's resilience.

That contrasted with the gloom in the euro zone, with a survey showing business activity grew less than expected in November and raised the spectre of another economic contraction. The euro struggled as a result. It fetched \$1.2307 EUR= after falling to a two-year low of \$1.2301 overnight on the view that the ECB will be forced to inject even more stimulus to prop up the tottering euro zone economy.

While a full-blown quantitative easing programme after Thursday's policy review is seen as unlikely, some believe the ECB may lay the groundwork for such a move early next year.

"The prospect of a sovereign bond buying



Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) staff members work at the bourse at TSE in Tokyo on 16 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

programme is looking ever more likely. It probably won't begin tonight (however, we see further corporate bond buying tonight)," Evan Lucas, market strategist at IG in Melbourne, wrote in a note to clients.

"The prospect will only increase sentiment towards European equities."

Spreadbetters forecast a higher start for European stocks, with Britain's FTSE .FTSE and Germa-

ny's DAX GDAXI seen opening 0.2 percent higher and France's CAX FCHI rising 0.1 percent.

Speculation that the ECB will pave the way on Thursday for sovereign debt purchases has pushed down euro zone debt

yields across the board. The Italian 10-year yield IT10YT=TWB fell to a record low below 2 percent overnight.

The dollar rose to a new seven-year high of 119.955 yen JPY= after the upbeat US data further

highlighted the diverging monetary policy paths of the United States and Japan.

Crude oil markets remained choppy after last Thursday's decision by OPEC not to cut supply sparked volatility and a sharp price fall.

US crude futures CLc1 rose 67 cents to \$68.05 a barrel after gaining the previous day on data showing a surprise tumble in US inventories. US crude has lost more than 30 percent so far this year, touching a seven-year low of \$63.72 on Monday. [O/R]

Gold's advance was halted as the dollar's strength pared the metal's allure as an alternative investment. Spot gold XAU= dipped 0.3 percent to \$1,205.40 an ounce after gaining 0.9 percent the previous day on firmer oil prices.

Reuters

## SoftBank invests \$250 mln in Southeast Asian taxi-hailing app GrabTaxi

SINGAPORE, 4 Dec — Japanese telecoms firm SoftBank Corp has pumped in \$250 million to become the top investor in Southeast Asian mobile taxi-booking application GrabTaxi Holdings Pte Ltd, its biggest investment in a Southeast Asian Internet firm.

GrabTaxi, which allows customers to order cabs closest to their location by mobile phone, operates in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines. In a statement, the two companies said the funding will be used to accelerate the app's expansion in the region.

The investment in GrabTaxi comes about a month after SoftBank and its billionaire CEO and founder Masayoshi Son announced a \$627 million funding into online marketplace Snapdeal as part of a plan to put \$10 billion into India's booming online retail market.

SoftBank also said in October it will lead a \$210 million investment round with existing investors in India's ANI Technologies, which owns a mobile application for taxi bookings.

The Japanese firm is the largest investor in recently listed Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

Including the SoftBank investment, GrabTaxi has raised \$340 million in funding. The statement did not specify how much of GrabTaxi SoftBank will own.

Other investors in GrabTaxi, which was developed by two Harvard Business School graduates and launched in Malaysia in 2012 as MyTeksi, include a unit of Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings [TEM.UL] and US investor Tiger Global Management. The app competes with Rocket Internet's Easy Taxi as well as Uber's better known app.

Taxi-hailing apps have become popular in Southeast Asia, especially Singapore, one of the most expensive places in the world to own a private car.

Finding a cab during peak hours and during frequent tropical downpours can be difficult in the city-state, which last month said it planned to start regulating third-party taxi booking services for the first time.

Reuters

## Five million children out of school in West Africa due to Ebola

DAKAR, 4 Dec — Some five million children are out of school in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone because of the deadly Ebola outbreak, according to a report by the Global Business Coalition for Education. Schools and other public buildings have been closed because they are believed to increase the spread of the virus. Many are now used as holding centres for Ebola patients.

The report, co-written with A World at School, said being out of school can have a crippling impact on vulnerable children, especially girls, who are more likely to face high-risk situations as a

result, including early marriage and pregnancy.

If schools are not reopened, the most vulnerable children will become trapped in a cycle of poverty with devastating consequences for their health and economic development, the report said.

"With children out of school indefinitely, Ebola threatens to reverse years of educational progress in west Africa where literacy rates are already low and school systems are only now recovering from years of civil war," UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown, said in the report.

All three countries have some of the lowest primary school completion rates in the world, according to World Bank figures. In Guinea, 61 percent of children complete primary school, in Liberia 65 percent, with Sierra Leone doing marginally better at 72 percent.

Many children are less likely to return to the classroom if they have been out of school for a year, according to the report, Ebola Emergency: Restoring Education, Creating Safe Schools and Preventing Long-term Crisis. Ebola, a rare tropical disease has killed more than 6,000 people and infected more than 16,000 people in west Africa, where poverty, corruption and civil war have left a weak health system unable to cope with the exponential spread of the disease in the worst-affected countries. "It is imperative that the business community takes a leadership role in the prioritization of education during humanitarian crises," Aliko Dangote, a founding member of the Global Business Coalition for Education, said in the report.

Reuters



A man walks by a mural with health instructions on treating the Ebola virus, in Monrovia on 18 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

## Scientists make breakthrough discovery to fight malaria

SYDNEY, 4 Dec — Australian scientists have made a breakthrough discovery in a new way to destroy the malaria parasite, which kills more than 500,000 people every year.

Scientists from the Australian National University (ANU), working with other research groups, have found that certain molecules are capable of disabling a molecular salt pump on the surface of the malaria parasite, and this in turn causes the parasite to fill up with salt and burst.

The ANU's Professor Kieran Kirk said the malaria parasite had become resistant to nearly all of the drugs currently available and discovering new ways to kill

the parasite was vital.

"It is critical that new ways are found to kill the parasite and thereby treat people with the disease," he told Fairfax Media on Thursday. "We've discovered what seems to be a fatal weakness in the parasite."

"The salt pump clearly plays a crucial role in the parasite's survival, and what we have shown is that there are many different types of molecules that can stop this salt pump from working, and which thereby kill the parasite. This pump would seem to be a real Achilles heel."

Kirk said the new treatment has already passed clinical trials and would be available in a few years. —Xinhua



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## New US spaceship set for Thursday test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, 4 Dec — A new US spaceship designed to fly astronauts to Mars and other deep space destinations is poised to blast off on an unmanned test flight on Thursday.

A triple-booster Delta 4 Heavy rocket, built and flown by the Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co joint venture known as United Launch Alliance, was cleared for its planned

launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 7:05 am EST (1205 GMT) Thursday, NASA said on Wednesday.

Perched atop the rocket, the biggest in the US fleet, is NASA's first Orion space capsule. It is due to make a 4-1/2-hour flight to test its heat shield, parachutes and other systems needed to ferry astronauts into deep space and return them safely to Earth. Meteorologists predicted a 70 percent chance the weather will be acceptable for lift-off on a launch that is part of the US space agency's plan to land humans on an asteroid sometime around 2025 and on Mars about a decade later. "Tomorrow is a giant day," NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden told reporters at the launch pad on Wednesday. "For the first time in more than 40 years this nation is go-

ing to launch a spacecraft intended to carry humans beyond low-Earth orbit. That's a big deal." NASA's last human expedition beyond Earth was the final Apollo mission to the moon in 1972.

Flying the capsule without a crew allows NASA to aggressively test how well it fares beyond the protective environment of Earth's magnetic field and during a 20,000 mph (32,200 km/h) dive back into the atmosphere.

The rocket will take Orion about 3,600 miles (5,800 km) into space, some 15 times farther than where the International Space Station flies, before it plunges back to Earth. Key events, such as the jettisoning of aerodynamic panels and launch escape system and the deployment of parachutes, will be immediately apparent. How Orion weathers other aspects of the flight will not be known until engineers retrieve recorded data from more than 1,200 sensors aboard the ship.—Reuters



Tourists stand on the original Apollo 1 launch pad overlooking the Delta IV Heavy rocket with the Orion spacecraft on Space Launch Complex 37B pad at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 1 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

## Spanish meteorological agency predicts "warmer than average" winter

MADRID, 4 Dec — The coming winter will see warmer than average temperatures throughout Spain, with the east of the country and the Balearic Islands enjoying especially warm weather.

That is the prediction for the months of January, February and March 2015 published on Wednesday by the Spanish State

Meteorological Agency (AEMET).

However, there will be a price to pay for the warmer weather as AEMET also predicts the winter will see higher than average rainfall in the country.

AEMET based its predictions on its data accumulated to reach the conclusion that in the east of Spain and the Balearic

Islands there is a 50 percent chance of warmer than average weather, a 30 percent chance of average temperatures and just a 20 percent chances the winter will be colder than usual.

The rest of Spain has a 45 percent chance of warmer weather, a 35 percent of average temperatures and, once again, just a one in five chance that the winter

will be colder than usual.

The warmer than average winter should also be translated into a wetter winter, according to AEMET, which gives a 45 percent chance of the country receiving more rainfall than usual, something that will be welcome in the southeast of Spain which suffered a serious drought during the first half of 2014.—Xinhua

## Soap, sunscreen chemicals found in Antarctic waters: New Zealand research

WELLINGTON, 4 Dec — Polluting chemicals found in everyday soaps, cosmetics and sunscreens can be found in waters off Antarctica at the same levels as many urban areas of the world, according to research from New Zealand out Thursday.

The active ingredients in personal care products — classed as emerging organic contaminants (EOC) that can harm the ecology or human health — were present in sewage effluents discharged from Antarctic research bases, said the University of Canterbury researchers.

The EOCs were found in coastal waters of the sparsely populated frozen

continent at concentrations comparable to more urban areas in the world, including New Zealand, researcher Dr Phil Emnet said in a statement.

"We found contaminants along larger coastal areas than we expected. It is likely that the environmental conditions, including extreme cold, could have contributed to the persistence of some of these compounds in seawater. Sewage discharges may therefore be having greater impacts over a much wider area in marine environments than previously thought," Emnet said.

The presence of EOCs was of international concern as many of

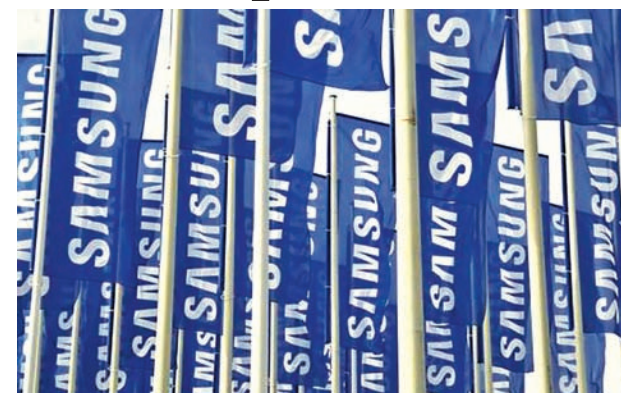
the everyday chemicals were designed to be biologically active and could have adverse effects on marine organisms, but this had not been studied, researcher supervisor Dr Sally Gaw said in the statement.

"This study will lead to better waste management and monitoring systems being put in place for Antarctic research programmes," Gaw said.

Dr Neil Gilbert, of the university's Antarctica New Zealand research institute, said in the statement that the research had identified an opportunity to improve environmental management on the ice.

Xinhua

## Samsung mobile executives to leave after profit slide



Samsung flags are set up at the main entrance to the Berlin fair ground before the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin, on 28 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

SEOUL, 4 Dec — Three deputies to the head of Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's mobile division are leaving, a person with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday, as the world's largest smartphone maker faces a rapid decline in profit.

The person, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the executives directly report to division chief JK Shin, who this week retained his post despite sagging smartphone sales and expectations the company will see its worst annual profit in three years in 2014.

The departures included global marketing chief DJ Lee, the source said, confirming earlier media reports.

Samsung Electronics declined to say if any executives were leaving the company as it announced its annual reshuffle for executive-level staff.

But the announcement showed Samsung had made 165 executive-level promotions, the lowest number in at least four years, underscoring the strains the South Korean company is under.

"Shin was given another chance, given his past contributions, but he will definitely continue to feel the pressure going forward," said IBK Securities analyst Lee Seung-woo ahead of Samsung Electronics' staff announcement.

Samsung's share of the smartphone market has fallen year-on-year for the last three quarters, squeezed by Chinese rivals like Xiaomi Technology Co Ltd [XTC.UL] at the low-end and Apple Inc's iPhones in the premium segment.

Samsung Electronics is expected to announce its annual business reorganisation plan by next week.—Reuters

## Google to introduce child-friendly versions of products — USA Today

NEW YORK, 4 Dec — Google Inc plans to roll out child-friendly versions of its most popular products

in a bid to be "fun and safe for children", USA Today reported, quoting Parni Diwanji, the company's vice

president of engineering.

The company will likely create specific versions of its search, YouTube and Chrome products for children aged 12 and under, USA Today reported, adding that Google did not provide a timeline for the rollout. (usat.ly/1wtsWTp)

"We want to be thoughtful about what we do, giving parents the right tools to oversee their kids' use of our products," USA Today quoted Diwanji as saying.

A Google spokesperson declined to comment, but confirmed that the effort described in the report was accurate.

Reuters



The Google signage is seen at the company's offices in New York on 8 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS



## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KULTHARA VOY NO (06/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (06/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Phone No: 2301186

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ROYAL 88 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ROYAL 88 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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## Singapore to launch fund on innovative teaching, learning

SINGAPORE, 4 Dec — Singapore will set up a multi-million-dollar fund for research on innovative teaching and learning in tertiary education, Education Minister Heng Swee Keat announced on Thursday.

The fund of 100 million Singapore dollars (about 76 million US dollars) will be available on a competitive basis for all researchers in institutes of higher learning, he said at a conference on higher learning at Nanyang Technological University.

With the new fund, the Ministry of Education will be promoting innovation and research on teaching and learning across all levels of education, from pre-primary to tertiary, he said.

Heng said that innovation in education is critical to help people in the country to realize their potential.

"By learning about learning, by trying new ways, by rigorous evaluation and integrating promising approaches into a coherent whole, we can make meaningful education innovation," he said.—Xinhua

## THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE ( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER ) ( 20 /2014 )

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(2)	IFB-101(14-15)	Mechanical Spares for ZJ 70L,ZJ 50D & EMSCO Drilling Rigs ( 14 ) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-102(14-15)	Annular Blow Out Preventers and Hydrill Blow Out Preventers (5) Items	US\$
(4)	DMP/L-029(14-15)	Spares for Driller Console of ZJ 50D & ZJ 70L Drilling Rigs (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 30-12-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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Ph.+ 95 67 - 411097 / 411206

## Venezuela indicts opposition leader Machado, alleging plot to kill Maduro

CARACAS, 4 Dec — Venezuela has indicted hardline opposition leader Maria Corina Machado on charges that she took part in an alleged plot to kill President Nicolas Maduro, the state prosecutor's office said on Wednesday.

Machado, who was at the forefront of major street protests against Maduro's socialist government earlier this year, has dismissed the accusations as a charade meant to silence her and distract Venezuelans from a growing economic crisis. If found guilty, the

former legislator could be sentenced to between 8 and 16 years in jail.

"Our only option is to fight for democracy and freedom," Machado said after she was indicted at the state prosecutor's office in Caracas on Wednesday.

"We're at the doors of a transition period," she said, draped in a yellow, blue, and red Venezuelan flag as dozens of supporters chanted their support.

One of Machado's advisors said authorities had not ordered her immediate detention. There were no

immediate indications the case could spark the same type of street demonstrations that rocked Venezuela for three months earlier this year.

Fellow opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who with Machado kick-started the anti-government protests, has been behind bars since February in what government critics blast as a crackdown on political foes. They say Maduro, who was elected to succeed late socialist leader Hugo Chavez in office last year, has tightened the state's grip on the judiciary and the electoral system, and wants to sideline political opponents ahead of key legislative elections in 2015.

Maduro, a former union leader and bus driver, dismissed this year's protests as part of a US-backed plot to destabilize his government. His popularity has tumbled since he took office, stung by shortages of consumer goods and soaring inflation.

The opposition's radical wing praises the fiery Machado, 47, for standing up to what they consider a dictatorship. But she is loathed by many government supporters, who see her as an out-of-touch aristocrat intent on toppling the government.—Reuters



Venezuela's opposition leader Maria Corina Machado arrives to state prosecutor office in Caracas on 3 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

## THE SURTEE SUNNI ID-GHA TRUST (AHLONE) NOTICE

A GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE RANDER SUNNI VOHRA PANCHAYAT OF YANGON WILL BE HELD AT RANDER HALL NO.165, SHWE BONTA STREET YGN ON SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2014 AT 9:30 A.M TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS:-

1. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005.

2. TO ELECT SEVEN TRUSTEES OF THE SURTEE SUNNI ID-GHA TRUST (AHLONE) FOR A PERIOD OF 7 YEARS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 8 OF THE TRUST SCHEME.

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

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**NB.** MEMBERS OF THE PANCHAYAT WHO ARE ELIGIBLE AND ARE DESIROUS TO STAND FOR THE POST OF TRUSTEES ARE REQUESTED TO OBTAIN THE APPLICATION FORM FROM THE PANCHAYAD OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS. LAST DATE FOR FILLING THE APPLICATION FORM IS 10.12.2014 AT OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M

## North Korea offers to send leader's sister to event in the South

SEOUL, 4 Dec — North Korea has offered to send leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister to a South Korean event planned for early next year, an organizer said on Thursday, which would be the first time an immediate member of the ruling family would visit the South.

Kim Yo Jong is included in the North's list of ruling

party officials to participate in a joint food festival planned by a private South Korean group of businesses with ties in the North, an official with the group said.

Kim, who is believed to be 27, was identified by the North's state media last week as a senior official of the Workers' Party, the only other member of the ruling

Kim family known to have an official role in the government. "A list of participants was sent to us, and (Kim Yo Jong) is in there," Dongbang Young-man told Reuters.

The group is in discussions with the South Korean government over the event planned for Seoul, he said.

The South's Unification Ministry, which handles

relations with the North, did not immediately have comment when asked about the event. Most private exchange between the rivals was halted after a torpedo attack against a South Korean navy ship in 2010, which Seoul has blamed on Pyongyang.

If it happens, Kim Yo Jong's visit would mark the

first visit by an immediate member of the Kim family in more than six decades of division.

Two South Korean presidents have travelled to the North for summit meetings with the current leader's father, Kim Jong Il - in 2000 and 2007 — but the North has not reciprocated the visits.—Reuters



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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (112)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (112) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2014 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 ORINET OVERSEAS**  
**CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-417)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-417) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2014 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: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (060W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (060W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2014 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES**  
 Phone No: 2301185

**WEATHER REPORT**

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Tanintharyi Region and Mon State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar Areas.

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## Three Abu Sayyaf militants killed in S Philippine clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (Philippines), 4 Dec — Three Abu Sayyaf militants were killed after a fight with government troops in the southern Philippines on Thursday morning, the military said.

The fight started about 7 am in the Basilan Province, a southern island province, with Joint Task Group Basilan defeating militants led

by Abu Sayyaf leaders Furji Indama and Nurhassan Jamiri three hours later.

Two soldiers were wounded and three militants killed in the fight, according to Reynaldo Yoma, commander of the Joint Task Force Zambasulta.

According to military source, pursuit continued as the militants retreated to

the forest area of Tipo-Tipo town, where 14 Philippine Marines were beheaded in 2007.

The 400-strong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is a violent Muslim terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines. The ASG is notorious for a series of kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decades.

Xinhua





## Taylor Swift regains top spot on revamped Billboard 200 chart

Singer Taylor Swift performs during the 2014 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in London on 2 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 Dec — Taylor Swift climbed back to the top spot on the newly revamped US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, in a list that the trade magazine believes now more accurately reflects present-day music consumption.

Swift's "1989" jumped from No 2 to No 1 this week with total album sales of 339,000 units, according to physical album sales, digital song sales and online streaming figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan.

The new weekly Billboard 200 chart, previously measured only by physical and digital US album sales, will now include digital songs, of which 10 songs equal one album unit, and online streaming figures, where 1,500 streams equal one album unit.

In the case of "1989" this week, there were 281,000 copies sold of the full album, 580,000 songs purchased individually and 36,000 streams of music from "1989." The lower streaming figure relates to Swift

removing her entire catalogue of music from online streaming giant Spotify.

A cappella group Pentatonix climbed one spot to No 2 as "That's Christmas to Me" sold a total of 227,000 units, while rapper Eminem debuted at No 3 with "ShadyXV" selling 148,000 units.

Last week's chart-toppers, British boy band One Direction, dropped to No. 4 this week with "Four" selling 125,000 units.

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 this week include rapper Rick Ross at No 6 with "Hood Billionaire" and R&B singer Beyonce at No 8 with the "Beyonce: More Only EP," part of the platinum edition of her self-titled 2013 album re-released last week.

On the digital songs chart, Swift's "Blank Space" held the top spot with sales of 342,000 copies.

Reuters



Tom Hardy & Will Smith

## Will Smith, Tom Hardy join 'Suicide Squad'

LOS ANGELES, 4 Dec — Hollywood stars Will Smith and Tom Hardy have joined the cast of 'Suicide Squad'. The much-awaited super-villain movie will also star Jared Leto, Margot Robbie, Jai Courtney and Cara Delevingne, following much speculation, reported *Variety*.

Jesse Eisenberg may also show up in the film as Lex Luthor, after he takes on the role in 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice'. "The Warner Bros roots are deep on this one," Warner Bros president Greg Silverman said in a statement. "We look forward to seeing this terrific ensemble, under David Ayer's amazing guidance, give new meaning to what it means to be a villain and what it means to be a hero."

Based on the DC Comic, 'Suicide Squad' was confirmed when Warner Bros announced its DC film slate up to 2020 in October. The story follows supervillains who were organized by the US government to work together as a black ops team in exchange for redemption. 'Suicide Squad' will be directed by David Ayer (Training Day, Fury) and produced by Charles Roven and Richard Suckle. It begins shooting in Toronto next April. 'Suicide Squad' releases on 5 August, 2016 in the US.

PTI

## Amber Heard to star in Tom Hooper's 'The Danish Girl'?

LOS ANGELES, 4 Dec — Model-actress Amber Heard is in talks to join 'The King's Speech' director Tom Hooper's 'The Danish Girl' for the strong supporting role of Oola opposite Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander.

The film sees Oscar-winning director Hooper re-teaming with 'Working Title's' Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner. The trio previously worked together with much success on 'Les Misérables', reported *Deadline*.

Inspired by the novel written by David Ebershoff, 'Danish Girl' is a love story about Danish painters Einar Wegener and his wife Gerda. In 1930, Wegener was one of the first men ever to undergo operations to become a woman. Lucinda Coxon adapted the screenplay.

PTI

## Comedy actors take spotlight in Sundance drama competition

LOS ANGELES, 4 Dec — Comedy stars are the highlight of films exploring human nature and existence that will compete in the US drama category at the Sundance Film Festival next year, announced by organizers on Wednesday.

From "The Bronze," co-written by and starring "The Big Bang Theory" actress Melissa Rauch as an ageing former gymnast, to "Flight of the Conchords" actor Jemaine Clement switching edgy humour for a more emotional performance in "People, Places, Things," comedians are finding new territory in smaller films.

"Comedians have an inherent ability to observe human nature," Sundance Film Festival director John Cooper said. "They make it into jokes most of the time, but now they're actually stepping into it as a performance, and it really comes from understanding it."

Sarah Silverman, known for her raunchy,



Sundance Film Festival Director John Cooper (L), Executive Director Keri Putnam (2nd L), Founder and President of Sundance Institute Robert Redford and moderator Sean Means (R) address the media at an opening day news conference for the Sundance Film Festival at the Egyptian Theatre in Park City, Utah, on 16 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

sharp-tongued wit, will take a dramatic turn in "I Smile Back," which Cooper described as "an intense dark portrait of a suburban mother dealing with pretty dark demons."

Started by actor-director Robert Redford in 1978 and going into its 31st year,

the Sundance Film Festival is the premiere gathering of the US independent film industry in snow-covered Park City, Utah, and often launches strong awards contenders and new film stars. Jazz-drumming drama "Whiplash," which won the audience and grand jury

awards at this year's festival, is now part of the Hollywood awards race, with actor JK Simmons one of the early front-runners for the Oscar for best supporting actor. The upcoming festival will run from 22 January through 1 February. —Reuters

## Ed Sheeran tops Spotify most-streamed in 2014 chart

LONDON, 4 Dec — British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran got 860 million plays on Spotify in 2014, the most for any artist this year, the online music streaming service said on Wednesday.

Sheeran's 2014 album "X" also came first for the most streamed album, Spotify said.

Pop singer Katy Perry was the most streamed female artist on Spotify's Year in Music list (here#section-story-1), while Coldplay was the most streamed band of the year. Pharrell Williams's hit single

"Happy" got the most plays by Spotify's 50 million active users this year.

However, Avicii's "Wake Me Up" still holds the position for the single most frequently played track in Spotify history, with more than 300 million streams, the Stockholm-based service said.

Spotify, which provides free on-demand music, or ad-free tunes for paying customers, has been in the spotlight in recent months after million-selling American singer Taylor Swift pulled her entire catalogue from the service.—Reuters



Singer Ed Sheeran



## Berdych inspires Singapore to first IPTL win



*Singapore Slammers' Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic hits a return to Manila Mavericks' Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their men's singles match at the International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) in Singapore on 2 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*

SINGAPORE, 4 Dec — The Singapore Slammers took their first International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) victory at the fifth time of asking when Tomas Berdych led the home side to a thrilling 24-23 victory over the previously unbeaten Indian Aces on Wednesday.

The Slammers start-

ed the four-city mixed team tournament with four straight defeats but drew on the big-hitting Czech to overcome the Aces after looking a beaten side midway through the five single-set encounter.

With matches decided on games won rather than sets, world number one Serena Williams gave the

hosts a perfect start with a rousing 6-4 victory over Ana Ivanovic, fighting back from 3-1 down to give a rocking Indoor Stadium plenty to cheer.

The tie then appeared to be slipping away from Singapore after Williams and Bruno Soares lost the mixed doubles 6-3 and an error-strewn Andre Agassi was thrashed 6-2 by Aces skipper Fabrice Santoro in the 'icons' singles match.

Trailing 16-11, Berdych entered to dominate Gael Monfils 6-2 in the men's singles, setting the stage for Australians Lleyton Hewitt and Nick Kyrgios going into the final set of the night, a men's doubles encounter against Monfils and India's Rohan Bopanna.

The Australians edged the contest 6-5 following a five-minute shootout when the scores were tied at 5-5 with Hewitt dedicating the victory to deceased cricketer and "dear friend Phillip Hughes", whose funeral took place earlier on

Wednesday. The victory ensured the contest ended 23-23 meaning a seven-minute super shootout was needed to decide the winner and home captain Josh Eagle called on Berdych to take on a weary Monfils and his charge duly obliged 10-6 to secure the win.

"There's no better feeling than that," an elated Berdych said in a court-side interview. "It's great to share in such an important win with the guys and you can see that everything is possible in this game. We have our first win."

Earlier, the UAE Royals beat the Manila Mavericks 26-21 to close on the Aces at the top of the standings. After five rounds, the Aces have 18 points, with the Royals on 15, the Mavericks on 13 and the Slammers on 10. The tournament has one more night in Singapore before shifting to Delhi, where Roger Federer will play for the Aces, and concludes in Dubai on 31 December. — Reuters

## MYANMAR TV

(5-12-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

\* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:35 am

\* Song & Dance of National Races

7:00 am

\* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

\* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

\* News / International News

8:30 am

\* Documentary (Aptis Test)

9:20 am

\* Opening ceremony of Global Women's Forum (2014) Live

10:00 am

\* News

11:25 am

\* Myanmar Series

12:00 noon

\* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

\* Myanmar Movie

3:15 pm

\* Hyper Sports

4:30 pm

\* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Fourth Year (Law)

5:15 pm

\* TV Drama Series

6:20 pm

\* Amazing World

7:25 pm

\* Teleplay

8:00 pm

\* News/ International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

\* People Talks

9:00 pm

\* News

9:30 pm

\* Socio Economic Scenes

\* Hyper Sports

\* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

## MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-12-14 07:00 am~ 5-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "A stir about of Rainbows"
- \* World News
- \* Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
- \* Local News
- \* Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- \* World News
- \* Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
- \* Local News
- \* Mon Traditional Wedding
- \* World News
- \* Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Aloe Vera)
- \* World News
- \* In the Studio: Nyi Voyy
- \* Local News
- \* Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy Of Golden Days
- \* World News
- \* Inspiration
- \* Local News
- \* Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
- \* World News
- \* Nelson English Language Center
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Mega Factory - (Episode-1)
- \* World News
- \* Short Cut: Naga Land
- \* Local News
- \* Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
- \* World News
- \* In the Studio "Side Effect"

## Beckham group say Miami MLS deal will succeed

MIAMI, 4 Dec — David Beckham's business group say his plan to bring a Major League Soccer team to Miami will happen and that they hope to have "positive and exciting news" soon.

The comments come after Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber told Reuters on Tuesday that the search for a home for Beckham's proposed team "can't go on forever" and noted a number of other cities were lining up for expansion spots in the growing North American league.

Beckham announced in February his intention to exercise his option to own a MLS team but two proposed waterfront venues for the team in downtown Miami were subsequently rejected by local politicians.

Garber has repeatedly stated that a Miami team will be allowed in the league if a well-located stadium venue is found.

"The reality is that everything is progressing very well," said a spokesperson for Miami Beckham United, the group set up to launch the prospective team.

"Miami is still David's number one choice and it will happen. The fans and the people of Miami are behind us and we hope to announce some positive and exciting news soon." — Reuters



*Former British soccer player David Beckham smiles at the Evening Standard Theatre awards in London on 30 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS*

## This year may be hottest on record; adds urgency to climate talks: UN

LIMA, 4 Dec — This year is on track to be the hottest on record, or at least among the very warmest, the United Nations said on Wednesday in new evidence of long-term warming that adds urgency to 190-nation talks under way in Lima on slowing climate change. Including this year, 14 of the 15 most sweltering years on record will have been in the 21st century, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said of the findings presented during the 1-12 December climate negotiations in Peru.

"There is no standstill in global warming," WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said in a statement. "What is particularly unusual and alarming this year are the high temperatures of vast areas of the ocean surface."

The WMO said average sea surface temperatures hit record highs in 2014. On land, it listed extremes including floods in Bangladesh and Britain and droughts in China and California. Reliable global temperature records date from about 1850.

If temperatures stay similarly above normal for the rest of the year, "2014 will likely be the hottest on record, ahead of 2010, 2005 and 1998," the WMO said, based on temperatures for January to October. A cool finish would push 2014 down the list.

Christiana Figueres, head of the UN's Climate Change Secretariat, called the heat "bad news" that showed a need for action to limit rising greenhouse gas emissions.

"The urgency is actually to get, ... hopefully within this decade, to the turning point" to start cutting emissions, she said. The Lima talks are working on a deal to limit climate change, due to be agreed in Paris in a year's time. — Reuters



*A boat sits on the nearly dry lake bed behind the Nazare Paulista dam, part of the Cantareira water system that provides greater Sao Paulo with most of its water, in Nazare Paulista on 25 Sept, 2014. — REUTERS*



## Chelsea march on, Aguero keeps Man City in the mix



Chelsea's Eden Hazard (R) celebrates after scoring a goal against Tottenham Hotspur during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 3 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 4 Dec — Chelsea's inexorable Premier League title march continued with a consummate 3-0 triumph over Tottenham Hotspur and champions Manchester City stayed second with a 4-1 canter at Sunderland on Wednesday.

Southampton's challenge suffered further deflation with a 1-0 defeat at Arsenal, but the pacesetters took full advantage with Chelsea making it 21 games unbeaten this season thanks to goals from Eden Hazard, Didier Drogba and Loic Remy. The 36-year-old Drogba proved a splendid replacement for suspended top-scorer Diego Costa, grabbing his first chance within two minutes of Hazard's 19<sup>th</sup>-minute opener before his replacement Remy also netted to seal the points. The performance

of the seemingly ageless Drogba earned high praise from his team mate Hazard. "He does everything, he's very important for the team and every game he comes in, he plays very well. It is a pleasure to play with him," the Belgian told Sky Sports.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, promising there would be no let-up in his side's title push, was also delighted. "Tottenham started better than us and should have scored before us, but after our first goal our team became more stable and confident and we controlled the game," he said.

"I'm really happy with the points, performance and spirit of the players." The only cloud on the horizon for Mourinho was that his towering midfield anchor, Nemanja Matic, will be

unavailable for Saturday's match at Newcastle after picking up a suspension for his fifth booking. Chelsea's victory, which continued their amazing record of being unbeaten by Spurs at Stamford Bridge for 24 years, maintained their six-point lead over City, who came from behind to crush Sunderland at the Stadium of Light.

The champions were once again grateful to the league's leading marksman Sergio Aguero who produced a sublime display, scoring twice with his 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> league goals of the season.

The Argentine struck two minutes after Connor Wickham had put Sunderland ahead on 19 minutes, equalising with the sweetest of strikes. He then set up Stevan Jovetic six minutes before the break, Pablo

Zabaleta added a third and Aguero, in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute, completed the rout.

Extraordinarily, it meant that Aguero, the man with the best goals per game strike rate in Premier League annals, has now scored 30 in his last 33 league matches for City.

City manager Manuel Pellegrini had bad news for Premier League defenders too by suggesting that we have not seen the best from the Argentine yet.

"Sergio is only 26 and he can improve every day," he told the BBC.

"At the moment we are seeing very high performances from him. Not only is he scoring but he's playing well as well."

Southampton, whose high-flying start to the season was arrested in a 3-0 defeat by City on Sunday, slumped to a second successive defeat with an 89<sup>th</sup>-minute Alexis Sanchez goal finally breaking their resistance at the Emirates.

Reuters



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero celebrates his second goal against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England on 3 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

## Ballon D'Or another painful reminder for Italy, says Buffon



Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon makes a save against Malmo during their Champions League Group A soccer match in Malmo on 26 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

ZURICH, 4 Dec — The FIFA Ballon D'Or award has become a painful reminder of the sorry state Italian football, Juventus and Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said on Wednesday. Italy has not had a player on the final shortlist of three since Fabio Cannavaro was voted World Player of the Year in 2006.

"The fact that no Italian has been nominated forces us to understand the situation our football is currently in, and confirms that the technical and individual quality of our players has declined," Buffon said in an interview with FIFA.com. "I don't know if we have a young, talented player coming through who can aspire to win this sort of award in the future."

Reuters

"There is no Italian among the candidates for this year's award because we are coming off a very disappointing World Cup and our clubs haven't challenged for the highest honours for quite a few years."

"Either we improve the national team or our football will remain ordinary, and it will be impossible to stand out." Buffon, still Italy's first choice goalkeeper at 36, added: "This is perhaps a low point for Italy, but the country's history carries a lot of weight, and Italian football has always managed to combine technique with tactical discipline. "By putting an emphasis on these qualities, I think we will soon start to grow again."

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## On the comeback, Woods has same expectations — win

WINDERMERE, 4 Dec — Tiger Woods has not played competitively in nearly four months, but the injury plagued former world number one has not altered his mindset for this week's Hero World Challenge event — win.

Winning is something Woods has not yet done this year, in a truncated season marked by back surgery in March and struggles after his attempted return that forced him to set aside his clubs after missing the cut at PGA Championship in August.

The 38-year-old proclaimed himself healthy

and on the way back after working with a new swing consultant, if perhaps a bit rusty.

"It felt good to be out there," Woods told reporters after Wednesday's pro-am on the eve of the opening round of the elite 18-player event that benefits his foundation.

"Obviously, been playing at home with my boys for a little bit of cash, but still (that is) a little bit different. Every shot counts a little bit more. (But) Felt good."

It also felt comfortable for Woods, who is staging the event this year

at Isleworth the enclave he had been home for over a decade before moving to Jupiter Island.

Asked if he had the usual designs on winning that carried him to a collection of 14 majors, second only to Jack Nicklaus's 18, Woods said: "Obviously, or I wouldn't enter."

Some of the top-notch players invited to the event said the tournament host was looking like the Woods of old.

"What I saw from Tiger from the side in the 10, 20 balls that I watched him, it looked a lot freer,"

Steve Stricker said after sharing the driving range.

"Didn't look like he was getting in his way. Looked like the club was going through a lot freer. Looked like it was on a better path."

Zach Johnson, the 2007 Masters champion, also had a favorable impression. "It looked great. I mean, the compression looked there, the turn looked there."

"Watched the first two, three, four balls and then it hit me — 'Oh, wait a minute, he hasn't played in a while. It looked like he was just kind of riding



Tiger Woods of the US hits from a sand trap on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole during the second round of the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky on 8 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

a bike."

The balky back limited Woods to eight tournaments in a season in which he missed two cuts and withdrew from two events.

Stricker warned not to

count Woods out.

"I think if he starts swinging it better and starts feeling good about what he's doing again, it won't take long for him to be at the top of the game again," he said.—Reuters